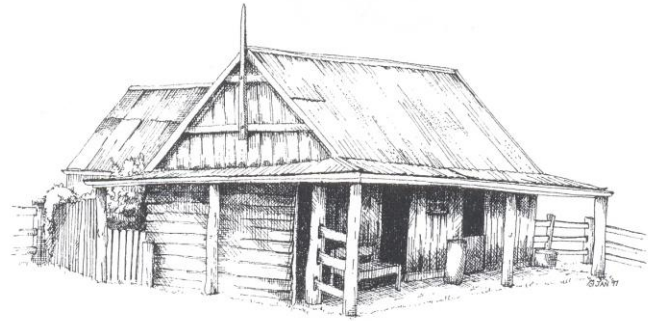


FRIENDS AND RELATIONS OF GULF STATION FEBRUARY 2017



Diary Dates (except if a Total Fire Ban for the *Central District*)

Important meeting, please come if you can:

FROGS Meeting

Sunday 5 February 2.30pm

Unless the above meeting decides otherwise, the following FROGS meeting will be:

2 April (end of Daylight Saving)

FROGS Social Sundays, alternate First Sundays 2.30pm

5 March

7 May

Bunnings BBQ, Easter Monday 17 April (see page 3)

268-288 Maroondah Highway

Open Day for the Trust's 2017 Heritage Festival Sunday 23 April

David Clark talks, Thursdays 22 & 29 June 10.00-11.30am (see page 3)

Thursday Work

Newcomers welcome, all skill levels, gardening, general maintenance etc. Join the friendly team.

Newsletter arrangements

- Emailed to those with email.
- Volunteers' copies available for collection from Gulf Station.

From the President

Dear Friends

First, let me wish you a very Happy New Year, which is likely to be a momentous one for Gulf Station as the volunteers' Working Group settles into the new arrangements. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Trust and the Working Group was signed on 22 December.

As I am finding health problems are preventing me from doing as much as I want to, I feel unable to continue as FROGS President, whatever the outcome of the meeting.

On a much happier note, I send our congratulations to Mrs Ruth Crofts on her Australia Day honour OAM for her contribution to heritage issues.

Hoping to see as many of you as possible on Sunday 5 February,

Keep well and God bless,

Lesley Barnes OAM

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding - 22.12.2017

This document was signed by **Sherredan Mahar** (for the Trust) and **Mike Ridley** (for the Working Group) on 22 December 2016.



Sherredan Mahar signs for the Trust



Mike Ridley signs for the Working Group

Bunnings BBQ

Our next Bunnings date is Easter Monday, 17 April; please let Stan or Irene know if you might be able to help on the day. Just a couple of hours would be appreciated

Christmas in Yarra Glen

Stan contributed again to Yarra Glen's Christmas ambiance by making more street decorations with a "train" theme to highlight the work of volunteers preparing to re-open, for tourists, the Yarra Glen station and railway.



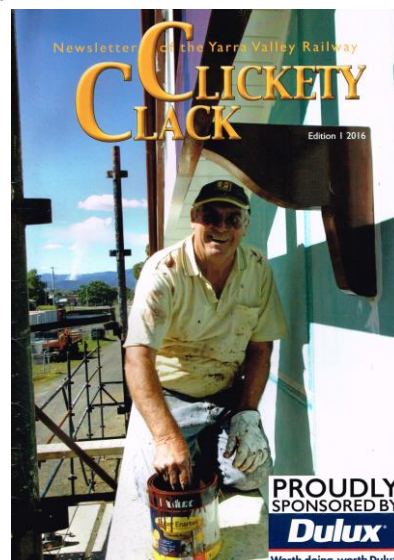
Image: Jesse Graham

FROGS Christmas party 2016

While we missed the Tadpoles this year, we enjoyed the company of friends and, of course, the afternoon tea.

Yarra Glen will be back on track

The Yarra Valley Railway is due to reach Yarra Glen soon thanks to generous donations and an army of volunteers including **Kevin B** who's on the cover of the project's impressive magazine *Clickety Clack* (1:2016). We're sure the Railway is also hoping Kevin is soon ready to come back to work.



More David Clark

Irene has another opportunity to talk about the 1839 voyage of the *David Clark* and what became of as many of her passengers as Irene can fit into the time.

Thursdays 22 and 29 June
(10.00-11.30am) U3A Hall
rear 14 Ivanhoe Parade, Ivanhoe
(phone: 9499 2080)
Melway 31 F7 (disability friendly).

Details at:

<http://www.u3abanyule.org.au/>
then select Courses...(or ask Irene)

Irene has also been invited to talk at the Eltham Library, date not set but probably during History week (October) this year. It would be appropriate in that venue to cover the "locals" (the Kangaroo Ground and Heidelberg settlers).

Researching these passengers is becoming an obsession!

Another David Clark connection

In 1839, Mary McMaster was 16 when she sailed with her parents and siblings (and the Bell family) on the *David Clark*. In 1841, she married David Dunlop, who was a confectioner in Collins Street. In 1848, 24-year-old Mary found an intending thief hidden under the shop counter and "sprang upon the villain and attempted to secure him." She hung on long enough for help to arrive and arrest the thief. *The Port Phillip Gazette* said Mary acted "with a courage which does honor to her sex." She and David eventually settled in Beechworth, opening a bakery.

SCOTCH PIE SHOP.

DAVID DUNLOP wishes to let his friends and the public know that he has Commenced Business as BAKER and PASTRYCOOK, in the shop lately occupied by R. Thornton, Opposite the Post Office, Camp-street, Beechworth, where Hot Pies, Tea and Coffee, and Meats can be had at all hours. 677 2036

Ovens and Murray Advertiser Tuesday 20 March 1866

If you've been to Beechworth, that address may seem familiar. Irene is yet to confirm whether the famous *Beechworth Bakery* is in the *same* building as the Dunlops' or just one very near.

[The figures on the last line of the advertisement are an ID for the newspaper's accounts department, not a telephone number...]

Archives Room update

Kevin H, with occasional helpers, has checked boxes on almost every shelf in the Archives Room, marking each item off against the Trust's list. Kevin has also found many unregistered items; these will need individual decisions on what use should be made of them. In addition, Kevin has dealt with various boxes that had accumulated underfoot - now much more floor is visible. But there's plenty more to get through.

Tour news

From **Pam Viccars**:

Since our last news letter we have welcomed several groups through our property.

Ivanhoe Girls Grammar visited on Tuesday 8th November. This was quite a long visit. The children were involved in apple coring, wheat grinding and butter churning. There is always great excitement when the cream finally turns. A highlight of the day was feeding the left over apples to our three beautiful Clydesdales.

Thirty seven retired staff members of Melbourne Grammar visited on Thursday 17 November. Their tour was preceded by morning tea in the barn and a very extended lunch break afterwards. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Students and staff from Little Yarra Steiner School visited in Thursday 24th November.

King Lake Primary visited on Friday 2nd December. This was another extended tour that included all activities. Many thanks to **Marion, Irene** and **Mike** who assisted us on the day. Irene was amazed at the enthusiasm of the children. The old pioneering tasks are always a hit.

A photography group from the Healesville Living and Learning Centre visited on Tuesday 6th December. There is certainly plenty of wonderful photo opportunities around our beautiful property.

Our last tour for the year involved Students and Staff from Bialik College. It was a nice way to finish the year as these young men and women were an absolute delight.

I hope 2017 is just as enjoyable and successful as 2016. We already have 2 bookings for May.

Many thanks to our Guides **Ros, Barry** and **Neil**.

[One of the visitors shown around by Pam is a guide at La Trobe's Cottage with Irene. He queried with her something Pam told him because he found it hard to believe: that the Trust had ruled only Bell-provenance items could be in the homestead, as this rule doesn't apply to other Trust properties (La Trobe's Cottage, for instance, has items of the period just to make the place attractive to visit). Of course, Pam was correct but it makes you wonder...

Indoor work

Marion has (again) blitzed the Pantry (the little room at end of corridor): everything sorted, boxed, neat - at least for a day or so...

Calling all fishermen

Carp have taken up residence in the dam. **If you would like to bring a rod and remove them, please do!**

Grass news

As the spring grass got out of hand, **Carina** saw the need for another ride-on-mower practitioner. After training, Carina has passed her test and is now an official Mower.

Bell family trees

The trees planted by Bell family members in 2011 are (with a couple of exceptions) doing well and looking magnificent. Various additions have been made to the watering equipment to ease that workload.



Image Irene Kearsey

Management work

Mike mentions preparation of a Task List in his report (page 2). An Emergency Procedure has also been prepared. Financial reporting is being investigated. The "to do" list just grows.

Chairs return to Gulf Station

The Bell family gave these two chairs to **Marion Bishop's** uncle **Bill Cameron** in the early 20th century and they have been returned to Gulf Station by his wife **Mavis**. They have been restored by **Kevin Heeley**. Thank you to **Mavis Cameron**, and to **Kevin** for this work.

Image Marion Bishop



At the dam

Mike continues his war on the bulrushes. The water level has dropped about 60cm since the October high, and continues to drop about 50mm a week. The lower water level provides oxygen to the bulrush plants so they flourish causing **Mike** to start all over again.

October 2016 water rushing from the dam

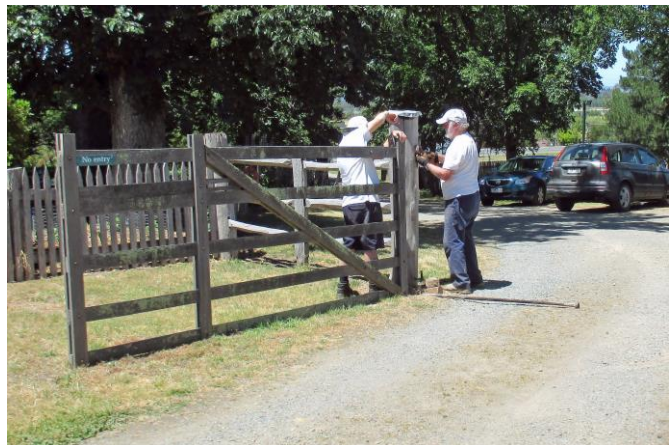
Image Irene Kearsy



Maintenance tasks

Alan and **Ian** making tricky adjustments to the gate at the top of the driveway. Gate maintenance seems never ending.

Image Irene Kearsy



Garden report

The garden has been a picture in spring, thanks to the labours of the garden team. However, now the heavy watering begins. Stan is constructing a shade house behind the outdoor dunny and near the plant sale table; this will greatly assist with propagation.

Secret gardeners' business

Image Carina Harding



