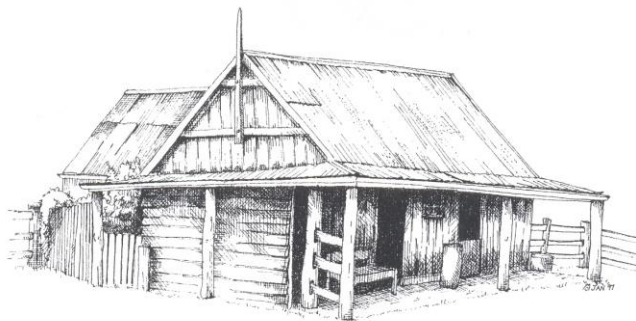


FRIENDS AND RELATIONS OF GULF STATION FEBRUARY 2018



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

Bunnings BBQ Monday, 2 April 2018

Easter Monday so should be a profitable day. Please, all Sizzlers, mark your calendars now. Even if you can only help for only an hour or so, it gives others a break.

Open Day - Thursday 19 April

For the Trust's Heritage Festival. See page 2 for details. Please come to help or just to enjoy.

La Trobe Society talks

Details on page 8.
Second Sundays, 2.30 pm
10 June
8 July
12 August
9 September

Thursday Work

Newcomers welcome, all skill levels, gardening, general maintenance etc. Also visitor reception.

Newsletter arrangements

Emailed to those with email.

Volunteers' copies available for collection at Gulf Station.

There is no longer a subscription for FROGS but each year FROGS will be asked to confirm their wish to remain in the list.

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome.

Report from the Work Group

Everyone enjoyed the Christmas party and it was good to meet the spouses/partners who also came. Thank you to all who helped set up on the day and brought contributions to share.

We have recently welcomed another new volunteer, **Barry Roberts**. More hands to the pump lead to the need for more tools (please see page 5 to see if you can help).

Sherredan Maher is back from maternity leave and, with **Simon Ambrose**, visited Gulf Station on Thursday 25 January. Thanks, **Justin Buckley**, for being our contact during Sherredan's leave; Justin returns to managing all things horticultural.

As stocks of the A3 visitor information sheets were low, they are being reprinted (after amending the web address). These sheets include a map of the site with information about the various buildings, together with historic photographs (although **Marion**, who features in one of the photographs, may not appreciate being described as 'historic'). If you aren't able to visit Gulf Station but would like one of these sheets, let Irene know and she'll post you one.

During 2017, a new volunteer sign-in system was instituted which gives us a breakdown of hours. See page 2 for figures covering the half year to 31 December 2017. A massive contribution in all categories!

The last report noted that some volunteers had been presented with five-year anniversary 'Certificates of Appreciation.' Photographs arrived too late for the last newsletter but they appear now on page 2. Well done everyone.

Among paperwork found in the Croydon Cottage are records which might help clarify volunteers' start dates (long-standing volunteers usually don't remember when they started). When these records have been worked through, updated information will be sent to Tasma.

While much was achieved in 2017, jobs completed are replaced on the Work Sheets with more tasks. We look forward to plenty of work but also friendship in 2018.

Mike Ridley
for the Work Group

FROGS news

Lesley has been having some health problems treated but was in good spirits when visited.

Other FROGS are having health-related time away and we wish them all a speedy return to full strength. We'll miss you at tea-break.

Gulf Station volunteers enjoyed a belated celebration for **Stan's** 80th birthday. Stan's daughter organised a family party on the right day with relations coming from far and wide - it was a very happy event.

Image: Carina Harding



Volunteer hours, half year to 31.12.2017

Garden & Grounds	Tours	Repairs & Maintenance	Mowing	Cleaning	Admin	Collections	Misc	Total hours
424.00	148.75	432.00	177.00	123.45	53.25	78.75	59.00	1496.20

The 'Collections' category is the project of checking each item in the Archives Room against the Trust's list, noting the condition of the item and its current shelf location in the room. **Kevin H** has almost completed this mammoth project.

Certificates of Appreciation

During his November visit, **Simon Ambrose** presented three volunteers with five-year anniversary certificates:

Images: Alan Gosling



Ian Gaff



Christine Sellar



Kevin Berry

Do you shop at Yarra Glen Ritchies?

Why not ask for a 'Community Benefit' card and allocate your points to Gulf Station, then each time you shop you benefit Gulf Station.

Garden news

From Marion

The Garden has lost the soft pastels of spring and now we have the vibrant orange of dahlia and mombretia contrasting beautifully with the purple and blue of the lavender hedge and buddlea and the pure white Shasta daisies.

At present it is too hot to garden apart from watering and weeding in the shade.

The men are preparing to replace the garden fence to the north.

The fruit trees are laden ,let's hope we can pick some before the cockatoos demolish most of it.

The Gardeners.

On his last visit, **Simon Ambrose** enquired about one of the heritage roses; **Louella** was able to identify it for him as *Celine Forestier*. This rose was bred by Victor Trouillard (France, 1842) and features in the Australian press as early as 1863 - this is an extract from *Farmer's Journal and Gardener's Chronicle* 25 July 1863 p13:

ROSES,
NO. VII.
BY MR WILLIAM PAUL, F.R.H.S., PAUL'S
NURSERIES, WALTHAM CROSS.

I gladly return to the review of old roses, highly interesting and important as are the new. There is less restraint ; one breathes a freer air in company with old friends whose faces, habits, and sentiments are familiar to us.

Celine Forestier or *Liesis* is a hardy yellow rose, and one that blooms freely enough out of doors ; the growth is so vigorous that it forms an admirable variety for a weeper, wall, or house.



Hollyhocks

Image Marion Bishop

Celine Forestier Image commons wikimedia



Open Day at Gulf Station - Thursday 19 April

As part of the Trust's Heritage Festival, Gulf Station will open on Thursday 19 April. Dan and Matt will demonstrate the skills of their, respectively, sheep dogs and working horses. Pam and team will provide tours for the visitors. The gardeners will show visitors round the garden and run a plant stall. And everyone will work as usual to demonstrate how Gulf Station is cared for.

If you can come on the day and help, even if for just a couple of hours, let Irene know - we always need more help on the reception desk.

This year's theme is 'My culture, my story.' If you are able to contribute to Gulf Station's story, do come!

If you can't help, please come on the day and encourage your friends to come too.

A Gulf Station contribution at another Trust site

Mike took his rope machine and knot boards to La Trobe's Cottage for their Family Day on 26 January. Apart from short tours of the Cottage, the children's activities included peg doll making, croquet and throwing rings over the peg, and most children went home with a length of rope they'd made.

In the Homestead

Each week **Pam** picks flowers for lovely arrangements to decorate the house. Pam *says* it's for the benefit of visitors but her colleagues are sure she does it to please the spirits of the Bells that we all feel around the place.

Image: Marion Bishop

In the Cottage

Irene has started clearing out surplus stuff from the Croydon Cottage. The Trust 'shop' items have been returned to Tasma: they never were suited to our clientele. Ancient administration paper work is either being sent to Tasma for decision on keep/shred) or being destroyed on site. Some of *good* 'finds' will be shared in this and future newsletters.

One folder (definitely put onto the 'keep' pile) contained pages in a handwriting Irene immediately recognised: recipes from **Ina Moss**. One appears now on page 5. This reminds Irene that there hasn't been any recipe in the newsletter for a long time. How about sharing your favourite?



Work around the site

Here are 'before' and 'after' shots of the fence that **Ian** has recently finished restoring: the fence runs along the sheep yards down by the windmill and was in a very sorry state, badly in need of repair.

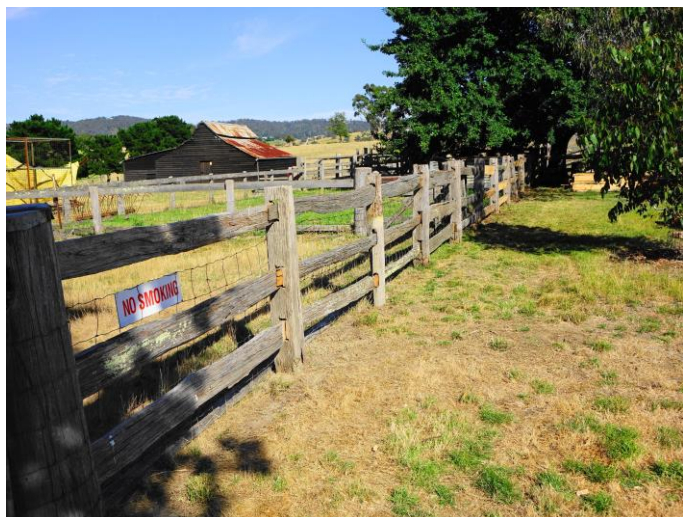
Thanks to **Matt Jeffrey** for providing some new rails and posts; the job wouldn't have been possible without his help. And Ian has done some cleaning up around the area as well.

Alan with new recruit **Barry** cleared the vegetation right along a fence line that ends at the dam.

They also cut back the ivy and hawthorn tree on the fence that runs down to the dam from the garden, and the gardeners cut back the roses bushes. So it is all clear now to tackle that fence repair/refurbishment.

Mike continues his war against the bulrushes, now working up the creek, as the dam itself is now clear. In this area, however, he finds he has some helpers - Dan's cattle are chomping on the leaves. If only the pulled out the roots as well. Apparently the base of the native bulrush was a delicious food source for the Aborigines, being 'like the freshest crunchiest salad vegetable you've ever tasted' (Bruce Pascoe, *Dark Emu*, Magabala Books 2014).

And that's just a few of the many tasks in hand or completed.



Images: Ian Gaff

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Our open days on the first Thursday of each month are proving very popular. We had a very busy day on 4th January.

Among the people who visited were the family who purchased Overnewton Castle in Keilor in 1975 and made it their family home.

In 1849 Scotsman William Taylor purchased 13,000 acres of grazing land just west of the Keilor township. He built a simple single story bluestone colonial style homestead. After a visit back home to Scotland in 1859, he returned and set about turning the functional colonial

homestead into a miniature Scottish Baronial Castle.

Our visitors, Dr Norton and his family, have restored the castle and gardens to their former glory. It was good to share our Gulf Station story with them and to hear of their dedication in preserving yet another part of our Scottish pioneering history.

Bookings have already started to come in for this year. We look forward to another happy year at Gulf Station

BIRTHS.
On the 20th inst., at Overnewton, Keilor, the wife of William Taylor, Esq., of a son.

Argus 22.6.1859 p4



Overnewton Castle, Keilor

Image overnewtoncastle.com.au

Clydesdale news

Experts came to attend to our three Clydesdales: they had a trim of their fetters (the hairy bits around the lower leg) so that the anti-mite treatment really gets on to the skin. This was necessary because the initial treatment wasn't working and the horses were rubbing their itchy legs against fence posts and causing wounds. The electric fences were also turned on to keep the horses away.

Donations or purchases

With the increase in volunteers with handyman skills, there will be times when skills cannot be put to use because a required tool is not available either because there isn't one at Gulf Station or because the one we do have is in use by another volunteer.

If, for any reason, you are disposing of any tools (handyman or gardening), please check with Irene to see if they are on the Wish List. Currently, we would appreciate the following:

- Branch lopper
- Brush cutter

Donations would be gratefully received, but it is also possible to purchase needed tools in good condition.



Baked Lemon Pudding

By the late Ina Moss

1 tablespoon butter

Juice and grated rind 1 lemon

¾ cup sugar

2 eggs, separated

2 tablespoons plain flour

1 cup milk

Cream the butter and sugar. Add flour and juice and rind of lemon. Beat in egg yolks then the milk. Separately stiffly beat the egg whites then fold into the mixture. Pour into a buttered pie-dish, stand in a baking dish of water and bake slowly for 1 hour. [Ina doesn't give a temperature.]

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Financial report

From Alan

Our financial arrangements with the Trust have been re-organised. There are now two accounts that Gulf Station has, one for the Trust, and one for the FROGS (FROGS now have their own account within the National Trust banking system).

Meaning that we know, and can track, our revenue and expenditure.

I provide a monthly account summary containing:

- Revenue for both the Trust and FROGS - Description, visitor numbers, group numbers
- Expenditure for both the Trust and FROGS – Description, receipts and payment requests.
- Monthly banking details, stating monies allocated to which account (Trust or FROGS)

We organise expenditure in a series of:

Port folios

- **Stan** in charge of fuel expenditure, for which the Trust reimburse him promptly, also for BBQ activities.
- **Mike** in charge of the day to day petty cash, in and out.
- **Christine** in charge of the Gardeners' money, in and out.
- **Neil and Pam** in charge of the Visitor fees, and groups.
- **Alan** in charge of other items, collection of monies for banking, and record keeping.

So we all have an involvement in Gulf Station operations and expenditure/revenue.

Currently the balance of our FROGS account is: \$7,942.00.

We have to replace the post hole auger that was stolen: \$400.00 approx.

Also the purchase of branch lopper and grass cutter: say another \$500.00 [unless anyone has either of these to donate - see page 5]

That would leave FROGS with a balance of around \$7,000.00.

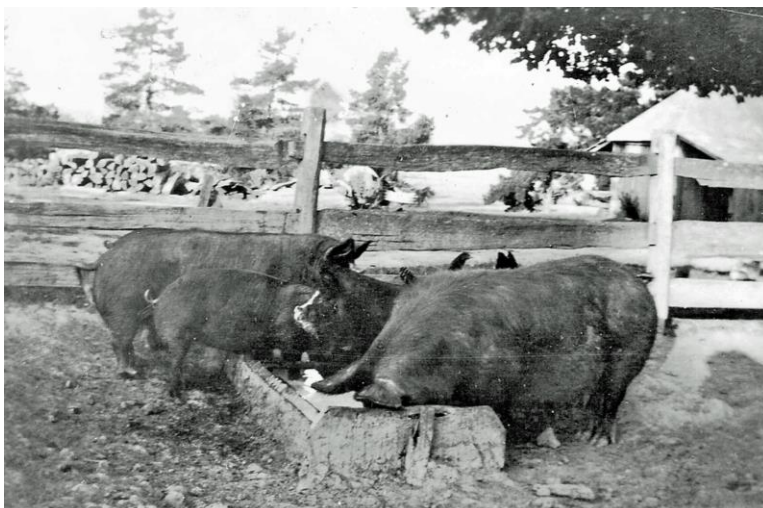
A memory of water

As everywhere dries out and turns yellow, these are some December water views around Gulf Station:



Another find in the Cottage

This postcard-sized black and white photograph was found in the Cottage. A developer's stamp suggests it was printed in a year ending '03' but it seems to be from an early era - notice the design of the trough. The School House is in the background. Any information welcome.



Lochaber no more

It is well known that, as the Bell family and their fellow passengers on the *David Clark* left Greenock in 1839, one of their number - John Arthur (later to be the first superintendant of Melbourne's Botanic Gardens) played this lament on his bagpipes. At a recent concert in Ballarat, Mike and Irene heard this played and sung. There's a YouTube video of a bagpiper in highland dress walking along a rocky shore, playing the music: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_SVyUwze5c

Lochaber is in the west of Scotland. The lament is written as if for a conscripted Highlander in the Napoleonic wars. For those 1839 passengers, their sadness at leaving home and loved ones would have been strong but they were looking forward to a better life rather than war. The words, by Allan Ramsay, are:

Farewell to Lochaber, farewell to my Jean,
Where heartsome wi' her I ha'e mony day been,
For Lochaber no more, Lochaber no more,
We'll maybe return to Lochaber no more.
These tears that I shed they are all for my dear,
And no' for the dangers attending on weir;
Tho' borne on rough seas to a far distant shore.
Maybe to return to Lochaber no more.

Though hurricanes rise, though rise ev'ry wind,
No tempest can equal the storm in my mind;
Tho' loudest of thunders or louder waves roar,
There's nothing like leavin' my love on the shore.
To leave thee behind me, my heart is sair pain'd,
But by ease that's inglorious no fame can be gain'd;
And beauty and love's the reward of the brave,
And I maun deserve it before I can crave.

Then glory, my Jeanie, maun plead my excuse,
Since honour commands me, how can I refuse?
Without it I ne'er can have merrit for thee;
And losing thy favour, I'd better not be.
I go then, my lass, to win honour and fame;
And if I should chance to come gloriously hame,
I'll bring a heart to thee, with love running o'er,
And then I'll leave thee an' Lochaber no more.

Meaning of unusual words:

heartsome=cheerful weir=war maun=must



The 1883 painting *Lochaber no more*, by John Watson Nicol, interprets the title as representing Scotland's loss by emigration.



John Arthur

In the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, there's a rock face (near the Craft Cottage) on which the names of directors are inscribed: John Arthur appears first. Sadly, he died after only a few years. His widow and younger children settled near their *David Clark* friends at Kangaroo Ground. Daughter Grace, who'd worked with her father in establishing the Gardens, married William Barr, the son of another *David Clark* (and Kangaroo Ground) couple, John and Janet Barr.

Arthur's bagpipes had been a prize awarded by Queen Victoria for his horticultural studies. Later he'd been head gardener at Dumbarton Castle and Inveraray Castle. After arriving in 1839 he was both employed and had his own horticultural business before being appointed by La Trobe to establish the Botanical Gardens..

La Trobe Society 2018 winter talks

During the winter, when La Trobe's Cottage is closed, the Cottage volunteers and friends enjoy a season of monthly talks on topics relevant to the La Trobe era in Victoria (1839-1854) or to La Trobe's life. The talks are open to anyone, and afternoon tea follows. Talks are held in Mueller Hall (near the Shrine) at 2.30pm on the second Sunday of the month: 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September in 2018.

Entry last year was \$5 and those planning to attend are asked to make a telephone booking (only to help plan the seating and tea). Details of speakers are not yet available for 2018 but some FROGS already enjoyed the talks in 2017. If you might be interested, let Irene know and she'll make sure to pass on details when available.

A New Year resolution

Many FROGS have researched their family history so will appreciate the following:

It is New Year's Eve 1852 and Henry sits at his desk by candle light. He dips his pen in ink and begins to write his New Year's Resolutions:

- 1 No man is truly well educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well educated in the coming year.
- 2 I resolve to see that all of my children will have the same given names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.
- 3 My age is no-one's business but my own. I hereby resolve never to list the same age or birth year twice on any document.
- 4 I resolve to have each of my children baptised in a different church either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptised at all or will be baptised by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.
- 5 I resolve to move to a new address, a new town or new state at least once every 10 years – just before those pesky census enumerators come around asking silly questions.
- 6 When the census enumerator does come to my door, I'll loan him my pen which has been dipped in rapidly fading ink.
- 7 I will make every attempt to reside in towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.
- 8 I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.
- 9 I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die I will marry another Mary.
- 10 I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

What's in a name?

Using Trove to find references to Gulf Station, Irene has found it also spelt *Gulph* Station and not just in the early days.

- The earliest mention seems to be in January 1849, when John Dickson of 'Gulph Station' is listed as having a letter waiting for collection at the Melbourne post office (Dickson's name was later wrongly-spelt in a Government Gazette as Dixon which is why we now have Dixon's Creek). A government isn't going to admit it made a mistake, is it?
- In March 1934, in the list of sheep sales, 'W. Bell, Gulph Station' is immediately followed by 'A. McNab, Willowmaven' - he was the son of another *David Clark* family.
- The latest mention found so far is in April 1939: 'Mr Bell, Gulph Station' in the sheep sales list.

A name has also been clarified recently to help Irene's research into the 1839 *David Clark* passengers. A descendant of one of the families recently provided a lead regarding a family listed as McKinley who didn't appear in Trove at all. One of the passengers (Janet or Jean or Jane Farquharson) married a James McKindlay soon after she arrived. The descendant explained that James, who'd arrived in Australia a couple of years earlier, was the brother of the *David Clark* family listed as McKinley and that Janet or Jean or Jane was travelling with them in order to marry James. Once Irene had the correct spelling - McKindlay - there were plenty of references in Trove.