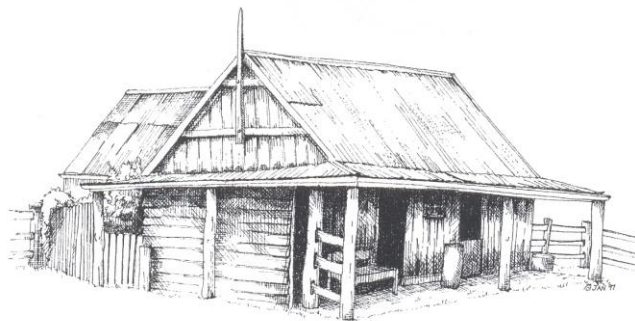


FRIENDS AND RELATIONS OF GULF STATION AUGUST 2019



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

Bunning's BBQ

Friday 20 September last day of school term, maybe not so busy so, if you haven't helped before, a good one to come for a couple of hours and learn the ropes

Gulf Station Open Day with the Victorian Working Horse Association

Saturday 12 October - see page 2

David Clark 180th anniversary 2019

Sunday 27 October - see page 2

National Trust Vic AGM at Gulf Station

Saturday 23 November 11am-1pm - page 2

First Thursdays Openings

Open First Thursday of each month, drop in, take a tour, bring a picnic, buy a plant, just enjoy Gulf Station

First Sundays Openings

Open First Sundays for November to February inclusive

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. Newsletter **contributions** always welcome.

Report from Work Group

Since the last newsletter, one task for the Work Group was to complete some paperwork for the Trust that included a history of the property: a valuable exercise but needing contributions from various sources including **Kevin H's** memory, **Harvey's** diaries, and past newsletters.

Our Open Day (Saturday 12 October) with the Victorian Working Horse Association is rapidly approaching and we will have a good contingent of stallholders and demonstrators for the day. Let's hope we have weather similar to last year. All being well we'll have a loan of the new 'pay and go' system currently being rolled out at various other NT sites - ours will be a portable system.

I attended the Trust's quarterly meeting of site representatives on 8 August. I'll send out a summary of the meeting a little later. A couple of points of interest though: Trust membership has increased from 14,800 to 16,000 and member retention is 94%. A good incentive for maintaining membership is free entry to various properties not only in Australia but also in Europe, NZ and Canada. Also, show your membership card for 10% discount at Sovereign Hill and 20% discount at Puffing Billy.

We'll again open on the first Sunday of the month during the summer months, i.e. November, December, January and February. Last year we couldn't open on the February Sunday owing to the extreme hot weather.

Over the years Gulf Station has been used as a location for films and commercials. Last month a film crew recorded a segment for a 10 minute film as promotion for a full length feature. A few volunteers were extras - so far nobody has given up their day jobs on advice from MGM.

Currently our morning tea and lunch breaks are being taken in the old kitchen because of the cold but there's plenty of work needing to be done and that keeps us warm. Apart from the big Open Day, we want Gulf Station to look its best for the Trust's Annual General Meeting - it's our chance to show off the place to Trust members who might not otherwise think of visiting.

Mike Ridley, for the Work Group



These won't warm you up!

From **Carina** on her travels



FROGS and Volunteers news

Lesley has been in and out of hospital - she'd love a call from Gulf Station friends. Other long-term FROGS who have been in touch are **Betty Williams** and **Jessie Bull** and Irene bumped into **Gwen Sadlier** in Yarra Glen.

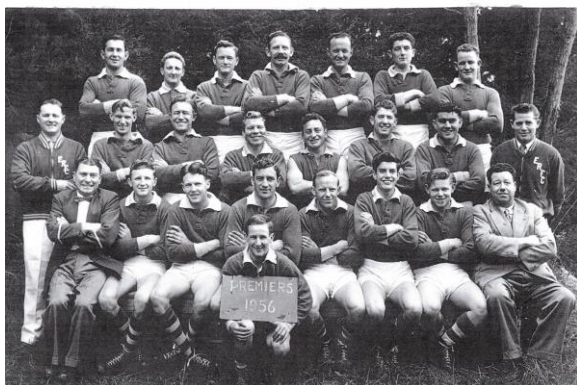
Elizabeth recent surgery was a great success.

Marion is setting off for England and Scotland, including a visit to Muncaster Castle: Agnes Bell's widowed mother married Lord Muncaster.

Inveterate traveller **Carina** saw many tall ships when in Bergen last month.



CROYDON FERNTREE GULLY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
RINGWOOD EAST FOOTBALL CLUB 2nd XVIII
Premiers, Season 1956



A friend gave **Stan** some photographs of his footie team; we also congratulate him on the arrival of another great-grandchild.

Certificates to mark 2019 National Volunteer Week were recently distributed to regular Trust volunteers; Trust certificates for special years of service were also distributed.

Open Day with Victorian Working Horse Association - Saturday 12 October

Plans are coming together with plenty of attractions so we hope to do even better than last year's 400-plus visitors. The Victorian Working Horse Association members are the main draw but so far the program includes sheep dogs, blacksmiths, horse leatherwork, spinners & weavers, basket makers, rope making, bush bands, bush poet, art exhibition, food vendors, tours, the garden and plant stall (responses are awaited for some other craft groups). Volunteer skills will also be demonstrated including post-and-rail, and plant propagation: other ideas welcome!

National Trust Annual General Meeting - Saturday 23 November

Each year the Trust holds its AGM at a different Trust property; this year it's Gulf Station's turn. Officially 11am to 1pm (AGM and buffet lunch) but if you can help to set out chairs, trestles, etc, come at 9am or help to supervise car parking, receive visitors, give directions, provide tours and other information, come at 10am.

David Clark reunion - Sunday 27 October

To hear more about this event, email davidclark1839@gmail.com.

The Yarra Ranges Heritage Network

Apologies to **Peter** – he was ready Gulf Station's representative at the Network meetings (Irene confused yet again).

Publicity

Publicising Gulf Station is not easy (or cheap) but, thanks to the Trust, we are now listed on the *My Open Garden* web site.

'My Open Garden is the place to discover Australia's most inspiring private and public gardens and gardening events to visit. Or open your own garden gates to the public and promote your event here as part of a thriving gardening community.'

To use the whole web site, you need to register (very easy to do). But if you just want to see the Gulf Station entry, click on the link below:

<https://www.myopengarden.com.au/openGarden.jsp?e=1&id=2494>

If you have other ideas for publicising our special Open Days, our First Thursdays and our summer First Sundays, email Irene.



Visitor Report from Pam

We have been able to share our Gulf Station story with many visitors since the last newsletter. We have had visits from a Manningham Council group, Swinburne University of Technology, Club Knox, and a Photography Group.

Open Thursdays are becoming very popular. Our July numbers were swelled by members of the Croydon Men's Shed. **Stan** had obviously spread the good word among his mates.

Many thanks to **Ros** and **Neil** and to **Irene**, **Mike**, **Peter**, **Glenn** and **Harvey** for their support.

Pam always finds flowers to put around the homestead, whatever the season.

Image Carina Harding



Chickens back at Gulf Station



The Plymouth Rock pair



The Sussex pair

Matt's partner **Jane**, now a neighbour, asked if she could keep chickens in Gulf Station's chook houses. It's lovely to hear them clucking happily away. **Jane** comes each day to attend to her flock. It's hard to photograph through the wire but these give an idea.

Images Irene Kearsey



This group of hens are in the pen with the nesting boxes built by **Stan** and crew some years back for the last tenants who didn't understand what the boxes were for. **Jane's** hens knew what the boxes were for and got to work on egg production immediately.

Orchard news

The medlars stayed until harvested by volunteers. **Marion** made delicious medlar jelly to share. **Marion** and **Barry** have also taken cuttings and hope to have new medlar trees to plant and/or sell.

Garden news

The garden is enjoying the generous rain after the drought and the garden team really needs help to prepare for spring and summer. Young job-seeker **Cody** did great work for the garden (after improving the paths, he dealt with dangerous hanging branches of the big pine tree); however, he no longer comes (we hope it's because he is now employed). Another volunteer, **Cecilia**, came from Brighton by public transport; she enjoyed her day at Gulf Station but it wasn't feasible to continue.

The lovely white and red camellias near the house door suffer from the wind but they are lovely while they hang on.



Image Irene Kearsey

Harvey and Elizabeth's Gulf Station

*Harvey Clark, a dedicated diarist, is writing about his and **Elizabeth**'s involvement with and contribution to Gulf Station . This is the first instalment.*

Elizabeth and I first enjoyed a visit to Gulf Station as tourists in about 1997. We were impressed by the old buildings and how they were tastefully furnished with some genuine Bell artefacts and other appropriate period furniture. The formal dining room was a feature with a piano and an old peddle organ, dining table and authentic chairs and the red velvet covering on the table which was so typical of the era. There was an old wet cell battery driven valve radio in a crafted wooden cabinet which stood about 2 foot 6 inches high. A feature was the rather large portrait of the Bell family hanging over the fire-place. One could imagine the Bell family entertaining guests on a winter's evening with the kerosene lamps burning and a friendly fire sputtering in the hearth.

The breakfast room was equally interesting with the table laid out with an extensive set of genuine willow pattern crockery. We visited other rooms in the old house which were tastefully interpreted with a mixture of Bell artefacts and genuine period furniture: Mary Anne Bell's bed room, the rooms for the various members of the family, the Red Cross room and some rooms that were added as late as the early 1900s.

The kitchen wing was like stepping back to the very early days of the 1850s and 1860s with its large fire-place. A swingle supported the large fountain kettle which was constantly available for cups of tea when the men and women stopped for a brief respite from their never ending manual labour.

I was fascinated by the large mangle sheltered in the laundry which may have been manufactured by my great grandfather in some foundry in Wolverhampton England. Out and about we saw the creamery, separator room, butcher's shop, slaughter house, and working horse stables, the old shearing shed, the school house.

We enjoyed the large menagerie of animals: geese, sheep, Ayrshire cattle, pigs, draught horses, and the goat most of which have now disappeared. Elizabeth particularly enjoyed walking through the historic garden and orchard.

I first became a regularly volunteer at Gulf on 7 February 2008. I made up a total of four volunteers on Thursdays. The others were my wife, Elizabeth, who had been a volunteer since 1999 and **Graham** and **Margita Smith** as well as the manager, **Des Thornton** who organised the school tours and **Garth Matthews** a paid contractor. A number of school tour guides assisted Des when needed.

The primary reason I started at Gulf was because our son announced that he planned to marry at Gulf Station and we would need to prepare the Wedding Garden for the ceremony. The wedding was conducted on 16 March when the temperature was over 40 degrees. But, apart from the fact that the chocolate cakes melted, it was a happy day.

My first actual voluntary job was to repair and redo the brick path and edges in the kitchen garden under Elizabeth's direction.

Des was fairly desperate for guides so he requested that I take some training. But I was relieved by the arrival of **Pam Viccars** who conducted her first school tour on 9th October, 2008. She was loved by the children.

My next job was to relay the bricks and edges of the path at the front of the right hand front verandah.

I first met **Cracka** (Matthew Jeffrey) in November 2008 when he was contracted to repair the slaughter-house. He gave me invaluable guidance in the principles of heritage restoration which I appreciated very much indeed. As a result I became obsessed with these principles.

At some time during 2008 **Marion** and her friend **Louise** joined the team but they often came on Fridays. For most of 2008 I helped the ladies in the garden and did school tours which I enjoyed.

Under Des and Matthew's guidance I began restoring the horse-works in January 2009. The turntable had become largely buried and the supports for the wheels were in a very bad shape. Over the next few months I mowed grass, rebuilt the horse-works, did school tours and retrieved the old chaff cutter from the paddock, cleaned and oiled it, made a new safety cover for the cutting wheel and set it up to be driven by the horse-works. I also cleaned and oiled the milk separator, the mangle and restored the water pump.

In June 2009, **Christine**, **Pam Manning** and **Louella** joined the garden team as the result of an advertisement in the local paper. They proved to be a great asset in the garden.

In October 2009, **Mike** became involved on Thursdays [in earlier years, working bees had been on first Sundays]. Mike had made a valuable contribution working with **Colin Jarvis** in organising very successful open days. **Irene** had served as FROGS secretary; her regular production of the Frogs Newsletter is still greatly appreciated.



Gulf Station on film - Thursday 25 July

A production company used the Gulf Station in making a short film to show to 'money people' who might invest in a feature-length film (although this version might be shown in festivals of short films).

The producer had visited some weeks before, assessing Gulf Station's locations; another visit settled the details. The whole operation was meticulously planned: Early on the day, numerous vans arrived and teams of people set to work 'dressing' Dinah's room and disguising the buggy shed as the exterior of an 'exotic dance' tent show. One homestead room became 'wardrobe' and the barn became the 'green room,' with a catering tent set up in the barnyard. In spite of biting cold, the whole site was abuzz with activity all day and evening, as some scenes took place after dark. The gate wasn't locked until 10pm, with everything back in place.

The producer has promised to send a copy of the short film so we can have a screening.

Gulf Station's male volunteers were invited to take part, as additional stockmen were needed as patrons of the exotic dance tent **Ian, Stan** and **Mike** strutted their stuff (Mike even had a line). Unluckily for the boys, any exotic dancing was filmed elsewhere on another day.



Ian, Mike and Stan

Image Irene Kearsey



Left, some of the trucks

Below left, transforming outside of buggy shed - work in progress

Below right, blackout for shooting in Dinah's bedroom

Images Marion Bishop



Planning your spring planting?

The Gulf Station plant stall has much to choose from.



The sagging kitchen wall

The sagging kitchen wall created a gap over the window. **Ian**, who carried out the work, reports the problem was not, as feared, a rotted bearer:

The wall had been mounted on bricks simply placed on the ground (rather than on stumps) and over time the weight of the wall had pressed the bricks down into the ground which had dropped about 60 mm.

Cracka and I jacked the wall back up to where it was originally and mounted it on substantial stumps which were then concreted in place. I reckon it's good for another 180 years!!

As for all the best restoration jobs, you can't see what's been done.

Work starting

Image Irene Kearsey



The new stumps setting in concrete



All neat again

Images Ian Gaff



Restoration of workshop at Gulf Station - Progress report from Ian

The workshop at Gulf has suffered significant termite damage over recent years and has become structurally unsound and unsafe for purpose. The workshop is not considered a heritage site so more modern, up to date materials can be used in its restoration. Although unaware at the time of the extent of the damage, it was decided to commence the necessary repair work and return the structure to a safe working environment.

Initial inspection showed one entire wall frame and approximately 50% of the floorboards and supporting joists had been severely damaged, with a second wall frame not much better. All structural timber has been replaced with termite-resistant treated pine and the damaged flooring replaced with new pine tongue-and-groove flooring. A third wall of the shop and its abutting floor has yet to be fully assessed but initial inspection shows significant damage there as well. The layout of the shop is to be altered extensively to provide more room to work and to rid it of the clutter which has gathered there over the years. I estimate the project will be completed by the end of August.



Above: Rotten floorboards but sound bearers



Above right: Earth excavated around bearers for ventilation; and the wall frame back onto bearers

Below: Floor replacement in progress

Below: Sample of floorboard

Images Ian Gaff



Update for the Clydies - August 2019 – from Bri Anderson

Hello from the Gulf Station Clydesdales! Kelly and Gil have been enjoying each other's company along with one of Matt's older horse Pride. You may notice the horses moving paddocks frequently – this is to maintain the pastures as much as possible, minimise the mud at paddock gates and ensure the grass is under control coming into the warmer months.

Kelly and Gil have been enjoying lots of carrot treats courtesy of Irene and I'm sure many others who visit Gulf Station. They certainly come running when they see those orange treats! Gulf Station's resident farrier is attending this week for the usual pedicure, and the horses will be wormed at the change of season. They have kept very good condition over winter and have been having regular mud baths to keep warm.

Kelly and Gil have extremely thick long coats which protect them from the cold, and even when it is pouring with rain you will see them warm and dry under their thick layers of hair. This is from years



of not being rugged, building them a protective thick winter coat once the days get shorter. They will soon begin to shed these winter layers and the hard work will be with daily brushing to ensure they don't get itchy from this shedding.

You may have noticed I have an extra horse in with my usual two – Bomber is having a winter holiday at Gulf Station.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions about the horses!

Regards, Bri

Above - the look you get from Gil when you haven't brought carrots Image Carina Harding

Below - the look you get when heavy rain cuts off all carrot supply Image Irene Kearsey



Rain at Gulf Station

Recent months have brought much needed rain; and heavy falls have filled the dam and the creek which fills it has burst its banks. Ducks and frogs are celebrating but Matt's horses on the far side of the creek were cut off from treats and are here gazing sadly over the fence.

Other wildlife seen at Gulf Station

A fox drinking from a small trough in a pig-pen.

152 years ago, William Bell was issuing parking fines

Presumably, these were horses that had been left on agistment but payment had expired.

NOTICE. — To Messrs. JACK, Bannister, Scott, Stander and Singleton, Goodler, and Bird.—If the undermentioned HORSES are not removed and expenses paid within 14 days from this date, they will be SOLD at AUCTION, at M'Caw and Another's Horse Bazaar, Melbourne, viz. :—

1 bay horse, branded R off shoulder, or near shoulder. Left by Mr. Jack in my paddock, Gulf Station, 19th February, 1865.

1 bay horse. Left by Mr. Bannister in my paddock, 11th November, 1865.

1 black mare, branded J2 over IVBB near shoulder. Left by Mr. Scott in my paddock, 15th April, 1865.

1 bay horse, branded EC near shoulder. Left in my paddock for Messrs. Stander and Singleton, Black River, 27th March, 1866.

1 grey mare. Left by Mr. Goodler in my paddock, on or about 1st May, 1865.

1 chestnut horse, branded H over ~~on~~ near shoulder. Left by Mr Bird in my paddock, 17th May, 1865.

WILLIAM BELL.

Gulf Station, 19th Oct. 1867.

Victoria's Volunteers Day 2019

Each year, there's a day which celebrates Victoria's volunteers. The Trust's volunteers are sent a certificate and are invited to attend an event. This year, it included an opportunity to experience the Old Melbourne Gaol. **Kevin** and **Cathie Berry** attended, and Cathie sent this report:

On Monday, 20 May, Kevin and I went to the Volunteer's Day at Old Melbourne Goal. We were met at the door by **Simon Ambrose** and ushered into a room that had been a Courtroom with panelling on the walls. A large group of people, 68 in total, volunteered at Ripponlea, Labassa, Old Melbourne Goal and Latrobe's Cottage. **Kristin Stegley** came over to us and asked what group did we belong to, we said 'Gulf Station', she asked 'How is Leslie?' We were then served morning tea, sandwiches, pastries, little jam donut and nougat slice.

Simon welcomed us all and Kristen gave a short speech, saying, 'You, the Volunteers, are a very important part of the Trust; just talking to your families and friends telling them what you do, you draw attention to the Trust'. The Volunteers are an Eclectic Group she said, 'most people think that Eclectic means, a group of Old Stuff grouped together. It really means, the elitist, best of a group that is displayed and we are an Elitist Group.



We were then ushered out the front through another door into the Watch House. The large heavy door was slammed shut behind us, we were marched in single file, men one side and women other, the warden marching up and down, barking out orders, putting the fear of God into us, told to turn our phones off, we had to face the wall and were 'searched'. The men were marched off to a cell, then the women were placed into a cell, thirty of us crammed in, sitting on benches that lined the walls, then we noticed a toilet in the corner. The warden came along and slammed our door shut and turned the light off, it was so DARK. We were sitting there, quivering and quaking in our boots and then we realized, if you needed to use the toilet, you would have to feel your way around to find it. Eventually, the warden, turned on the light and let us out. Afterwards, Kevin said the men, turned the torches on with their mobile phones, not us women, we just sat there in the DARKNESS!

We then crossed a large quadrangle and entered the Old Melbourne Goal. It was dimly lit and looked very gloomy. A lot of school children were there; a guide saw Kevin and me with our National Trust badges and gave us a personal tour. The construction of the building started in 1835, it is three stories high,

the bluestone was quarried locally, the slate on the floor and cast iron balustrades were all brought out on a ship. One hundred and thirty five people were hanged there. I am afraid we found that part very depressing and couldn't wait to get out.

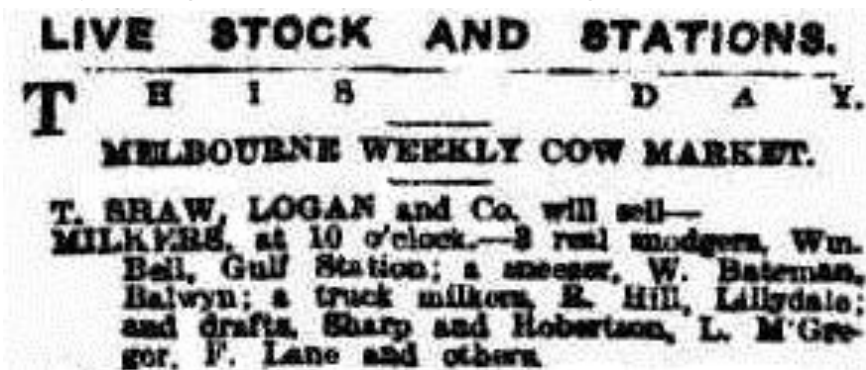
On the way, up Russell Street, we saw a beautiful building, the Old Magistrate Building, so walked back down to it and stood there admiring this magnificent French Romanesque building. We enjoyed the day; we now know a little bit more of Melbourne's History.

Cathie Berry

Thanks, Cathie. We're glad you were both released and Kevin is back on the mower, none the worse...



100 years ago - William Bell was selling cattle



Who can explain the descriptions 'snodger' and 'sneezer'? The online Oxford suggests 'snodger' might derive from Scottish or northern English meaning 'very good, first class,' which Gulf Station's stock surely was, but what was W. Bateman's 'sneezer'? You wouldn't advertise a cow you want to sell as having a head cold.

This is rather blurred in reproduction but the key part reads:

T. Shaw, Logan and Co. will sell -

MILKERS, at 10 o'clock.-3 real snodgers, Wm. Bell, Gulf Station; a sneezer, W. Bateman, Balwyn....

***Ribbons of Green* Planting Day- Thursday 27 June**



Image Irene Kearsey

Established in 1989, the *Ribbons of Green* project brings urban and rural communities together to restore urgently needed indigenous vegetation and to repair Victoria's damaged ecosystems. Government-funded, the project works in collaboration with local government.

In June we collaborated with the project and the shire of Yarra Ranges to plant 1000 trees and shrubs at Gulf Station. *Ribbons of Green* provided indigenous plants; the Shire provided weed mats, stakes and biodegradable tree guards.

The project also supplied 40 volunteers on the day, the majority coming from corporate businesses such as the National Australia Bank, or from Methods Recruitment. The planting was along our northern boundary (repopulating an existing tree line) and around the dam. Plants included native grasses, low to middle growing shrubs as well as trees.

Our volunteers provided morning tea. **Glenn** made Anzac biscuits and cut up fruit. **Alan** did the shopping. **Stan** and **Ian** cooked sausages and vegi-burgers at lunch, with sandwiches and soup. **Mike** gave the volunteers a short introduction to Gulf Station. **Peter's** grandson **Chris** helped him with the logistics and the 'fetch and carry' necessary to keep the planters supplied; all our volunteers helped at the lunch break, welcoming volunteers, answering their questions.

Planting began around 10am and the 1000th tree was in the ground by 3.00pm. Fortunately there has been quite a deal of rain since then and all the plants are looking OK in their new environment, protected from rabbits. Even the three dead trees that later came down in heavy wind within the tree line managed to avoid falling on the new plantings!

Next year we will again participate in the Project, and another 1000 plants are destined for our southern boundary.

Peter Petherbridge



Planting in the tree lane

Image Queenie So (one of the planting volunteers)



Planting around the dam

Image Marion Bishop

The dam (left) after planting and (right) after August's heavy rain

Images Irene Kearsey





Garden colour even in mid-winter

Images
Irene Kearsey



If you enjoy a pun...

With the Bells, the Douglass the family (they spelt their surname with a double s) were passengers on the *David Clark*: James (45) and Mary (50), with Janet (23), Agnes (21), James (17), Robert (15), Euphemia and Isabella (both 13), and Joseph (9).

The family suffered some tragedies in the Port Phillip District: James junior died only 6 weeks after arrival and Joseph, in 1841 In 1849 Isabella married shipwright William Christmas Bear; in 1862 her little son was killed in an accident.

Robert, though, established a successful livery stable in Little Collins Street, and later lived in Bourke Street. But he did once fall fowl of the law...

A VERY 'FOUL' TRANSACTION.—Mr Douglas, the livery stable keeper, was yesterday fined twenty shillings and one pound seven shillings and sixpence costs, for throwing a dead fowl into Bourke street. The defendant, remarkably 'crest fallen,' remarked that this was being 'plucked' with a vengeance, to which the chief constable rejoined that at the earnest solicitation of numerous inhabitants and by the direction of the Mayor and magistracy he was determined to bring forward all offences of this nature whether the carcase cast upon the street be small or otherwise, he was not going to make fish of one and fowl of another but should proceed against all offenders utterly irrespective of persons.

Bunnings BBQ

Bunnings don't usually have a BBQ on a Tuesday but Gulf Station was allocated the Tuesday between Easter and ANZAC Day (23 April). While some customers said how pleased they were of the opportunity to buy a sausage, it was generally a quieter day than usual. **Stan** and **Alan** worked all day with help from Alan's brother **David**, and **Carina**, **Peter**, **Sandra Gray**, **Mike** and **Irene**. Our next date is Friday 20 September.

Secure storage - our shipping container

Our more valuable tools and equipment are now kept in this shipping container, sited behind the chook sheds.

