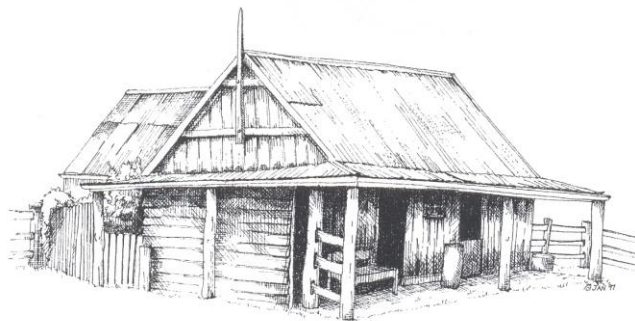


FRIENDS AND RELATIONS OF GULF STATION DECEMBER 2019



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

First Summer Sundays Openings

Open First Sundays for 10am to 3pm,
November to February inclusive:

5 January
2 February

Please can you help with reception?

Bunnings BBQs for 2020

14 February, Friday (Valentine's Day)
8 June, Monday (Queen's Birthday)

**Please reserve these dates - the team
needs your help**

Heritage Festival Open Day

Saturday 18 April *tentative date*, to be
confirmed

First Thursdays Openings

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

Thursday Work

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

Did you know?

Over recent years, the newsletter has
been put onto the Trust's website (Gulf
Station page).

Newsletter arrangements

Emailed to those with email.
Volunteers' copies available for
collection at Gulf Station.
Newsletter **contributions** always
welcome.

From the Work Group

All year there's more than enough work at Gulf Station to keep everyone occupied but the last couple of months have stretched us all. In addition to group and school bookings, the BBQ team put in a hard day at Bunnings (20 September, with purchasing before and cashing up after). In October, we had the Open Day (12th) and *David Clark* Reunion (27th), then (27 November) the Trust AGM. Not just tasks on each day, also site preparation. Everyone (including some friends and relations) contributed in one way or another, and the Trust has expressed thanks (see below) and rewarded us too (see report page 4).

Over the past couple of years we've created a pattern for Open Day events, that is, a fairly low key one in April, then in October a larger one with the Working Horse Association. A little more frenetic this year. Last summer we opened on the first Sunday of the month in Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb and we're doing the same this summer.

Channel 31 visited our recent Open Day and recorded some of the activities of the day. The segment went to air at 9am on Monday 18 November. I'm trying to obtain a copy for us to keep at Gulf Station. To show at the AGM, the Trust made a short video recording of what we do at Gulf Station; we'll see if a copy is available for us at the property.

It is time for renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between volunteers and the Trust, which has resulted in useful discussions. There'll be more communication in 2020.

Mike Ridley, for the Work Group

From Sherredan on behalf of the Trust

It gives me great pleasure to write in this, the final newsletter of 2019, of all the wonderful things achieved at Gulf Station throughout the year.

The volunteer group has once again proved themselves to be passionate and enthusiastic members of the National Trust community, dedicated to Gulf Station, its operations and activities. There have been some fantastic projects undertaken this year, the recreation of the Sheep Yards, Kitchen wall stabilization, Barn stabilization and electrical works, not to mention the fantastic Working Draught Horse Event and the *David Clark* Event and the additional open days over the summer. The National Trust is very grateful to every one of you for your hard work, support and ongoing passion for Gulf Station. It hasn't been the easiest of years, with a significant break in January and yet another season of stolen fruit, but all's well that ends well and the team showed their true colours by sticking together and working for positive outcomes! So thank you! Thank you to the gardeners, to the house guides, those who undertake repairs and maintenance and cleaning - to all of you! I really appreciate your support and friendships and I very much look forward to all the exciting things 2020 will bring.

Merry Christmas everyone!!

Sherredan

FROGS and Volunteers news

Irene heard that **Grif** and **June Ward** have moved to Doncaster – same telephone number - ‘happily ensconced’ in Roseville Retirement Village, both OK but both have asthma.

Marion returned from England and Scotland, including a visit to Muncaster Castle, which became the home of Agnes Bell (mother of Gulf Station's William Bell) when her widowed mother married the heir to the Castle and the title that goes with it. (An arm will be twisted for a report in a future newsletter.)

Carina is just back from another journey, this time along the Murray. Right: Carina's photograph shows at least one stretch is home to many waterbirds.



In July, **Alex** again competed at the Victorian Bands League Solo and Ensemble Championship, both as a soloist and as part of a band group (a section of the brass band). The Croydon band group received a gold certificate (out of bronze, silver, gold and platinum it seems very few of the platinum levels were issued). The son of the Croydon Brass Band conductor won the Victorian Junior Euphonium Solo section. Unfortunately, the section Alex won last year was not available but he competed in a couple of items - A Slow Melody and the Solo Tenor Trombone contests - and Alex achieved a Silver level for the Slow Melody with compliments for tackling a 'daunting' piece of music. Congratulation Alex!



More chickens...

A pair of **Jane's** chickens hatched a single chick (left). Then (right) the Plymouth Rock pair hatched at least 13 chicks (they move too fast to count). All Jane's birds seem happy at Gulf Station and are a great attraction for visitors.



Image Mike Ridley

Image: Marion Bishop

Cattle again on Gulf Station - report from Peter

We have some cattle on Gulf Station: Simon Ambrose agreed to an offer from **Gary Smith** and **Trish Ellis** from Glenholme Lowline stud, to put some Lowline cattle on Gulf Station to eat out the rough pasture. Australian Lowline is a breed from Angus stock, but about two thirds the size of normal cattle: they are a particularly docile breed, easy to handle and easy to transport. Gary and Trish are making these cattle available, more for our benefit than theirs, and so there would be no agistment fee. The other benefit is simply having experienced local landholders involved with Gulf Station.

The Lowline cattle at home

Image from Glenholme web site

Glenholme stud is just up the road from Gulf Station so easy for **Gary** and **Trish** to maintain a check on their cattle and to coordinate with Bri on which paddocks to use. These cattle are also used to horses and can be rotated through the paddocks with them. They can be moved on and off the property as required and as we move into summer and need to conserve pasture. They do not need a cattle ramp as Gary transports them in a large trailer with a ramp. Lowlines are an attractive breed, and are used to human interaction.

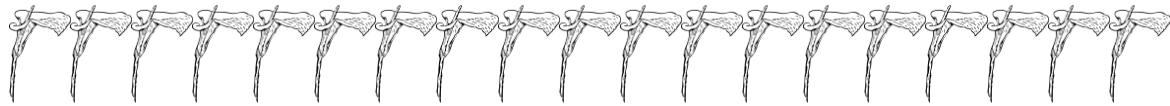
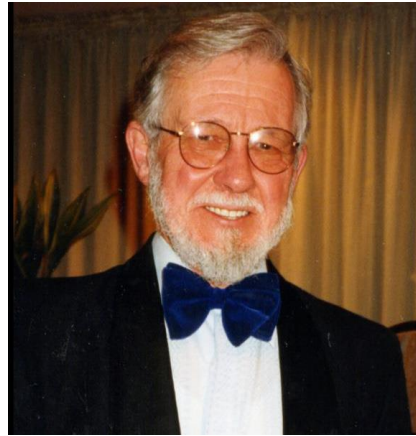


Gary has offered to assist with re-establishing the electric fence, using a solar power source that they will provide, and to assist in the maintenance of fences and water.

John Hobson (1929-2019)

John's daughter **Judy** sent news that her father had died on 15 October, a stroke occurring as he was preparing for his 90th birthday celebrations. **John** and wife **Elsbeth** were involved with Gulf Station from the early days of Trust management until advancing years necessitated the move to a retirement village but they continued FROGS membership. **Elsbeth** (who died in 2010) was a painter and they took many photographs of Gulf Station; over recent years, John sent batches of these to Irene, a valuable record. Although Irene never met John, his accompanying letters were warm and full of character. Judy's eulogy indicates current volunteers would have greatly enjoyed his company (he barracked for Footscray and played the euphonium) and his wide life experiences would have made interesting morning tea conversations. Judy says, 'My mother and father were proud of their early involvement with, and support of, Gulf Station.'

Condolences to John's family and friends.



Bunnings BBQ - Friday 20 September

This BBQ was quiet but made enough profit to justify the hard work. As usual **Stan** and **Alan** worked all day. Other helpers were Stan's friend **Mike Jones** (from the Croydon Men's Shed), Alan's brother **David**, with **Carina**, **Peter**, **Sandra Gray**, and **Mike**. See Diary Dates, page 1, for next year's dates - do please come for a couple of hours to help.

Open Day with Victorian Working Horse Association - Saturday 12 October

Our second event in collaboration with the Victorian Working Horse Association was enjoyed by all. The weather was perfect and we were well supported by **Matt** and the Association horses, cart rides, model train, vintage caravans, blacksmith, spinners and weavers, lace makers, basket weavers, rope-making, house tours, garden stall, BBQ and outside caterers.



Images Carina Harding

Top L to R:

- Pam flower arranging
- Kids (all ages) played with **John Viccar's** trains
- Spinners at work

Lower L to R

- Cart rides
- Gil and Chance

After the day, Sherredan sent this message to all who contributed:

I want to pass on my thanks and a HUGE congratulations to the team who helped bring Saturdays open day together. It was a fantastic day, with many happy visitors visiting the property and enjoying all the activities on offer. All in all, we had 619 people through the doors, which is an exceptional achievement (over 100 more than last year).

It is so great to see such exciting activity at Gulf Station, from the working horses (especially our and Gil), the spinners and weavers, vintage caravans, house tours, cart rides, model train and rope making. It won't be long before we're organising the 2020 event!!

David Clark Descendants Reunion - Sunday 27 October - from Irene

A big thank you to everyone who helped with this event before and on the day: volunteers, Bell family, my friend **Vicki. Sandra Sharman** and **Jennifer Bell** both sent especial thanks to all volunteers. I've had emails from people who attended, saying how much they enjoyed the day and appreciated the opportunity to catch up with relatives and to meet ones they didn't know they had. On their name badge, people put both their own name and the name of their ancestor so they were able to identify fellow descendants. I was present when two people saw they both descended from Isabella Douglass and started excitedly to work out how they were related. Some 260 people came, including from Queensland, NSW and South Australia, as well as all around Victoria. Some brought artefacts to display including a christening gown sewn during the voyage by Martha Ronald (later becoming aunt to George Reid who was NSW Premier, Australian PM and a member of the British House of Commons).

At noon, I welcomed everyone then performer **Jim Brown** read a poem written for the 100th anniversary celebration (if you'd like a copy, email me) then piper **David Connolly** played *Locharber No More*, the lament played by John Arthur (later to established the Botanic Gardens) as the ship sailed from Scotland in 1839. David then changed to a cheerful reel and led everyone down the drive and into the orchard where a crab apple tree was planted by a senior descendant, **Donald Stewart**, and a junior descendant, little **Declan** (who took his job very seriously - not just one token shovelful from him).

While the weather the day was a great improvement on the day before (horizontal sleet), it was cold and overcast, but rain didn't start until 5pm.



**Irene, Jim Brown,
Alex Moss**
Images Lindsay Mann



David Connolly
Lindsay Mann



**Declan and Donald
Stewart tree planting**
Marion Bishop



**Ronald family christening
gown**
Carina Harding

National Trust Annual General Meeting - Saturday 23 November

Each year the Trust holds its AGM at a different Trust property; this year was Gulf Station's turn. The meeting was in the barn, and lunch (thanks to perfect weather) was enjoyed outside. Lovely to see **Lesley**.

During the AGM, **Kristin Stegley** called up the Gulf Station volunteers to acknowledge our work. The Trust gave us enough goodies to last morning teas til 2021 and a generous supply of Bunnings gift cards.

Some Trust members had never visited Gulf Station before; others, not for years. There were compliments and promises to visit again (one pair had to be asked politely to leave so we could lock up and go home) although one complained the barn was dusty (who'd have thought?) and another, on the absence of scones and jam 'like last time I visited' (must have been a long time ago). Next newsletter will discuss comments made on the advanced decrepitude of most of the volunteers....

Many volunteers helped get the property looking its best with extra input from students of the Billanook School on the previous horrendously hot and windy Thursday (including cleaning the windows of the Croydon Cottage). Also on Thursday, Trust staff set up the Cottage ready for registration. On the day, **Barry** controlled road traffic, **Mike** directed parking, and catering (including BBQ) and other tasks were done by **Stan, Alan** and **Betty**, Betty's friend **Beverly, Roz, Pam, Glenn** and **Peter**, and **Irene**.



The last time Gulf Station hosted a Trust AGM, there was a full complement of animals. One of the cockerels (free to roam during the day) insisted on standing by the barn and crowing at full volume. This time, **Jane's** cockerel Rowdy carried on the tradition but from the other side of the barnyard.

Above: **Simon Ambrose**

Left: **Beverly and Betty**

Images Marion Bishop



Visitor Report from Pam

Since the last newsletter we have had visits from Upper Yarra Probus, two groups from Tour Local, Ivanhoe Garden Club, Hurstbridge Primary School, Good Shot Mate (a group of people who enjoy travelling together and have a common interest in photography), and Students and Mums from a Home School Group.

Our School Groups again enjoyed butter churning with **Ros**, apple coring with **Marion**, wheat grinding with **Irene** and old fashioned games with **Mike** and **Peter**. **Ian's** golf ball slinging game is a great hit with the children, and horse-shoe quoits is always fun. Of course, the highlight of our activities is feeding juicy carrots to our wonderful Clydesdales.

Many visitors are still enjoying our open Thursdays and we already have a group booking for April 2020.

The October Open Day was a huge success. Our House Tours are becoming very squeezey on these big days. Many thanks to **Bri** who gave up her day off to help prepare the house. Congratulations to **Irene** for organising a very memorable David Clark Reunion.

Many thanks to **Ros, Irene, Glenn, Marion, Mike, Peter, and Arthur**. Thanks also to **Carina** for helping with the never ending cleaning jobs.

Front gate repaired

One of the driveway gateposts had rotted, putting the gates out of alignment and difficult to close.



Ian, with assistance from **Kevin B** and **Barry**, put in a new post and rehung the gates. While work was carried out, we had to use the side (metal) gate.



Above: **Ian** and **Barry** at work as **Matt** drives in the side gate.

Left: All done, works as new but looks old.

Images Ian Gaff and Carina Harding

Garden news from the Gardening Team

After a very wet and cool start to Spring, we are now enjoying rapid growth in our garden. The flowers are beautiful and the weeds are many. The orchard looks wonderful, thanks to some pruning, mulching and mowing. We welcome **Julie**, our newest member of our team and greatly appreciate **Digby's** contribution.

Hello from the Gulf Station Clydies! November, from Bri Anderson

You may have noticed Kelly and Gil have been enjoying some time together lately - Gil is back with Kelly after his work in the Open Day in October. Thanks to **Matt** for his work with Gil leading up to this day.

Kelly and Gil have been confined to the small paddock to the left of the drive – the 'Jenny Craig' paddock - due to Kelly's rather large stature. They will stay in there until the grass begins to dry out and lose its sugar content in the hot weather. This paddock is perfect for them as it has plenty of shade, minimal grassy pick and is on the Highway, allowing a nice visual for locals and tourists as they drive past.

We also have five new agisted horses and currently eight cows residing at Gulf Station.

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

Regards, Bri.

Thanks for doing those never-ending jobs

The newsletter tries to record every project but it should also acknowledge those tasks that always need to be done and are only noticed when they **aren't** done. These include cleaning (especially the toilets) and acres of mowing.: thanks **Carina** and **Kevin B**, your work is appreciated.

Restoration of workshop at Gulf Station - all finished

Ian and team have finished - a new floor you won't fall through, lined (and upright) walls, more work space and very efficient storage, with a lockable cupboard for chemicals.

Well done Ian and team!

When repairs on the Working Horse Stables are finished, the historic tool display will be moved into part of that building that will be open to visitors.

Images Ian Gaff



Who knew???

It's clear from the barn's structure that the enclosed part was once smaller. In the floor of the part that was once outside there's a *very* heavy metal slab that none of the current volunteers had ever questioned. It took a trained police officer (**Barry**) to ask 'why?' then investigate, finding a small well (about three feet deep), brick lined, that presumably draws its water from the nearby concrete tank.

L Slab in place

Images Carina Barding

R Barry reveals the well



Another fence to make the Bells proud

A fence at the back of the Barn had been looking very sad for a long time then **Barry** started repairs. Work is now completed and the fence and gate look beautiful. Great job Barry!



Far left The fence before (2014)
Left Work in progress, Barry lines up another rail

Below left The fence after (2019)
Below The gate after (2019)

Images Ian Gaff



Working Horse Stables

The Working Horse Stables have been in a sorry state since a terrible wind struck in 2016. The job got to the top of **Matt's** list: the building had to be presentable by the time of the Trust AGM. And it was. Matt and volunteers have great ideas on how to present the building to visitors, especially on big Open Days. Photographs of the repairs in the next newsletter.

Image Mike Ridley



Neil Douglas at Gulf Station

Irene read that **Neil Douglas** had painted at Gulf Station in the early days of Trust management but had never been able to find any of his paintings. Thank you, Bell family member **Ian Shugg**, who owns this painting, for sharing this image.

One of the shards found at Gulf Station

A small shard of a pot lid (under a quarter of the lid) shows enough wording to identify it as having once held Holloway ointment. The wording on the plinth reads:

"244 Strand London in pots at 11½d 2s 9d 4s 6d 11s 22s 33s cash"

The width of the Gulf Station lid would have been 87mm, making this the smallest size (that is 2s 9d size - illustrated).

The image and some of the following information comes from this website: www.ointmentpots.com/victorian/holloways

Thomas Holloway was born in 1800 in Plymouth, Devon, and moved to London in 1828. Around 1837, he began to market his own ointment product from Broad Street Buildings in the city of London. Four years later he began to trade from 244 Strand, London, his address until 1867. Holloway's later addresses were printed on the lids so our shard is from 1840-1867 (likely to be later in that period). Holloway later also marketed his product in the USA. Holloway died age 83 and the business he established continued to flourish after his death.



Both the Ointment and Pills should be used in the following cases :—

Bad Legs	Gout
Bad Breasts	Glandular Swellings
Burns	Lumbago
Bunions	Piles
Bite of Moschetoes and Rheumatism	Scalds
Sand-Flies	Sore Nipples
Coco-bay	Sore-throats
Chiego-foot	Skin-diseases
Chilblains	Scurvy
Chapped hands	Sore-heads
Corns (soft)	Tumours
Cancers	Ulcers
Contracted and Stiff Joints	Wounds
Elephantiasis	Yaws
Fistulas	

The web site includes these notes about the lids:

'In addition to the name of the product and the boastful claims, the pot contains the trademark image of a woman wearing an ethereal white robe and flanked by a snake, the symbol for healing.'

'At her left knee is a small child holding a banner that reads 'NEVER DESPAIR'. The images are of Hygeia, the goddess of health, and Hygeia's baby brother Telesphorus, the demi-god of convalescence, who brings fulfilment of recuperation and complete recovery from illness. Holloway's initials, TH, are embossed into the inside bottom of the pot.'

Advertisements in Australia newspapers during this period include personal endorsements. The price on the pot was the cost in Australia.

A segment of an advertisement (*Portland Guardian and Normanby General Advertiser* 30.8.1858 p4) shows it cured just about anything.

School holidays again....

During the year, several Thursdays have been enlivened by youngsters (children and grandchildren of volunteers) who have contributed their labour and brightened the days. We thank you and hope you enjoyed yourselves, and do please come again!

Memoirs of a Stockman

Harry Peck (1860-1943) published his memoirs in serial form in *Stock and Land* 1939-1941 (published as a book in 1942). His father, John Murray Peck, one of the founding partners of Cobb and Co., settled in Victoria in 1853; later becoming a Newmarket cattle salesman while Harry became an auctioneer in 1884, not retiring until 1938. Peck wrote from his own memories and those of his father: 70 years of history.

Writing about the Upper Yarra, Peck noted (pp231-232):

On Yeringberg the de Pury brothers have conducted a great deal of pasture improvement and fatten a considerable number of bullocks. Very early settlers on the opposite or northern side of the river were the Bells of Kangaroo Ground and Gulf Station, and Gardiner at Tarrawarra. John Bell was an early member of the Council of the old National Agricultural Society (now the Royal Agricultural Society). He was a very strongly built man of "John Bull" type, inclined to titian. His comfortable homestead was perched on one of the highest hills of the Kangaroo Grounds near the Yarra Glen Road, facing the morning sun with a magnificent view.

John Bell was noted for the high class of his Clydesdales, and John Bell jnr. a very likeable personality of the second generation, often judged that section at the Royal Show and at interstate shows.

William Bell the present inheritor of Gulf Station on Steele's Creek, has for many years run a pure Border Leicester flock.

The Bells of Kangaroo Ground

Between Kangaroo Ground and Eltham is Bells Corner and Bell Street. These names mark the area where William and Agnes Bell settled in the early 1840s. Later occupants, the Fabbro family, have been commemorated recently.

By the early 1930s, the Fabbro family farmed and had market gardens in this area.

In early 2010, the State Government purchased a part of the Fabbro land, 2 Bell Street, a 4.87 hectare property that abuts the Diamond Creek and is opposite the Eltham High School. In 2011, Nillumbik Shire Council was appointed as Committee of Management for this land.

Subsequently Eltham District Historical Society asked the Council to consider using the name 'Fabbro Fields' for the property to *'commemorate the long history and active farming involvement of the Fabbro family on the extensive tracts of farmland along the western side of the Diamond Creek in Eltham'*. The naming was confirmed.

The area is for community use. One of the few remaining structures is a large metal-clad shed that was used for agricultural and storage purposes; this is now the Fabbro Fields community shed.

[Information on Fabbro Fields from Eltham District Historical Society's newsletters]



Please check your local op-shop

We need some serviceable big umbrellas (golf umbrellas) - the ones we had have fallen to pieces.

Some quotations to end the year...

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.' - Eleanor Roosevelt

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement. - Mark Twain

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. - George Burns

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. - Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. - Mark Twain

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. - Socrates

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe. - Jimmy Durante

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back. - Zsa Zsa Gabor

Money can't buy you happiness.... But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery. - Spike Milligan

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. - Bob Hope

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. - Winston Churchill

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty... But everything else starts to wear out, fall off, or spread out... - Phyllis Diller

