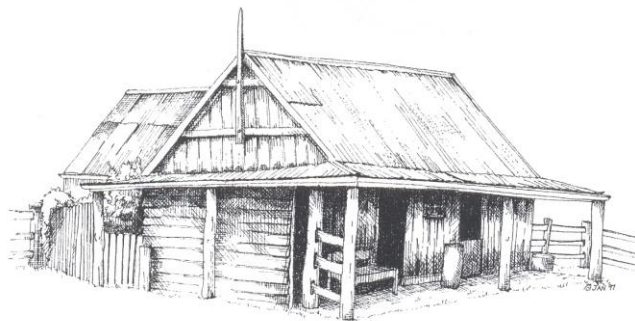


FRIENDS AND RELATIONS OF GULF STATION FEBRUARY 2020



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

Bunnings BBQ

8 June, Monday (Queen's Birthday)

Please reserve the date - even an hour gives someone else a break

Thursday Work

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

Heritage Festival Open Day

Saturday 18 April

Please reserve the date - all help welcome

Did you know?

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

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.

Newsletter arrangements

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

Newsletter **contributions** always welcome.

From the Work Group

The newsletter covers all the news so far, but I'd like to emphasize that we are so glad to see the old Fergie back at Gulf Station after a good many years off site – so to speak.

On another note, changes occur every now and then, and I have decided to reduce my days at Gulf Station to one day a month – probably the first Thursday; this means stepping down from the Work Group. I'm attending at Polly Woodside for one day a week so I still have a fairly full calendar. I'd like to thank everyone who has made the MoU a success and those who have taken over some of the admin roles. Thanks again, we are a great team – and that's what works.

Mike Ridley, for the Work Group for the last time

From Irene

That was all I could get from Mike, leaving me with a space to fill. So the rain stats (dear to Mike's heart):

Rainfall at Gulf Station

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year Total	Monthly mean ¶
2019	16.5	32.0	11.5	8.0	86.0	62.5	49.5	70.0	75.5	39.0	68.5	15.0	534.0	44.5
2018	3.0	33.0	33.0	0.0	74.5	56.5	0.0	30.2	36.5	12.0	84.0	73.5	436.2	36.4
2017	29.0	47.0	45.5	26.0	64.8	43.8	37.5	83.0	52.5	51.5	53.0	147.0	680.5	56.7
2016	57.0	12.0	34.0	46.5	56.0	100.0	43.0	58.0	113.0	105.0	0.0	74.0	698.5	58.2
2015	76.0	56.0	1.0	49.0	49.0	31.0	61.0	47.0	93.0	34.0	25.0	43.0	565.0	47.1
2014	20.5	30.0	27.0	89.0	61.0	49.0	80.0	29.0	78.0	60.0	57.0	47.0	627.5	52.3
2013			26.0	8.0		104.0	46.0	58.0			135.0	91.2	468.2	66.9
Monthly mean *	33.7	35.0	25.4	32.4	65.2	63.8	45.3	53.6	74.8	50.3	60.4	70.1	572.8	

* Mean for that month for each year from 2013 to 2019.

¶ That year's rainfall divided by twelve.

January 2018 fig is doubtful, also April and July. Recording started in 2013 with some gaps.

Official Bureau rainfall figures for Coldstream averaged between 1994 and 2015

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yearly
42.2	56.2	47.1	60.9	65.7	65.1	63.7	68.5	69.1	64.4	69.1	54.9	731.8

FROGS and Volunteers news

All volunteers warmly welcomed **Christine** on her return to Gulf Station - lovely to have her back.

The last newsletter recorded **Julie** as a new garden volunteer; this issue welcomes **Merry** who is also willing to become a guide.

Carina is selling her house and anyone who has gone through that process will sympathise, as it is exhausting and stressful. However, Carina has very talented daughters who have her place looking like a *Home Beautiful* photo-shoot (Irene has seen the photographs). We hope all goes smoothly.

Bunnings BBQ - 14 February 2020

The regular team - **Stan, Alan, Alan's brother David, Ian, Roz, Peter** and **Mike** - was augmented by new volunteer **Merry**. Fridays are usually less successful than weekends and a biblical deluge during the afternoon ended this BBQ early at 3.30 pm. Well done, everyone, for your hard work.

An old friend returns to Gulf Station

A LIGHTWEIGHT IN THE HEAVYWEIGHT CLASS

FERGUSON

a lightweight tractor specially designed for heavyweight work. Ferguson is built light for economy, but scientific design takes care of the toughest jobs. Ferguson handles a three-furrow plough with ease, giving positive depth control and perfect ploughing through patchy soil and hilly terrain.



PULLS 6' DISC HARROW WITH EASE



Ferguson's 6-foot 24-disc harrow works as a single unit with the tractor in Ferguson's Patent System. Ferguson will not bog down, it will not bog the harrow down, and the harrow's speed is controlled from the tractor's seat, straightening the dirt and you just drive out of trouble.

- No heavy handling of implements.
- Finger-tip hydraulic control from driver's seat.
- As easy to start and drive as a car.
- Exclusive safety device prevents damage.
- Perfect stability even in hilly country.
- Sensational economy in fuel and maintenance.

NEW LOW PRICES! IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.

Ferguson tractors and farm implements are available for immediate delivery. Tractors £583; Ploughs from £49; Harrows from £42; Cultivators from £32; plus full range of implements at new low prices.

Seeing is believing; write for free demonstration.

PS. 1924



BRITISH FARM EQUIPMENT CO.

(Division of Associated Sales Ltd.)

40-42, ELIZABETH ST., MELB. G.P. 172134. Telephone: A11100. - Melb.

Agent for: Yarra Valley District

T. MITCHELL

Main Street, Lilydale
Phone Lilydale 141

On 17 February, **Peter** and **Kevin** took delivery of the old grey 'Fergi' tractor, which the Trust returned to us. It will be a real asset. When Gulf Station was closed mid-2008, the Fergi was taken to the Trust's Mooramong property near Skipton. **Peter** says: "Our old 'Fergi' tractor has come home to Gulf Station. Needs some work, but it is a treasure. If need be, there is an expert in Fergusson tractors in Yarra Glen ... but my money is on **Kevin**."



The man who brought the Fergi on a large trailer from Mooramong said the truck drivers who passed all hooted their appreciation of his historic load. The dealer's plate shows it was bought from T Mitchell of Lilydale, who advertised his Ferguson dealership in the 1950s (example, *Healesville Guardian* 3.6.1950 p4).

Mooramong is a beautiful place to visit, open on the second Saturday of each month noon to 4 pm. The property was a 21st birthday present for Donald 'Scobie' Mackinnon who remodelled it in 1938 for his film star wife Claire Adams. Apart from the glamorous house, there is the Mackinnon Nature Reserve, home to endangered eastern barred bandicoots and other Australian species including wedge tailed eagles and broilgas.

Betty Seddon (nee Baillie)

Another sad loss to record: **Betty Seddon** died on 21 September 2019 at Aurrum in Healesville, aged 97 years. Betty and husband **Eric** retired to Yarra Glen in the 1980s and, soon after, joined the FROGS as volunteers. Betty also took an active role in the Yarra Glen and District Historical Society, as secretary. After an absence, Betty came to a Gulf Station Open Day, thanks to **Diane Roberts** who brought her. Betty asked to be on the mailing list again but (at 91) said she wouldn't be able to volunteer (quite understandable). Irene heard from Betty in 2017 that she was confined to the house (and she still apologised for not being able to volunteer). Her family, in the funeral notice, said: "We are left with fondest memories of a life of 97 years well lived."

The Blee family of the Croydon Cottage

On Saturday 22 June 2019, the family of the late **Norman Blee** held a small ceremony to scatter his ashes near the Croydon (with permission of the Trust). The Blee family has a strong connection to the Cottage - and through this request, we now know the Blee connection covers four generations.

Norman's parents, Rudolph and Eunice, moved from North Melbourne to North Croydon in 1946, and lived in the Cottage. There they brought up sons Norman, Geoff and Ken, and daughter Jan; later they also entertained their grandchildren, including Norman's son **Warren Blee**.

Warren had visited Gulf Station late 2018 to look over the Cottage and he admired the restoration. Luckily **Matt** was on site at the time, so he and Warren had a long talk about the building.

Warren provided the following details (confirming some points already known but providing valuable new information):

'The building was my father's home. He lived at the house in North Croydon from a very young age with my pop, grandmother, and his two brothers and one sister, until he met my mum (ironically at the Yarra Glen town hall) and they purchased a house in Nunawading to raise our family. My grandmother lived in the Cottage from 1946. Previous to that, the Cottage was my grandma's aunt's home, after her father bought it in Wilcannia and had it relocated to the site for her in 1927.'

The building we call the Croydon Cottage was a kit building manufactured in Britain and used at Wilcannia Hospital. The newspapers of 1927 report on the hospital's financial difficulties: perhaps that was the reason for selling one of their buildings.

The family's request to scatter Norman's ashes at the Cottage came because Warren felt that, 'after visiting the beautifully restored building it feels like my father's home.' Sadly over the recent Christmas period, Warren's mother died and Warren asked permission to scatter her ashes at the Cottage as 'we felt like we had taken him [Norman] home, we would be most grateful if we could perform this again so Mum can be with Dad.'

Thank you, **Stan**, for your help in making this possible.



Francis (Frank) Warren Rodwell (1931 – 2019)

Frank Rodwell died on Boxing Day 2019. His sister, **Ian Moss**, and his niece **Helen**, were hardworking volunteers at Gulf Station for many years, and his nephew, **Alex**, still entertains visitors on Open Days with bush poetry. Through Ina, Frank donated items for display at Gulf Station.

Frank was a proud Snowy man who grew up in Orbost and worked for the Snowy Mountains Authority (SMA) in various capacities; even in retirement he was a tour guide. Gulf Station was not the only recipient of Frank's generosity: he renovated and donated items to the SMA Museum at Adaminaby, the Australian Museum in Canberra, and the Sapphire Coast Car Club Museum. Frank's involvement in stopping the sale of the Snowy featured in *The Age* (3.6.2006): www.theage.com.au/national/euphoria-as-people-power-triumphs-20060603-ge2g2x.html.



Frank published two books. *Homes on the Range: A history of the townships and campsites built during the construction of the Snowy Mountains Scheme* (1999) features stories, photographs and maps of SMA's early days, and a coffee table book of motoring's early days, *I Like Old Cars and transport stories: A car lover's book of fascinating facts and stories* (2015). He also assisted other authors: Brad Collis devoted several pages of *Snowy: The Making of Modern Australia* (Hodder & Stoughton, 1990) to Frank's Snowy career, and novelist Judy Nunn consulted him for *Heritage* (Random House Australia, 2005) about refugee migrants working on the Snowy Scheme.

Above: Frank found, restored and donated the original archway of SMA Headquarters to the SMA Museum

[Thanks. Alex, for the full obituary (the above is *much* abbreviated) of a remarkable man.]

Visitor Report from Pam

Our Sunday openings have enabled many visitors access to Gulf Station. We hope that these visitors will spread the word about our property among family and friends.

Open Thursdays are still proving popular, especially during School Holidays, with many family groups taking the opportunity to visit.

Our January group booking was the Monash Branch, National Seniors of Australia. They enjoyed a tour of the homestead, gardens and outbuildings, followed by a picnic lunch on the property.

We look forward to another busy, happy year of sharing the Gulf Station story.

*Many thanks to **Irene** who is always willing to help when the Thursday numbers swell and to **Ros** for all her support.*

First Sundays in the Summer

Again we opened on the First Sunday of November to February. The numbers seemed to justify the opening (although *crowds* would have been great) and visitors always said how much they enjoyed their visit. Some who had been in earlier years commented on the high standard of up-keep. But there is always the difficulty of getting the word out: the Trust listed us in an email to members one month and on Facebook another month, which helped; we also listed on the RACV website and, some months, were listed in local papers. However, it was the same people who staffed the place each Sunday: **Pam** and **Roz** for tours, **Marion** and **Luella** in the garden, **Irene** and friend **Vicki** on the front desk and **Mike** round about.

The volunteers need to assess whether to continue with some Sunday openings next summer.

Just a bit of rope

Mike set up his rope-making on the final Summer First Sunday and all the child visitors took home a length of rope they'd made. The final stage of the process involves the youngster moving a device along which causes rope to appear behind them. As one lad approached, another was just finishing her length, and Irene said to the boy, 'It's magic.' He said, rather scornfully, 'It isn't magic.' Irene said, 'Perhaps not, perhaps it's science.' After the lad had his go and seen rope appear as he walked along, he said, 'It is a bit like magic.'



Image Irene Kearsey

What's new in the Garden

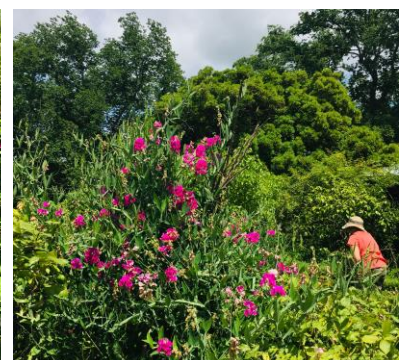
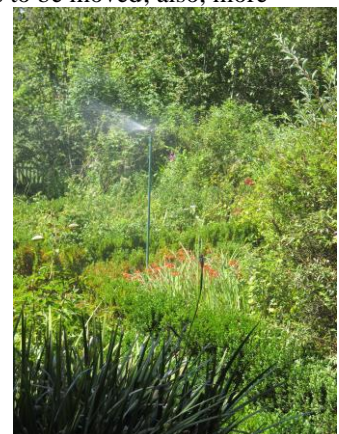


Left and right: images Irene Kearsey

The garden has been full of magnificent colour and growth, keeping the gardeners busy, even with the addition of **Julie**, **Merry** and now **Chris** back. The new aerial sprinkler system (right) casts water more widely, reducing the number of times an outlet needs to be moved; also, more timers have been installed for the watering system. **Julie** has put many hours into getting weeds out of the paths.

Cooler days mean the new lightweight battery hedge trimmer can start on the box hedges, which have become very overgrown and untidy. Compare the neat trimmed hedge behind **Julie** as she tackles another length.

The gardeners have provided a supply of lavender for lavender-bag production.



Above images Marion Bishop

Clydies Update February 2020

Gil and Kelly have been enjoying munching on the green grass sprouting all around Gulf Station after our recent rains. [During the spring, they were in the 'Jenny Craig paddock' to take off a bit of winter condition.]

The Clydies have had their annual health and dental check with our new equine vet **Simon Bray**. He was very pleased with them overall, and suggested a new treatment for the intermittent mite issues they suffer from. So far, Gil and Kelly have had two treatments, which seems to be very effective and they are far less itchy and irritated. This new treatment is very cost effective and easy to apply, so I am absolutely certain we have made a brilliant choice in getting Simon on board as our vet.

They have also had their annual vaccination to keep them in tip top shape!

We have had a change of agisted horses also, Kate is having a baby so her horse Storm has left Gulf Station, and Jessica is bringing a third horse to join her current two here. So far, the agistment is going very smoothly, all the owners are lovely and friendly, so say hi if you see them around.

Regards, Bri.

Around the farm from Peter



We were able to re-instate the fence using the existing wire, except for about a dozen metres where new wire was required. We needed about 2 dozen new posts and several star pickets, which Jordan provided. We had wire to use for the section missing; and we had the power auger to dig the post holes. **Alan, Peter** (with a little help from **Mike**) completed the task over three Thursdays.

A shared fence with one of our neighbours was in need of repair. After inspecting the fence along the southern side of our southern tree line, we spoke with our neighbour **Jordan**; and he agreed with the plan we outlined. The fence to be restored was about 130 metres.



Images above (L) **Peter** at work (shadow length indicates a long day) (R) Part of the length

Alan Gosling

Peter, Bri and **Wayne** (the hay contractor) decided on which paddocks to cut: when to start depended on the weather outlook, needing 5 to 7 days without rain for the grass to cure (dry) before it is baled, to prevent internal combustion. Wayne has also offered to slash the grass in the laneways and other paddocks for fire prevention as necessary. Most of this work was done at night.

Alan and **Peter** took some of the old hay out of the shed to make room for the new, with a layer of old bales on the ground to keep the new hay away from moisture. Some of the old hay could be used as mulch in the orchard, some old bales being two years old and badly weathered.



Wayne advised the final tally: 1100 bales of hay, of which 360 are now stacked in our hayshed. The contractors have moved the remaining bales from the paddocks. In the next weeks, they will slash our laneways and do some fire prevention slashing in the paddocks: this is of great benefit to us.

Images Peter Petherbridge



Livestock on Gulf Station - the ones we enjoy

The small herd of agisted Lowline cattle are still happily munching their way around the paddocks and adding to the farm ambiance. When Kelly and Gil were released from the 'Jenny Craig' paddock to join the cattle in the front paddock, the Clydesdales quickly ousted the cattle and reclaimed occupation of the *horse* shelter - Clydesdales rule OK!

There have been comings and goings among **Jane's** chickens: most of the big clutch of Plymouth Rock youngsters have found new homes while the Sussex pair now have some yellow and fluffy chicks.

Livestock on Gulf Station - the one we might tolerate

There have been numerous sightings of a grey tabby cat, perhaps feral, around Gulf Station; it streaks off when seen. We hope the cat will make its living off rabbits, which are excavating all over the farm.

Livestock on Gulf Station - the ones we don't want (1) - termites - report from Ian

On 13 February the termite contractor came in to rebait the traps in our toilets and he told me it looks as if his work is having success. About 6-8 months ago the Trust engaged him to rid the toilet block of the termites which have decimated the structure of the building. He explained at the time it was pointless simply spraying the walls or the around the vicinity to kill them, he needed to kill the nest. He didn't know where the nest was although he suspected it was most likely in the huge oak tree beside the events shed. His method of killing the nest is to locate a termite tunnel in the toilet wall, open it up and screw a trap box over the hole (so to be accessible only to the termites) and fill the box with bait, a white, very thick paste which the termites find irresistible. They then gorge themselves on the bait and carry it back to their nest to feed other termites, the queen and the young. Each month he came back to replenish the bait used and always found the traps to be almost empty of poison and swarming with termites. But yesterday the traps were still almost full of poison and very few termites evident, a clear indication that his work is having a serious affect on their population. He plans to keep monitoring over the next two months and if there is no change in the traps he will be satisfied he has killed the nest and we can get on with the restoration of the building.

Livestock on Gulf Station - the ones we don't want (2) - rabbits

Rabbit holes everywhere! A corner of the School House:

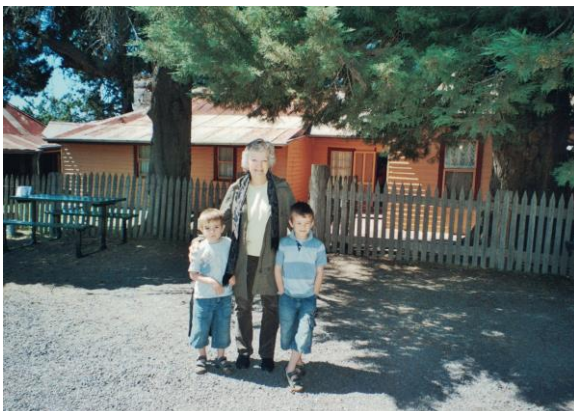
Images Irene Kearsey



New Memorandum of Understanding

The new MoU was signed in December and covers the operation of Trust staff and volunteers at Gulf Station for the next 12 months: only a few revisions made.

A happy memory from 2007



Marion with grandsons (left) **Digby** (now 18 and travelling around Europe with two mates) and (right) **Argyle** (now 20 and studying a business degree).

Thank you Marion for this photograph.

This photograph also shows the two trees that stood either side of the little gate and provided some lovely shade in the hot weather. They had to be removed after large bits fell off, some onto the roof.

Calling all Phryne Fisher fans

A new Phryne Fisher exhibition will be at Rippon Lea from 20 March to 19 July this year. See costumes and props from the new film *Miss Fisher and The Crypt of Tears*. The Trust says, 'Experience large scale installations recreating Miss Fisher's world, complete with an interactive mystery experience.' You can book tickets now www.eventbrite.com.au/e/miss-fisher-and-the-crypt-of-tears-exhibition-tickets-90073082013

Cleaning never stops

Pam and **Carina** tackled the many objects in the bake house. There are so many ways for dust to get into the bake house, this is a never-ending job but everything looks shiny for now.

Images Irene Kearsey



100 years ago - what was news for Gulf Station in 1920?

Sadly, Mary Ann's brother died:

LITTLE. On the 14th October, at Gulf Station, Yarra Glen, Robert Little (late of the Queensland National Bank, Brisbane); brother of Mrs. J. Crichton, East Maitland, N.S.W.; and brother of the late Mrs. M. A. Bell, Yarra Glen, and F. A. Little, of Richmond. Aged 72 years. THE relatives of the late Mr. Robert Little wish to sincerely THANK all friends for kind expressions of sympathy.

Some ewes were sold:

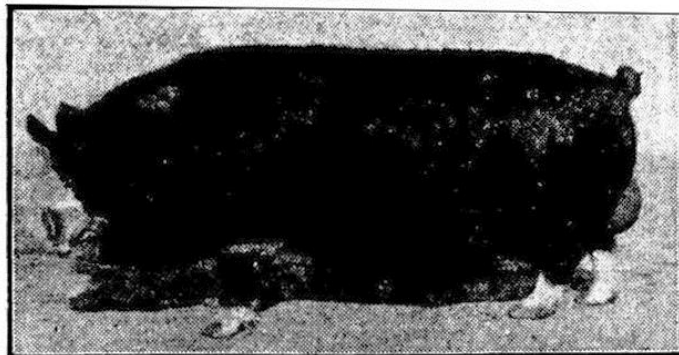
Ewes: 100 crossbred, W. Bell, Gulf Station, to 46/4, averaging 43/7.

[Age, Wednesday 2 June 1920, p13]

W Bell sold milking cows at the sale of Mcphail, Anderson, and Company, 11 June.

And some pigs were sold:

Account J. T. Bell, Gulf station, Yarra Glen Boar, Pendennis Thomas, sire Brigadier, dam Lady Jane, G. A. Bedwell, Baulkamaugh North, 18 gns; boar, Salary Grab, sire Pendennis



MR. A. C. STEWART'S CHAMPION BERKSHIRE BOAR PENDENNIS THOMAS.

Thomas, dam Fancy of Yarra, C. W. Frobling, Howlong, N.S.W., 23 gns; suckers, sire Pendennis Thomas, dam Preston May, boars, T. G. Abbott, Korumburra. 18 gns; boars, George Nield, Swan Hill, 4 gns; sows, H. Vincent, Craigieburn, 7 gns; sows, D. M. Hallwell, Warrnambool, 6½ gns; sows, F. A. Hellicar, Tarwin, 10 gns; sow, Preston May. sire Preston Empire, dam Goomalibee Ellen, J. Stewart, Trafalgar, 30 gns; sow, May of Yarra, sire Pendennis Thomas, dam Preston May, Miller Bros., Bacchus Marsh, 15 gns.

[Australasian, Saturday 2 October 1920, p49]

Above: Pendennis Thomas was champion Berkshire boar at the Sydney Show two years later for his then owner (not a looker but obviously good at his job). [Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday 15 April 1922, p12]

For the Family Historians

If your family research has found interaction between your forebears and the Aboriginal people, the Genealogical Society of Victoria's message [summarised] could be relevant:

Ashley Barnwell, Lecturer in Sociology, University of Melbourne, is undertaking a national study to investigate how inherited family secrets, stories, and memories inform Australians' understandings of colonial history. Ashley wants to interview family historians who have found interactions between settlers and Indigenous Australians in their ancestry and who are researching that aspect of their family tree.

Ashley is interested in how family relationships add an important layer to how historical research is done. For this Australian Research Council-funded project, Ashley will do a study of self-published family history books, interviews with family historians, and some research into her own settler ancestors in mid-north coast NSW.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Ashley via:

Email: abarnwell@unimelb.edu.au

Mail: Dr Ashley Barnwell, School of Social and Political Sciences, John Medley Building, Level 4, University of Melbourne, 3010

<https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/profile/708324-ashley-barnwell>

Sheep races



Harvey spent weeks and weeks working away on his own to rebuild the sheep sorting and dipping station behind the shearing shed and certainly deserves a huge amount of credit for his work. The image shows Harvey's work in the foreground, which involved the manufacture of 8 new gates and (**Ian** estimates) about 45 metres of post and rail fencing, all by hand. A herculean effort.

And then Harvey moved on to.....

Image Ian Gaff

The Working Horse Stable - from Harvey

After gradually leaning more and more towards the quadrangle in the previous years, the Working Horse Stable finally succumbed to a violent wind in mid 2016. The skillion and the back wall came adrift from the rest of the building and hung at a precarious angle. The roof was lifted at one end, pushing it down at the other. **Matt Jeffrey** was notified and immediately organised a working bee to straighten the building temporarily with the help of acrow props. A little later he temporarily secured the detached walls so they would not fall over again.



Thus the building remained till the middle of 2019 when a small grant was obtained to allow Matt to rebuild the foundations and secure the external walls more permanently. This required importing some appropriate weather boards from Queensland.

However, the grant was not large enough to restore the internal structure of the building. Under the instruction of Matt I was commissioned to begin this work late last year. So far we have managed to straighten the mangers which had sagged badly not only due to the wind storm but also due to dry rot in the supports where they were buried in the ground. As one of the stumps had gradually rotted over the years and the feeding trough had gradually sagged, when we

straightened the manger we noticed that the post support had rotted about one foot above ground level. This is typical of the problem we have at Gulf with the deterioration of certain posts below ground level.



Above three images: Alex Moss who took a large portfolio of images to record the damage



Left 2016, right 2020
In the 'before' image, the lack of a single right-angle remaining doesn't truly indicate the original slope of the manger; it sagged more since 2016

Images Left Alex Moss,
Right Harvey Clark



Another problem we noticed, particularly in the manger wood, is that some has become quite pulpy due to some sort of borer. The pest man told me the other day that there was nothing he could do to stop or cure this issue because the tiny holes in the wood were due to the insect coming out to die. By then they had done their damage. The wood would need to be gradually replaced. There is a lot more restoration to do but with Matt's invaluable help and guidance the work will continue.

Harvey Clark

Harvey's job starts as a jigsaw puzzle - where does this board fit? - before he can move on to actual reconstruction. However, he can already envision how the completed work will look and is planning how to display it to best advantage.

Right: Harvey contemplates

Image left Irene Kearsey



The Dairy wall

In mid-2019 **Ian** tackled the vertical slabs of the Kitchen wall that had dropped; he was relieved to find the lower horizontal beam in good condition, simplifying the job. Late last year the Dairy wall clearly needed attention but this turned out to be much more complicated.

The lower beam supporting the wall had rotted away providing the possibility for some of the huge vertical slabs to slip out, fall and hurt somebody (as in, squash them flat - those beams are very heavy). The old beam was simply sitting on the earth, and termites and moisture had done the damage. The paving in front of the wall had to be lifted to gain access to the lower beam and Cracka cut a new 3.5 metre long beam which was mounted on termite resistant treated pine stumps concreted into position with the beam now above the ground level and out of danger. The task was made more difficult because the inside of the slab wall was lined with corrugated iron nailed to the slabs which meant they had to hang suspended while the old lower beam was removed and the stumps fitted. Eventually it was all put back together, the paving reinstalled and the job completed. **Ian** did this work with some help from **Stan**.



Far left
Oct 2019 - Work started, beam and stumps replaced, some uprights absent revealing metal lining of Dairy wall.

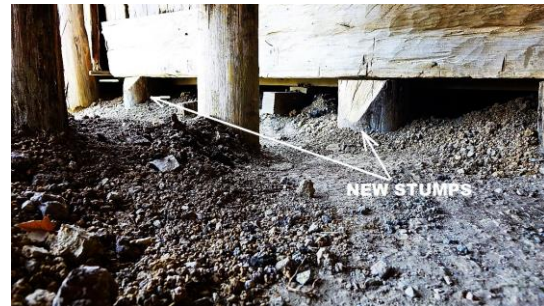
Middle and right
Dec 2019 - Work completed, tidy and safe

Images Ian Gaff

And then there was the Barn wall - a report from Ian (*with comment from Irene*)

The western wall inside the barn had a problem similar to the dairy (page 9) where the stumps supporting the huge lower beam, 14" square by the width of the barn, had rotted away allowing it to drop almost 4"; this made the entire wall quite unsafe. Many of the 9-foot slabs were simply hanging from the top beam by only two nails and were swaying in the breeze. And to think we conducted the annual AGM under those conditions!

The beam was jacked back up to its original height and three 12" diameter stringybark stumps were concreted in position to prevent any future movement (right). (*One simple sentence to describe a process that required research, scientific experiments and the invention of the Gaff Procedure for Inserting and Concreting Stumps under Massive Beams - patent pending.*)



However, the wall inside had a very "jerry built" appearance and simply looked so out of place beside the other walls inside the barn. Compare (below left) the wall slabs with the door (which is plumb vertical): I felt I needed to straighten them up. After a lot of thought and a brief attempt to align the slabs more vertically, I was put off by the challenge and decided, rather than try to align the wall to the door, it would be far easier to align the door to the wall and accept the misalignment. The result (below right) appears more aligned even if it does all lean to the left! All of the slabs have now been secured and the wall is now completely stable and any danger averted.



Upright door, left leaning slabs



All slightly left leaning but tricking the eye

All images Ian Gaff

Dam planting progress



Left
June 2019,
newly
planted.
Right
February
2020,
growing
nicely (with
bushfire sky)
Images Irene
Kearsey



Artefact corner



Recently **Irene** helped **Pam** cleaning in the kitchen including the domestic equipment on display. She gave these scales a good wipe: this is a 'before' photograph (the wiping didn't make a huge difference to the appearance although the rag got very dirty) and the temptation to google was irresistible. The maker's name Salter is quite clear, also their knot and arrow logo.

The firm Salter started in 1760 in the village of Bilston in England, where Richard Salter, a spring maker, produced 'pocket steelyards' (like a modern fisherman's scale). The business grew, including making the UK's first bathroom scale, also irons, mincers, potato chippers, coin-operated machines and the first UK typewriter. From 1972, there was a series of take-overs and restructures: the domestic weighing scales are now produced by Salter Housewares Limited with a 40% market share in the UK; it is a leading brand in Australia and other countries.

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney has an identical scale (in a bit better condition than ours) which the Museum dates 1920-1929.

Information from <https://salterhousewares.com.au/salter-history>

Image Irene Kearsey



London's 'Animals in War' memorial

Unveiled in 2004 on the broad grass strip between the two directions of Park Lane, this beautiful memorial recognises the animals used in war. Two life-size pack-donkeys approach a pass between the carved stone panels while the war-horse on the other side canters free. Some of the carved wording: 'They had no choice.'

Images: Irene Kearsey

