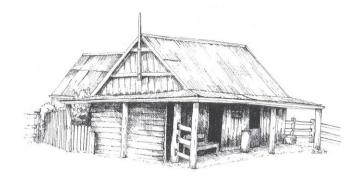
FRIENDS AND RELATIONS OF GULF STATION **JUNE 2021**



This newsletter will be email only (for now): normally the copying and franking are done at Tasma.

Diary Dates First Thursdays

2021 - Going well until...

Open for visitors

This newsletter, while recording the sad loss of two long-term supporters of Gulf Station, does indicate a high level of enthusiastic hard work going into various projects around the place. The (mainly) pleasant autumn weather helped, and brought good visitor numbers; and Pam already has bookings in the diary for the second half of 2021 (fingers crossed they can happen).

In all areas of work at Gulf Station, more volunteers would find rewarding tasks (and pleasant company). If you have friends who live close enough and who would like to garden, guide, maintain, clean, mow, repair, etc, suggest they drop in one Thursday and see if they would like to join the team. A great way to put existing skills to good use or to learn new ones.

Gulf's Aboriginal basket on display

At the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum (35-37 Castella Street, Lilydale), the current exhibition, Trailblazers: Women of the Yarra Ranges, tells the stories of women with local connections, from Edna Walling and Dame Nellie Melba to Aunty Dr Doseena Fergie and Rebecca Barnard. Although Mary Ann Bell is not one of the women, on display is a basket of hers, made by the women of Coranderrk.

The exhibition runs to 25 July.

https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Experience/Events/T railblazers-Women-of-the-Yarra-Ranges





Time to celebrate John Arthur, a friend of the Bells



The Royal Botanic Gardens this year celebrates its 175th anniversary, having been founded 16 March 1846. Superintendent Charles La Trobe appointed John Arthur as the Garden's first curator. Arthur had horticultural qualifications and experience in Scotland before becoming a fellow passenger of the Bells on the David Clark. Arthur and his family had ties to Kangaroo Ground, having kept in touch with their friends who settled there: Later, Arthur's youngest daughter Grace married William, the son of (blacksmith and later farmer) John and wife Janet Barr (also David Clark passengers) who had settled at Kangaroo Ground, and Mrs Arthur, after John Arthur died, moved there to live.

Left: one of the elms planted by Arthur, known as 'Arthur's Elms' Image with permission of Mary Ward.

FROGS and Volunteer news

Congratulations to **Marion** on the arrival of her second great grand son, **Lachlan**. Another achievement was the quick sale of Marion's house in preparation for a move to a retirement village situated at a distance that will still permit Marion to continue volunteering at Gulf.

Alan and **Betty** have had a holiday and Alan some successful medical treatment that has him back to Gulf in good form and catching up on the finances (at least he was, before our latest lockdown).

Congratulations to **Elizabeth** on her 80th birthday, celebrated with a family party. Celebrations that were missed during our months of closure included **Elizabeth** and **Harvey**'s 50th wedding anniversary and **Irene**'s 80th birthday.

Carina has been at Gulf but found the uneven ground very difficult, as her ankle has not yet fully mended; we hope her recovery is soon complete. Best wishes also to any others who are not well or in low spirits.

Peter decided to cease volunteering at Gulf Station so **Ian** has taken over time sheet calculations and reporting in addition to maintaining the task list, a most important document in planning work around Gulf.

A very welcome visitor

Kevin Heeley dropped in - we hope he was impressed with the work being done.

National Volunteer Week

The Trust holds an event for volunteers each year, this year's was held on 20 May, at The Heights, Newtown: afternoon tea, guided house tours and a bee keeping talk from the CSIRO. We should lobby for Gulf Station to be the location for next year's event!

Representation at Yarra Glen Chamber of Commerce

The Yarra Glen Chamber of Commerce is an organisation representing business within the 3775 postcode (covering Christmas Hills, Dixons Creek, Steels Creek, Tarrawarra and Yarra Glen). **Barry** has been attending recent meetings on behalf of Gulf Station: this is a valuable connection to the local community and we thank Barry for his time and commitment.

Representation at Yarra Ranges Heritage Network - needed

As Peter is no longer volunteering at Gulf Station, we need a new representative on the above Network. Four meetings a year, liaising with the other heritage places and activities in the Yarra Ranges. Is there anyone who could spare four Saturday afternoons a year to take over?

Under the auspices of the Yarra Ranges Council, this group was formed in 1995. It comprises representatives of 'any group which identifies as interested in local history and heritage.' The Network meets quarterly, its objective being to share information between members and the Council. The Network also takes part in relevant projects, a recent one being contributing to the *Guide to Heritage in the Yarra Ranges* booklet.

Proposed meeting dates for the rest of 2021 are (Saturday):

- 24 July
- 11 September
- 13 November

Meetings currently are to be held in the Community Room at Montrose Town Centre (935 Mount Dandenong Road, Montrose) with lunch provided from 12pm and official proceedings at 12:30pm. The meeting format is that members submit written reports two weeks before the meeting via email, then questions can be put during the meeting. Key topics for the 24 July meeting will be the digitisation (website) of the *Guide to Heritage* and the 150th anniversary of the Shire of Lilydale: delegates are encouraged to speak with your members in preparation for this.

If you are interested, let Irene know and she will provide the link to the Network. Gulf should be there!

The National Trust's 2021 Appeal

At the end of this newsletter is reproduced the Trust's appeal leaflet for 2021, a very difficult year as we know, with properties closed. Alternatively, there's also a form to donate specifically to FROGS funds.

Support the Trust while shopping at Ritchies

Ritchies supermarkets (including that at Yarra Glen) has changed its loyalty scheme. Alan had set up Gulf Station as a good cause to support by your shopping. But the new system requires you to nominate from a set list which currently includes the National Trust but not Gulf Station (Alan is investigating). Pick up a leaflet and new card in-store and register on the web or mobile. Then select your good cause.

Bunnings BBO

Alan had to cancel Gulf's BBQ date but we should be on track when offered another date.

Beatrice Olive (Betty) Williams (1.7.1918 - 14.8.2020)

Passed away peacefully at home, aged 102 years, on 14 August 2020. Now reunited with her beloved husband, Noel (dec.). Both much loved and forever missed by family and friends.

Betty with her sister Heather were enthusiastic supporters of Gulf Station from the time it came under Trust stewardship: they were very proud of their (very colourful) ancestors Andrew and Jacobina Templeton, fellow passengers with the Bell family on the *David Clark*; the couple settled in Dunkeld where a road and other features are named Templeton after them. Superintendant La Trobe, on his travels, sketched the inn run by the Templetons and the newspaper reports of the divorce case when Andrew was cited as co-respondent make amusing reading.

Over many years both Betty and Heather, with their husbands, assisted with events at Gulf Station and were always interested in the property even after advancing years made visits impossible.



Betty Williams courtesy of Margaret Shelton

The sisters maintained connections with other *David Clark* descendants, especially the McNabbs, and were major organisers of the 150th anniversary of the ship's arrival (below, *The Age*, 29.10.1989, p3, Heather then Betty on left).



We extend our sympathy to Betty's family.

(Apologies for this belated announcement; a communication from Betty's executor did not reach Irene.)

Elizabeth (Bessie) Kelso (nee Lorrimer) (13.12.1920 - 26.04.2021)

Another sad passing occurred 26 April 2021 - Bessie Kelso whose connection to Gulf Station was through the Little family. Bessie's grandmother was Ellen Stevenson of Kangaroo Ground before she married William Little, a younger brother of Mary Ann Bell and Francis Anderson Little. Ellen was the youngest child of Joseph Stevenson and Ruth (nee Boyd) who married in Sydney in the 1830s, later coming to Christmas Hills. Ellen's daughter Ruth married David Lorrimer in 1915 and Bessie was the middle child of their family of five. Bessie married David Kelso in 1943 and last year celebrated her 100th birthday with her family.

Bessie's ancestor Joseph Stevenson had a timber yard and was a boat builder (he built Melbourne's first punt in 1839). Later he took up grazing land near Kangaroo Ground and employed a shepherd, David Christmas, in town; David became lost making his own his way on foot to Stevenson's, but was found eventually; this story gave his name to the location of Christmas Hills.

Bessie visited Gulf Station occasionally until time caught up and she moved away to be closer to her family. However, Irene continued to enjoy telephone chats and receive Bessie's lively letters, enclosing interesting snippets and reminiscences, which made good newsletter items. In particular, Bessie provided us with information about *Langholm*, the Richmond house left to the Bells by Mary Ann's brother Frank Anderson Little. A major donation to the Trust featured in the May/June/July 2017 magazine which described Bessie's gift of a selection of nineteenth-century mourning clothes belonging to Mary Ann Bell and her daughters Dinah and Jemima Bell (reproduced in FROGS Newsletter August 2017).

Bessie's siblings, except Nancy, had predeceased her but she was a treasured aunt to all her nieces and nephews who said, 'Rest Peacefully, our Beautiful Honey Bun.' We extend our sympathy to Bessie's family.

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Visitors - reported by Pam (written before the current lockdown)

Since our return to Gulf Station, we have been very busy. In the 12 months that we were missing, the spiders, mice, rabbits and wombats moved in. We are gradually bringing the house, the outbuildings and the grounds back to where they were.

Kots of visitors have taken the opportunity to enjoy the tranquillity of our beautiful property. Our National Trust Bookings included 20 Seniors from the U.3A Yarra Ranges. 25 Seniors from the U.3A Groydon, 40 Seniors from Canberra (travelling with Potter Travel), and a group of 8 Seniors who had connections with the town of Kongwak in Gippsland. Frank, the youngest son of William and Mary Ann Bell, established a dairy farm in Kongwak. We discovered during the tour that several of the group had either worked with, or studied with, descendants of this branch of the Bell family. Every time Kongwak was mentioned a huge cheer erupted. A fun time was had by all.

Our Open Thursdays are proving to be very popular once again. Many people are enjoying the opportunity to visit without the need to formally book.

A Team from Tasma visited the property on our April Open Day. It was good to be able to share our story with them and to put a face to the emails.

Many thanks to **Irene** for her support when we become inundated with visitors, and to **Ros**. **Mike** and **Harvey** for always being there.

Pan

A valued donation to the homestead

Marion Bishop has donated to Gulf Station a chair that the Bells gave to Marion's Uncle Bill Cameron when he stayed with them. Bill Cameron and his three brothers - Douglas (Marion's father), Gordon and Ian, the youngest - were cousins of the Bells and stayed at Gulf Station many times. The chair was recently restored beautifully by Kevin Heeley and now adds to the Gulf Station story.

Image Irene Kearsey

Once upon a time...

A search for something else in back number of this newsletter sidetracked Irene into 2008 and details of a meeting at Gulf Station when the then CEO **Martin Purslow** reported on various matters, one being school visits to Trust properties. Martin said the Old Melbourne Gaol had the highest number of school visitors. And in second place? Hard to believe at the moment, but it was Gulf Station.



What's in a name?

One of the daughters of William and Mary Ann Bell was Jemi<u>m</u>a. Or was her name Jemi<u>n</u>a? Her birth and death certificates (written by a Registrar from verbal information) both record Jemi<u>m</u>a. Announcements in newspaper (not always reliable) of family events that list the Bell children have Jemi<u>m</u>a, except for one that has Jemi<u>n</u>a. However, Frank Anderson Little's will, dated 16 September 1912, left his property in equal shares to his sister and the Gulf Station children, each named: that document named Jemi<u>n</u>a. The tombstone in Yarra Glen Cemetery also has Jemi<u>n</u>a.



Image: Findagrave

Her will at the Public Record Office is indexed as Jemi<u>m</u>a but it has not been scanned so a trip into PROV is needed to look at the actual document. Watch this space.

The Yarra Glen & District Historical Society

Helen Mann sent official notice that the Society (closed in 2019 and no longer publishing its valuable newsletter) now exists as a History Group, formed within the Yarra Glen & District Living & Learning Centre. While the Group has no plans to issue a separate publication, it will provide regular articles to various community newsletters and local newspapers. While the FROGS newsletter is not in the same erudite category as the past Society's newsletter, any items relevant to Gulf Station, the Bells and their wider community would always find a welcoming home here.

Garden report - from Julie (written 7 May)

Our happy team of 4 volunteer gardeners has had several productive months in the garden and the whole area is looking attractive with lots of colour to be seen. First jonquils are flowering which is a sight to gladden any gardener's heart. Whilst we do a lot of watering over the summer months, the more regular downpours of rain recently have helped smarten up the garden immensely. Our newest gardener, Merry is a welcome addition to our team. The irrigation system installed by Barry now covers 5 beds and it certainly makes life a lot easier for us.

There has been a bountiful crop of quinces, figs, apples and feijoas and quite a lot of produce has been dispersed amongst volunteers and visitors. Recently **Marion** spoilt us volunteers at morning tea time as she made some drop scones which were topped with her delicious home made quince jam. Tour Guide **Pam** always picks several lovely posies of flowers from the garden to brighten up the home and school room.

Gardeners have been growing-on at their homes quite a few cuttings and seedlings for future planting at GS. Many now are in the GS gardens, particularly the wedding garden, the entrance garden and the little garden in front of the bay window; all are responding well to the lovely autumn weather and more regular watering. Quite a few vegetables have been planted in the bottom of the garden near the shed and are doing well. The kitchen garden outside the bakehouse has been given a good tidy up and is looking more loved.

We are on the hunt for a huge delivery of mulch so we can top dress all the pathways. East time this was done it really looked most attractive. The next couple of months will see us doing a lot of rose pruning, and battling the never-ending task of removal of weeds and spent growth. A lot of the aluminium plant smothering the garden bed with the old apple tree in it (and its very cute parasitic fig tree) is being removed and we have plans to turn the area into a pretty cottage garden. We are looking forward to assistance from Ripponlea in the winter months as it is planned to have them prune the big Banksia rose rambling over the home's roof and to also trim the box hedges. Our NT Manager **James** is going to prune the fruit trees, which are bally in need of a trim.

Julie, on behalf of the gardening team

Garden research

In addition to her gardening work, **Julie** has been researching. One find is a National Trust resource: *Planting c.* 1850-1900 (1982)

https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Planting.-c.1850-1900.pdf

This technical bulletin is a guide to the restoration, conservation and rehabilitation of early-style Australian gardens and man-made landscapes. Julie found this a most interesting document, particularly the end pages listing cottage-style plants. The earlier pages deal with trees, but Julie feels we don't need any more of these!

A new approach to Gulf Station

What a difference **Ian** with helpers **Alan** and **Thomas** with carer **Julian** and others have made to the top of the drive. The wonky (and inappropriate) picket fence has gone, replaced (mainly Ian's work) by an authentic post-and-rail fence following the original alignment. Ian also made and installed a small gate as his research showed there had been one in the original fence. In the driveway, a hidden drain (a hazard to car wheels and walkers alike) was safely covered over; a tree stump removed, and the ground smoothed out. The top of the drive is now neat and tidy, spacious when empty, and providing more parking and safer manoeuvring (photograph promised for next newsletter).

A magnificent job, with spectacular results; well done all who contributed, but especially Ian.

Image Irene Kearsey





Never ending tasks...

One major project completed, then look what happens! However, **Ian** is currently working on the covered platform of the calf shed

(top of drive), researching its original structure for appropriate repair. Using his own invention, Ian extracted this gate-hanging barbed spike, which he will reuse.



Images (1) Irene Kearsey (r) Alan Gosling

New arrivals in the chook shed

Rita and Rowdy are raising three pretty new chicks (difficult to photograph through the wire and they move so fast). The sound of chickens is a wonderful soundtrack to Gulf Station: thank you **Jane** and your chickens.

Sharing a resource

Harvey has shared with volunteers and this newsletter his photographic archive of Gulf Station. Over the years, Harvey has photographed buildings, gardens, people, activities and artefacts. A great record: many thanks, Harvey!



That massive mangle



Always a talking point on Gulf Station tours, the Bells' mangle bears a label 'Low & Duff's Patent T W & J Walker Agents Wolverhampton'. The earliest mention in Trove's old Australian newspapers seems to be 1870 when a Low and Duff mangle was offered for sale in Ballarat, although these wringers were being advertised before that year in New Zealand. The Walker company, manufacturer of the mangle, started in 1868. Among other Walker products were corrugated iron and a self-setting rabbit and vermin trap. Sadly, the Bells did not leave us any of those traps; it would come in very handy now.

Image Harvey Clark

The Clydesdales

Kelly and Gil were sad to say goodbye to **Bri** and we know she will miss them; the volunteers will also miss Bri and hope she will come to visit us all occasionally. For a few weeks local man **Jurgen** came each day to check on Kelly and Gil while **James** recruited a new carer, which he has now been able to do:

Eva Chalmers, who comes highly recommended, has been in the equine industry from an early age and is an accomplished rider who has horses of her own.

From previous years, Kelly and Gil were known to like a treat of quince (raw, can you imagine the taste?); this year they discovered a taste for an occasional feijoa.

Right: Matt's four and some other agisted horses look on hopefully as Alan unloads prunings onto the burn pile: there's always the possibility that a human has an apple in their pocket. Over the months, the quince walk and oak trees have been pruned by **Thomas** and helpers: the horses were able to eat those tasty leaves as the burn pile grew. Image Irene Kearsey



Under the school house, now a wombat's des. res.





Gulf Station should be a haven for native wildlife, and wombats have always been welcomed one has lived happily by the creek for years. But unfortunately a wombat is now busy creating a burrow *under* the school house, with entrances on opposite sides. Expert wildlife advice needed!

School house: (L) road side (R) windmill side Images Irene Kearsey

Don't Quit Author unknown

When things go wrong as they sometimes will, When the road you're trudging seems all uphill, When the funds are low, and the debits are high And you want to smile, but have to sigh; When care is pressing you down a bit – Rest if you must, but do not quit.

Success is failure turned inside out;
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt;
And you can never tell how close you are;
It may be near when it seems so far.
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit —
It's when things go wrong that you must not quit.

150 years ago in the neighbourhood

John Bell (Kangaroo Ground) and Thomas Armstrong won prizes at the Victoria Agricultural Society's Show at Heidelberg ('neat cattle' are horned oxen).

NEAT CATTLE.

Bull of any Breed, Calved before January, 1869.

—First prize, £4, P. and J. G. Brisbane, Berwick, Royal Butterfly 31st; second prize, £2, Job Smith, Northcote; third prize, hon. certificate, A. Young, Preston.

Bull, Calved in 1869.—First prize, £2, R. Slessar, Janefield; second prize, £1, J. Creighton,

Bundoora.

Bull, Calved in 1870.—First prize, £2, Richard Morton, Derrimut; second prize, £1, P. and J. G. Brisbane, Berwick; third prize, hon. certificate, G. Cooper, Bundoors.

Breeding Cow, of any Breed or Age.—First prize, £3, Thomas Armstrong, Yarra Flats; second prize, £2, John Bell, Kangaroo Ground; third prize, hon. certificate, Thomas Armstrong, Yarra Flats.

Heifer, Calved in 1869.—First prize, £2, R. Morton, Derrimut; second prize, £1, P. and J. G. Brisbane, Berwick; third prize, hon. certificate, T. Armstrong, Yarra Flats.

Heifer, Calved in 1870.—First prize, £2, R. Morton, Derrimut; second prize, £1, J. Bell, Kangaroo Ground; third prize, hon. certificate, P. and J. G. Brisbane, Berwick.

Weekly Times 25 March 1871 p6.

Earlier in the year, John Bell had been in the news about his rates payment (edited extract from *The Age*, 12 January 1871 p4)

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS.

KITHAM BEARD (10th January).—The chairman (Mr. Donaldson) and all the members were present.

Living From the clerk, stating that the commons books at Eltham were in a very unsatisfactory condition. Inch, the keeper of them, having also continually thrown obstacles in the way of their production, and that 6s received from Mr. Hell was not accounted for. Mr. Stebbing, one of the managers, here spoke in favor of Inch, and explained that most probably some error existed about the 6s, and that he would pay it himself. The board ordered the accounts to be audited and the matter of the 6s, seen into at once. The sum of £14 14s, 4d, was paid in to the board from the Kangaroo Ground Commons; £5 from the Yarra Flats and slaughtering licences were granted to Mr. J. Bell, Kangaroo Ground; W. Bell, Yarra Flats; George Fletcher, Steel's Creek; W. Gosley, Queenstown; F. Hurst. Diamend Creek.

100 years ago at Gulf Station

Gulf Station and the Bells featured often in reports of the local hunt. July 1921 was no exception. The hunt frequently went through the farm and often the Bells provided refreshments. This is an extract of the report from the *Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser and Diamond Creek Valley Advocate* 8 July1921 p3:

Hunt Meet.

LILYDALE HOUNDS AT YARRA GLEN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

At 12 noon on Thursday last, the 30th ult, the above Hunt Club met just opposite the Grand Hotel. The sight of huntsmen in regulation pink and white cords, mounted on splendid horses, with a large sprinkling of horsemen and ladies, all well mounted and turned out, and last, but not least, the 12 or 15 odd couple of hounds, presented a very pretty pic ture; and hopes ran high for a good day's sport. Punctually to the time arranged, the hounds moved off, followed by about 30 to 40 keen hunting enthusiasts. enthusiasts. they again came out on the Healesville road, and then into 'Gulf Station." Astron. Y. From here the bounds doubled backwards and forwards between Dixon and Steel's Creeks country, and finally finished at the Gulf Station paddock-just behind the house.

it was a "full hunt" that fetched up at the Yarra Flats Hotel at about 4 o'clock to the sumptuous tes that awaited them, and mention must be made of the wonderful and delicious display of good things in the way of sandwiches, cakes, fruit salads, jellies, and a whole host of other viands that fairly loaded the tables, and were done justice to by all those who sat down to them, and both the Yarra Glen members of the Hunt lub and Mrs Bell and Mr and Mrs R, Lithgow (the proprietors of the hotel) were deservedly thanked for the welcome герачь. *************

Free to a good home

Contact Alan Gosling if you could use this smart BBQ (or ask Irene to put you in touch).







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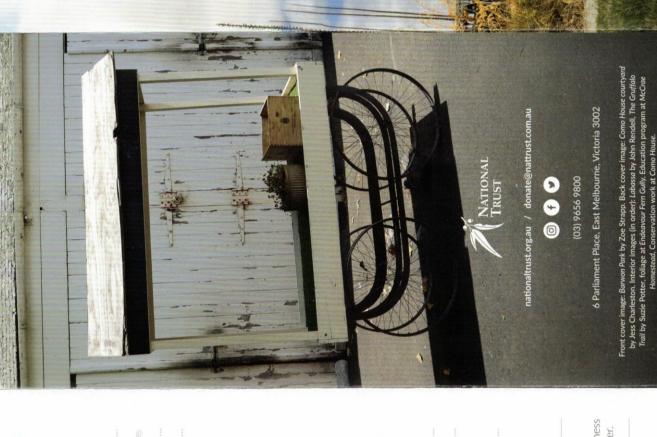
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Annual Appeal NATIONAL 2021

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With your support we can ensure that our buildings, environments, collections and stories will be enjoyed by future generations. With your support we can advocate, educate, energise, inspire and care.

Donations are vital – give to our Annual Appeal and help to save our past today.



Your donation will help us...

Energise activate today

Reconnect with the places you love by visiting with your family and friends. Show your support and enjoy the myriad of exhibitions and events on offer.
You will be helping the community to reconnect with heritage today.

Nurture care today

Our landscapes, habitats, flora and fauna continue to need our care and protection. You will be helping to bring balance to our fragile landscapes to give nature hope today.

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Our vital advocacy and ongoing conservation work protects the places, objects and stories that matter. You will be supporting historic places, remarkable collections and landscapes so they can be enjoyed by everyone.





Friends and Relations of Gulf Station (FROGS)

Gulf Station at 1029 Melba Highway, Yarra Glen 3775

FROGS VOLUNTARY DONATION

FROGS no longer pay a subscription, but you can make a tax-deductable donation <i>if you wish</i> .
There are two funds which benefit Gulf Station:
§ Gulf Station Foundation (a significant secure fund to enable the Trust to carry out its mission into the
future; only the <i>interest</i> on your donation is spent on Gulf Station – the <i>capital</i> remains)
OR
§ Gulf Station - FROGS account (funds that volunteers use for goods to assist their work)
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