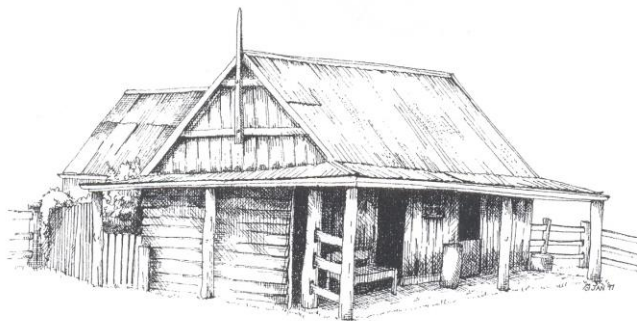


# FRIENDS AND RELATIONS OF GULF STATION AUGUST 2021



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

## Diary Dates - Covid permitting

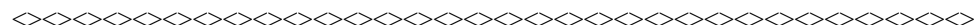
### First Thursdays

Open for visitors

## 2021 - Going well until...lockdown seven

Another lockdown newsletter, again recording the sad loss of a long-term supporter of Gulf Station, but some hard work has been done during the Thursdays on which volunteers *were* permitted to go to Gulf Station. Rewarding work and good to record but all the volunteers look forward to being back.

Some perspective - below the Diary Dates in the July 1986 FROGS newsletter.



## Diary Dates 35 years ago - the FROGS newsletter July 1986

* Saturday 6th September	<u>WORKING BEE</u> : Learn to restore harness with Fred Sadlier.
* Sunday 14th September	<u>THE BUTCHERS SHOP CELEBRATION</u> 1.00pm. THE GRAND OPENING of our first Commonwealth Bank Project. 2.00pm. THE GREAT JACKS COMPETITION Come and help us celebrate, eat a sausage and inspect the results of our labours.
* 15th-21st September	<u>ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW</u> Visit Debby and our show team in the Ayrshire Pavilion and see whether our Gulf Station Maid Maggie has taken the blue ribbon (she should!)
* Sunday 28th September	The Vintage Drivers' Club is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Bull-nose Morris. Celebrations will include Morris Dancing.
* Saturday 4th October	<u>WORKING BEE</u> : Learn to make a post-and-rail fence with Dickie Blackman.
* Saturday 11th October	<u>GUIDE TRAINING WORKSHOP</u> 9.30am - 3.30pm, lunch provided. Please see separate sheet.
* Sunday 12th October	<u>FAMILY DAY : LEARN TO BLACKSMITH</u> Sam Smith has promised to teach FROGS how to set up the forge and make some simple tools. Come and be apprenticed!
* Saturday 1st November	<u>WORKING BEE</u>
* Sunday and Tuesday 2nd and 4th November	<u>MELBOURNE CUP WEEK IS ROSE WEEK AT GULF STATION</u> Come and enjoy the garden. Last year during this week it was wonderful. This year it may be even better. Please tell your friends that we are serving Devonshir Teas on the Sunday and the Tuesday.
* Saturday 15th November	<u>FROGS BAR-B-Q TEA AND BONFIRE</u> 5.00pm Celebrate daylight saving and enjoy full moon too!

## FROGS and Volunteers in the June wild weather

Several FROGS suffered from the wild weather in the first week of June, and parts of Yarra Glen were flooded. **Paula** was without power for some days, losing the contents of freezers. **Alex** also lost freezer contents and had no mobile coverage. **Merry** was four days without power. **Harvey** and **Elizabeth** also had no power for four days, and resorted to 'a good bed' with very early nights as the only place to be warm. **Kevin H**, without power for three days, said it was 'just like camping with a good bed and a solid roof.' As well as losing power, a skylight was blown off **Lesley's** roof, letting in the rain. **Marion** had four days completely without power, then on and off again for a while, but she had a gas stove and open fire; however, she said; 'it is chaos up here' with many roads blocked and live power lines down, 'we can hear both chainsaws and generators working all around us.' Marion has since moved into her new community and settled in happily.

Inconvenient and worrying but it could have been worse, and for **Barry** and **Adrienne Glanville** at Mt Dandenong, it was worse: 'No electricity. A 60ft Messmate luckily fell away from our house but smashed the Summer House. Only able to get supplies [on day 5]. Main meals at Fire Station for those with destroyed/damaged homes...perhaps 150+. Hundreds of trees down. And our piece of heaven is gone. Very cold and dim at night. Many have left Kalorama /Mt Dandenong as their sewerage systems require power. We have gas for cooking and hot water. Fire Station charges phones but connection is intermittent. A most unusual time. Hope no one else is facing this disaster.' By 20 July, Barry reported, 'No nbn...no landline... no internet from 29 June until yesterday. So 18 days without power, then 21 days of further lack of communication. The mobile is intermittent at the best of times. Still have trees down in back garden.' Good to hear that the practicalities of life are improving for Barry and Adrienne although nothing can make up for the loss of those beautiful trees.

## FROGS and Volunteers' other news

Probably a first for Gulf Station's volunteers – a marriage. **Barry** and **Gail** brought their wedding quickly forward to enable them to marry and immediately get away for a Victorian-touring honeymoon before start of the sixth lockdown, with the reception to take place when possible. Best wishes to Barry and Gail!

**Arthur Rance** needed emergency surgery while **Kevin H** is recovering from a knee replacement and doing well. Irene had a phone chat with **Lesley** who is managing in difficult circumstances, cheered up by her handsome friend Jack who is a very chatty cat.

It was good to see **Carina** back at Gulf station but the uneven ground is still difficult for her. **Stan** also drops in and is still keeping busy.

The group has warmly welcomed a new garden volunteer, another **Marion** (or **Maz** to avoid confusion). She had visited Gulf with an artists group, liked what she saw and decided to volunteer - welcome Maz! and one school holiday Thursday, **Julie** brought her charming grandson **Josh**, who did great work in the garden, followed by a boomerang-throwing session with **Harvey** who has since crafted a left-handed boomerang for left-handed Josh. We hope to welcome Josh back in future school holidays.

**Ian** is making efforts to get something about Gulf Station into a Trust publication; fingers crossed.

For any FROGS and volunteers feeling under the weather in health or mood, it's a shame we can't bottle Gulf Station's atmosphere to send you a ration, as it certainly works wonders.



## Site report, emailed 30 August, from James

**Sherredan** from the National Trust's asset executive team has been visiting regularly to keep an eye on the homestead and heritage precinct.

**Myron** has been on-site to cut the grass around the homestead and heritage precinct.

This week Gulf Station will welcome a herd of thirty cattle to help control the pasture grass in some of the paddocks and laneways (this herd will be managed by its own stockman).

Those are the main things I'd like to mention for now, and as more information comes to hand I'll be in contact again.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I hope we can meet again soon.

## Recent FROGS purchases

Recent purchases from FROGS funds (mainly donations with some takings from sales) have included a battery-operated drill, drill bits and a sharpener; an irrigation troller; and tap and die (for cleaning old threads): all helping with the tasks around the site.

## Representation on the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network - found

**Barry** has agreed to be Gulf Station's representative at the Network - thank you Barry.

## Fire safety

Some important contracted tasks have still been done amidst the closures: the fire extinguishes got their routine check in June.

## Grif (Griffin) Ward (18.6.1930-10.07-2021)

WARD, Griffin Maxwell

18.06.1930-10.07.2021

A kind and loving man Grif is now at peace.

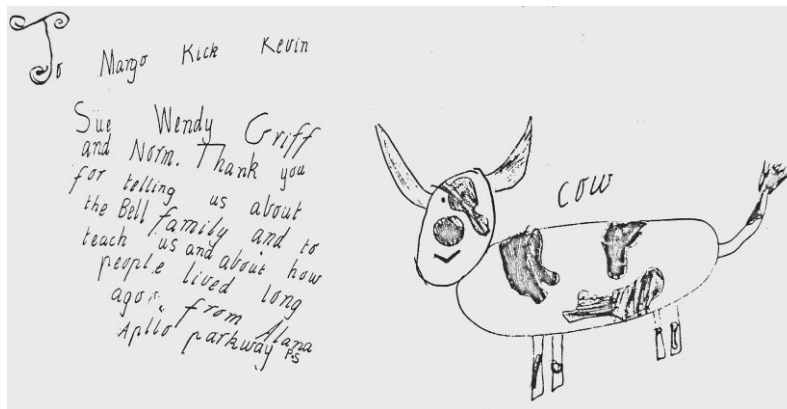
Much loved and loving Husband to June, Father to Peter and Robyn, Father-in-law to Joseph and Heli, Grandfather to Aidan, Julien and Marinia. Brother to Harry.

Such a special presence in all our lives, including his extended family and friends. So treasured in our hearts and thoughts.

Image with permission of The Friends of Wanderslore Sanctuary



Grif was a volunteer at Gulf Station from the early days of Trust management but his first mention in a FROGS newsletter (published from 1985) is this charming thank-you from a 1996 school group visitor:



During the era of the Tadpoles group at Gulf Station (for primary school kids), Grif's nature talks and rambles kept all enthralled, as if he'd cast a spell with his quiet voice and twinkling eyes. Later he and June moved away from the area.

Grif was involved with other groups including Upper Yarra Forest Walks and the Friends of Wanderslore (a reserve, Launching Place, held by the Trust for Nature).

A Memorial Service for Grif was held at St. John's Anglican Church, Heidelberg on 16 July. Donations may be made to Dementia Australia.

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



Bessie's daughter **Jill Wyatt** sent some more information about Bessie and also a copy of the Order of Service. This information expands on that in the last newsletter.\*

Jill described Bessie's prolific diary writing (kept for over 40 years) as well as letters to family all over the world. Bessie, when 16, wrote a poem that won a prize in a newspaper competition (it was included in the Order of Service and appears here on page 6). She was also passionate about her family history research.

Jill says, 'Mum certainly had many memories of visits to Gulf Station with her mother, when they went for holidays at Yarra Glen with (Mum's) grandmother, Ellen Little. She always spoke very fondly of "the Aunties at Gulf Station" (even though, when I look at the family tree, they were cousins once removed). Mum retained her love of Gulf Station, and was proud of her connection with it, and both Mum and Dad attended and volunteered at quite a few of the Open Days that were held, especially in the 1980s and 1990s.'

Jill herself has had a little time to look at some of the family history documents that her mother had collected, and compiled over the years, and has been intrigued and inspired by the story of the Bells, the Littles, and the Stevensons and McPhersons, among family ancestors.\*\* All would agree with Jill's thought that they were 'truly resilient and strong pioneers of early Australia, whom we all owe a huge debt to.'

\* Irene's apologies for the error in that issue with the date of Bessie's parents' marriage, corrected by re-issuing that edition.

\*\* Bessie's grandparents were Joseph Stevenson and Ruth (nee Boyd) who settled in Christmas Hills. Their daughter Ellen married William Little, Mary Ann Bell's younger brother.

## The Working Horse Stables

**Harvey** continues the repair of this building after the 2016 wind damage - who'd believe it was that long ago? He has most in good order so he's now tackling the floor, which comprises chunks of tree trunk buried in the ground. During his work, Harvey found old newspapers used as lining against draughts; one piece included the date 1919, so the stables must have been built before that year.

Harvey, justly proud of his work



The stable end



Never noticed these before



Images Irene Kearsey

## Visitors

The August First Thursday was busy, helped by pleasant weather. The (loaned) eftpas machine was a great asset as, on previous First Thursdays, cashless visitors had either to be turned away or allowed to visit free. On other Thursdays, **Pam** (with help from **Carina**) has been labouring to clean the accumulated dirt and cobwebs of lockdown months while the schedule of booked tours and school groups is in constant disarray.

At the end of each month, **Pam** and **Alan** balance the cash box against the cash book (some months cause more hair pulling than others).

**Pam** would welcome anyone interested in becoming a site guide, and it's a rewarding task.

## Donations of goods

As **Marion** rationalised her possessions before her move to an apartment, Gulf Station has benefitted with a push-mower and a mid-size water-heating urn; also a copy of *The Yarra Valley and Surrounds* which includes a page about Gulf Station. Newer volunteers may not know there is a small library of relevant books now kept in the office in the Croydon Cottage. Thank you Marion.

## Hardwood appeal

Harvey submits this appeal: please could he be offered any surplus hardwood, rather than putting it straight on the burn pile?



## What's in a name? Jemima or Jemina - Part 2

**Sandra Sharman** reports that, in the death certificates for William (died 1877) and Mary Ann (died 1915) which both list all their children, the spelling is Jemina. The small Bell family bible in Sandra's possession does not list this daughter so no help there. However, for her own (l) birth and (r) death certificates, the spelling appears to be Jemima.

Jemima

Jemina Bell,

Covid has prevented a visit to PROV to check Jemima/Jemina's will.

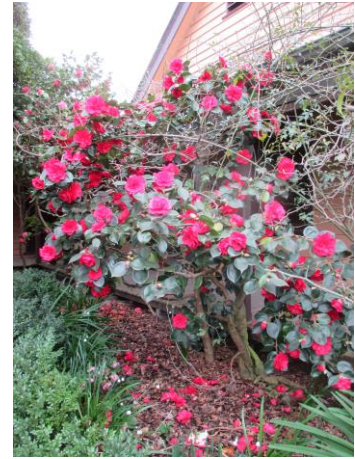
## Wombats - is this the solution?

**Barry** has consulted Healesville Sanctuary experts how to move on wombats without cruelty, and the suggestion is to take advantage of a wombat's high housekeeping standards. Apparently, wombats particularly dislike smelly things like blood and bone, or dog poo. The gardeners are all out of blood and bone but Barry's dog's offerings could be utilised. Wombats breed between September and December which might make timing awkward, but the School House does not need a basement.

## Garden report - from Julie

*What news have we from the lovely gardens at Gulf Station?*

*We are very fortunate to have another new gardener join us: **Maz** (actually she is Marion but we already have a Marion so Maz opted to use a name she is sometimes known by). Actually we are all feeling pretty chuffed that the large gardens in the front of the home, and the kitchen garden outside the kitchen prep room, are all looking quite loved. We have undertaken lots of pruning and clearing out of dead growth. Most roses have had a prune so now we are waiting to see how they will look with a bit of care. Of course last winter nothing happened in the gardens due to an extended lockdown. There have been many jonquils and daffodils on show. Some lovely camellias have bloomed quite well and dwarf iris have shown us their delicate pale blue flowers.*



*We have all been able to taste the lettuces planted a few months ago and which are growing very well. Lots of plants in the garden have had a good feed which should soon produce results. The asparagus are shooting away.*

*We were thrilled to finally have some mulch delivered courtesy of our men volunteers. It makes the garden beds look so good. The mulch has also been placed on many of the paths and it certainly improves their appearance. Some of the men very kindly collected horse manure from the paddocks so we can give many plants a good feed. The rhubarb will certainly benefit.*

*Julia's 10 yo grandson **Josh** joined our group during the September holidays and was able to learn all sorts of gardening skills. He planted potatoes, onions and a gooseberry, he dug holes for other plants, watered, and cut little bamboo sticks to protect some newly planted strawberries. He is the 5th generation of my family to love gardens and will be coming back to help us next school holidays. **Harvey** was able to show Josh how the horse works operated, and introduced him to boomerang throwing. Weather wise it was a perfect day and it was a terrific way to show a young person our lovely Gulf Station.*



*We are thinking ahead to vegetables we can plant in Spring. On the list for sure are tripods to grow climbing beans on. Plans are formulating for what herbs we can plant in the kitchen garden.*

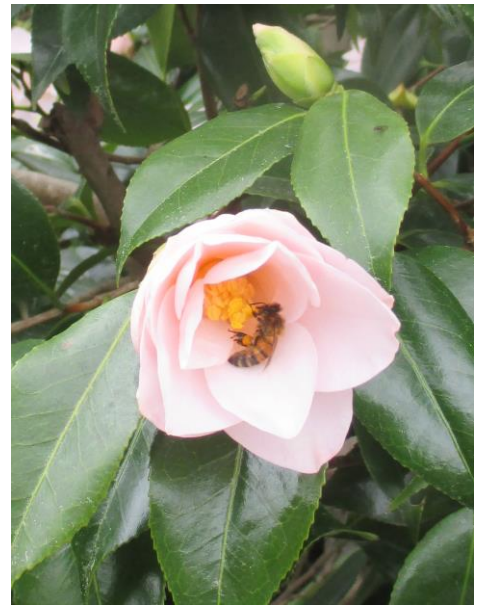
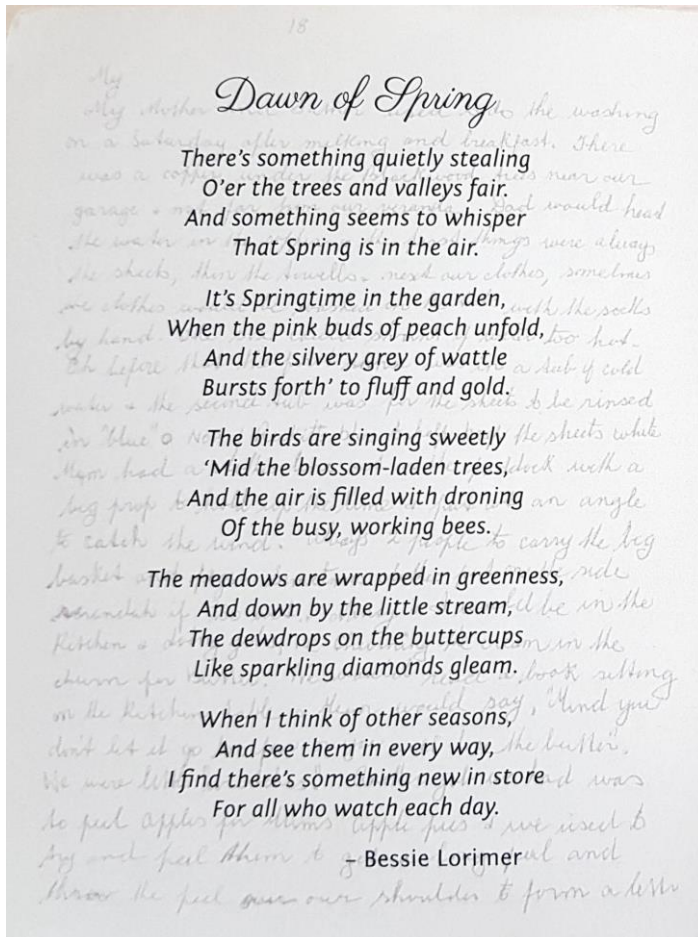
*Alan was able to carry out some much needed pruning to the trees in the quince walk and then, assisted by Ian, completely restored the Tecoma tripod in the lower garden bed, which was leaning at a most peculiar angle and also pruned back the vigorous Tecoma. It was a huge job and the result is just wonderful. The bush and the tripod are so old they are probably from the early days of Gulf Station.*



*By Julie on behalf of the gardening team*

## Dawn of Spring

How better to mark spring than with Bessie Kelso's lovely poem, written when she was 16 (the watermark in the background is a page from her memoirs written much later). The last verse is also a comfort in lockdown..



Above and below

Spring visitors to Gulf Station who don't need to pay attention to any lockdown rules, lucky them.

Images Irene Kearsey



## Mulch

The Yarra Ranges Council made available free supplies of mulch that Gulf's gardeners could put to good use on garden beds but particularly on the pathways, because it looks good and suppresses weeds. **Barry** organised several loads for Gulf Station, culminating on 18 August, with 20 cubic metres delivered by the Council. Shifting that lot's going to take some very broad pitchforks! Thanks Barry as always for your efforts on behalf of Gulf Station and for the photograph.

## For the family historians

This interesting web site compares prices of staples in Victoria over the years:

<https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/whatitcost/groceries>

Another tab on this web site gives wages although not for the 19th century.

This site helps with the historical value of money:

<https://www.thomblake.com.au/secondary/hisdata/query.php>

It also includes some other useful links.



## 2019 David Clark reunion video

One of the descendants, **Stephen Hatcher**, who attended this event, sent a link to the video he compiled:  
<https://youtu.be/be49uAIHc8E>

Stephen is descended from Alexander and Isabella Luckie (nee Lees) whom the Bells would have got to know during the voyage.

## More Bell David Clark acquaintances

**Pam** bought a little book on the Pennyweight Flat Children's Cemetery, near Castlemaine, in which the author mentions he was descended from *David Clark* passengers. His ancestors were Archibald and Kate McMillan who arrived with nothing except their 10 children but made a huge fortune. Their first house, which they built in Brighton, gives its name to the road Clonaig Street, but later the family bought *Landcox*, the place next door. Not bad from a standing start! Family historians credit this financial nous to matriarch Kate.



## Eltham Court House

The Eltham Court House, built in 1860, is currently undergoing restoration:

<https://www.rbaarchitects.com.au/conserving-eltham-court-house-rba-heritage-consultants-in-the-field/>

The Eltham District Historical Society provides educational tours and mock courts for schools and will add interpretive elements when the building is again available.

In the early times of European settlement in the area, Eltham was part of a region that stretched as far as Yarra Flats (now Yarra Glen); its Road Board was formed in 1856, being the start of local government.

From its early days, the court house had a connection with the Bell family: John Bell (brother of Gulf's William) and Ewen Cameron (husband of Agnes, John's daughter) stood (successfully) for election as Board members:

**ELTHAM ROAD DISTRICT.**—I hereby give notice, that the following gentlemen have been duly **NOMINATED** to serve as **MEMBERS** upon the Board for the above district, at the ensuing election, to be held on Thursday next, the 11th inst., viz. :—  
**John Bell, of Kangaroo-Ground.**  
**John Gardner, of Eltham.**  
**Ewen Hugh Cameron, of Queenstown.**  
**Andrew Harkness, of Kangaroo-Ground.**  
A poll will be taken at the Court-house, Eltham, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the day above-named, for the election of two of the foregoing candidates.  
**HENRY STOOKE, Chairman of the Eltham District Road Board.**

John Bell served 35 years on the Eltham Road Board and its successor the Eltham Shire Board, until his death in 1891. Ewen Cameron similarly served more than 40 years until his death in 1915.

This advertisement for elections to be held in the Court House is from *The Argus* 6 August 1864 page 7.

## Portable Buildings

In April 2021, a campaign was launched in Melbourne for UNESCO World Heritage Listing for Australia's 19th century portable buildings (Victoria has the world's most extensive and best-preserved collection). Included is Melbourne's first post-office, made in Glasgow, and recently discovered on a farm in NE Victoria; the Trust's cast-iron houses are other examples. The list of 104 buildings, however, does not include the building we call the Croydon Cottage at Gulf Station, which started life in NSW as a prefabricated building in the late 1800s. Irene has raised this omission with the Trust.



The launch, *The Age* 16 April 2021 page 1

For the list of buildings:

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/World-Heritage-proposal-n.pdf>

## 150 years ago at the Agricultural Show

John Bell (Kangaroo Ground) and Thomas Armstrong (Yarra Flats) were doing well at the Victoria Agricultural Society's Show at Heidelberg. 'Neat cattle' are horned oxen.

*Weekly Times* 25 March 1871 page 6

### 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, Bundoora.

**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.

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## Local connections

Mary Bell's 1914 will was witnessed by Edith Ann Brooks of Camberwell: how did Mary know someone living so far away? ('Domestic duties' meant 'married woman' not a 'maid'.)

'3. The said Will was executed in the presence of EDITH ANN BROOKS then and now of "Esner" Bowen Street Camberwell Domestic Duties and JOHN BELL J.P. then and now of Kangaroo Ground Farmer

Burrowing into Trove revealed Edith as the eldest daughter of John and Emma Jane Sayle. John's obituary is worth reading in full (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article258502527>) but in 1840 he came from the Isle of Man to Melbourne. He had the bad luck to deposit his capital with a firm that could not pay it back, so he worked as a station manager, from 1854 at the Yering property of Paul de Castella whom he served for 52 years. The Sayles had four sons and two daughters and lived at Christmas Hills. In 1905 Edith married John McIntosh Brooks; their house in Camberwell still exists (below); Edith died in 1943. However, here the young women assist at the 1885 Sunday School picnic at Gulf Station - the friendship obviously lasted (and the Miss Barr is descended from two more *David Clark* families).



Image Realestate.com

## Sagacious bullocks

Not Gulf Station's animals - too early - the case was in Melbourne, no other indication of the property.

*The Argus* 4 August 1848 page 2

**SAGACIOUS BULLOCKS**—In the police office the other day, in a case of trespass, the defendant stated quite seriously that the plaintiff had trained his bullocks to such a state of perfection that when hungry they quietly lifted the rails and posts of an enclosed paddock, and after enjoying themselves freely, replaced the rails with their horns. The announcement created considerable merriment.

When Gulf Station had animals, the Border Leicester sheep didn't need to *move* fences out of their way, but just shimmied through - they were ace escapologists. The Berkshire pigs definitely knew how to open gates, especially boars Boris and later Wilbur. Wilbur was eventually the only pig at Gulf and lonely, so liked to be out and about the farm. Wilbur's gate-opening skills eventually got too much for Sarah (the then carer of animals), repeatedly rounding up such a big animal (good tempered chap though he was); so Wilbur was sent to 'Gypsy Pig' farm in Gippsland as a breeding boar where he settled happily to his work after the fitting of a nose-ring to stop him lifting gates off their hinges.



Above: Boris, father of many litters with Peggy

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## YARRA FLATS SABBATH SCHOOL PICNIC.

The above pic-nic was held on Easter Monday, as usual, at Mrs. Bell's Gulf Station, and was very well patronised, despite of the wet and stormy weather that prevailed in the early part of the day. Visitors from various parts were on the ground, among whom were well-known faces from Melbourne, Heidelberg, Kangaroo Ground, and the other side of the River Yarra. Messrs. Kerr and Parfit, who may well be remembered for deeds of kindness and liberality, were among those present, and assisted in providing amusements for others. Owing to the ground being wet the good things provided, of which there was a great and good variety, were discussed in a building at some little distance from Mrs. Bell's residence. The tables were laid out and attended to by Messrs. Bell, Birch, and Schofield, and Misses Bell, Barr, Birch, and Sayle, their chief gentleman assistant being the Rev. A. Mackie, who made the pic-nic pass off very lively with his usual good humour.

*Evelyn Observer and South and East Bourke Record*  
10 April 1885 page 2

## 100 years ago for the Dicksons, who established Gulf Station

John Dickson established Gulf Station in the 1840s. He married Alice Dalrymple in 1843 and their four children were all born at Gulf Station. After they spent a few years in Scotland from around 1855, they returned to Australia in 1860 and took up Caroonboon Station, near Deniliquin. Their last child, James was born in 1853; this is his birth registration:

### 1853 BIRTHS in the District of Melbourne

No.	CHILD.			PARENTS.			INFORMANTS.
	When and where Born.	Name, and whether present or not.	Sex.	FATHER.		MOTHER.	
				(1) Name and Surname, Rank or Profession of the Father, and (2) Birth-place.	(1) When and where Married. (2) Name living and deceased.	(1) Name and Maiden Surname of the Mother. (2) Age and (3) Birth-place.	
229	Twenty-fifth July 1853 Gulf Station Gulf Creek	James not present	Boy	John Dickson Stockholder 37 Dumfriesshire Scotland	1843 Melbourne William 9 Agnes - 7 Thomas - 5 John 3	Alice Dickson formerly Dalrymple 32 Dumfriesshire Scotland	John Dickson Father Gulf Station Gulf Creek

In 1921, Thomas Monckton, son of James, married in the garden at Caroonboon:

Riverina Grazier 25 October 1921 page 2:

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For a history of Caroonboon:

<https://www.calga.com.au/caroonboon-history>

The Dicksons had run sheep at Gulf Station and again concentrated on the highest quality merinos at Caroonboon:



In the garden at Caroonboon, under a pegola, which was decorated with yellow roses and wisteria, the wedding of Thomas Monckton Dickson, second son of the late Jas. Dickson, of Caroonboon, Deniliquin, and Alma Macaw, third daughter of the late Mr and Mrs. C. Macaw, of Edenhope, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne, was celebrated on October 4th, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. C. E. O. Keays. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Theo. C. Macaw, wore a simple gown of deep cachemire do soie, and a veil of old Limerick lace, lent by her aunt, Mrs. F. G. Taylor. The bride's sisters, Irene and Marjorie, acted as bridesmaids. Their frocks were of mauve and pale blue georgette, with hand-made flowers around the waist, and mauve and blue panels hanging from the waist to below the skirt. They wore hairbands of French hand-made flowers, and carried posies of mauve and pink. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. James Ayre and Mr. A. P. Matthews, of Hay. Mr. and Mrs. J. Ronald Dickson, the host and hostess, held a wedding luncheon on the verandah at Caroonboon which was closed in for the purpose, and decorated with mauve and yellow flowers, ferns and balloons.



John and Alice Dickson grave stone, Deniliquin Cemetery  
Image Irene Kearsey

## MORE FROM MY DIARY By Harvey Clark

Lesley Barnes was a legend at Gulf Station. She had begun as a volunteer there in the very early days of restoration in 1976. On 19th May 2016 an *Age* photographer arrived to do an article on Lesley's 40 years of voluntary service. She was later awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to the National Trust, an appropriate recognition of her outstanding service.



*With Des Thornton in the former reception room at Gulf Station in 2009*

One day we arrived to find Lesley lying on the house floor. When she had tried to open the front door it felt jammed so she had pushed as hard as she could with her shoulder. The door gave way and she ended up on the floor. Though not badly injured it was quite a shock and a concern for all.

Lesley emerged from the house one day in 2014 to find two young employed youth ripping the Hessian covering off the Trafalgar Safe in the breezeway near the old kitchen door. When challenged they explained they did it, "so the visitors would be able to see the safe better."



*Morning tea 2010*



*With the C.E.O. Martin Purslow 2012*

We celebrated Lesley's 88th birthday on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014. At that time she was the volunteer in charge of tours but soon after she decided to give up this task after many years of faithful service.

On 6th November 2016 the new C.E.O. Simon Ambrose arranged a celebration of 40 years since Gulf was taken over by the National Trust. The Chairperson of the N.T. Board, Lesley and a number of the Bell family gave fine speeches.

Sadly, the loss of her driver's licence and age have prevented Leslie from attending Gulf since about 2018. But when I rang her last she had not lost her sense of humour.