

former



TIMES

GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Christmas Wishes

On behalf of the President and Committee of The Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society we wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and a wonderful 2013.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following the recent Annual General Meeting, the elected Office Bearers and Members of the Executive Committee of the Association for the next 12 months are:

- President: Craig Johnston
- Senior Vice President: Judie Hastie
- Vice President: Maureen Martin Ferris
- Treasurer: Noel Stanley
- Secretary & Public Officer: Peter Huttemeier
- Assistant Secretary: Gloria Willis
- Jennie Amos
- Di Bricknell

In accordance with our Constitution Ex-officio members also include our Life Members of the Society.

SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE

As some of you know the Historical Society dipped a foot in the Social Media pool that is Facebook late in 2011. While much has been recently written about the pitfalls of Social Media, it is none the less a great way to get a Message out into the Internet World of what the Society is up to, in association with our formal Web Page. It helps to publicise and promote the Society and hopefully in the end encourage new members and the use of our facilities and records. All of which keeps us going into the future.

If you have not seen it already please take a look at:



www.facebook.com/gsbhs.swansea
and "Like" us.

A reminder that our Web Page is
www.glamorganhistory.org.au

BOOKSHOP

In the Society Bookshop we have recently received new stocks of the following books –

- *Kettle on The Hob, a family in Van Diemen's Land* by Francis Cotton
- *Tasmania Women, History, Books and Places* by Susanna Hoe
- *My Memories Laced with East Coast Tales of Van Diemens Land* by Edward C Shaw.

If you have not visited the Society Rooms recently come in and browse the many wonderful books we have about the Tasmanian East Coast. All prices of books are discounted for Members.

PHOTO ARCHIVE

The Society's Photo archivist Ray Lewis has been undertaking a large project in scanning and digitising the Photographic records the Society holds. So far this has amounted to an astounding 8,000 records. This is a significant achievement, and Ray has been duly thanked by the Committee for all his wonderful efforts.

The aim is to integrate these records with the Society's Mosaic data base and make this available for members and visitors to the Society to search using one of the PCs in the Library Room. Copies can then be requested and made available for the appropriate fees.

NEW MEMBERS TO THE SOCIETY

We warmly welcome the following new members since our last Newsletter:

Yvonne Boekel, Mercia Bresnehan, Jack Hardcastle, Mike Guest, Lynette Browning, Janet Graham, Bob Greenhill, Greg & Lynne Luck, Susan Lambert, William Mitchelmore and Kerrie Blyth.



FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Recently a copy of the Glamorgan Gazette of November 1968 was given to the Society. Among the articles was the following about the War Memorial Community Centre, now of course part of the East Coast Heritage Centre and where The Society has its Rooms. A snapshot of History from 44 years ago.

"Glamorgan War Memorial Community Centre

The Stately building on the corner of Franklin and Noyes Streets, known as the Glamorgan War Memorial Community Centre" was originally the Swansea State School until the present School was opened in 1922, when a committee was formed to raise funds to buy the building as a War Memorial for those who lost their lives in the "Great War" 1914-1918.

This was opened as a billiard and reading room in 1925. A returned soldier was appointed as a caretaker and in return for his services was supplied with living quarters, light and other amenities.

In 1958 the Second World War Memorial was added. This was in the form of a Public Library and rest room for the use of the public. Later the St Johns Ambulance Station was built.

About six years ago (1962 - Ed), a new constitution and committee was formed and the Council became trustees of the property. The present committee has a councillor chairman, a representative from the Glamorgan Public Library, St Johns Ambulance, R.S.L. and Ex Servicemans Club, C. W. A., three public nominees and the caretaker.

Plans to beautify the grounds are well under way."

DIGITAL DELUGE IN AN ARCHIVAL WORLD

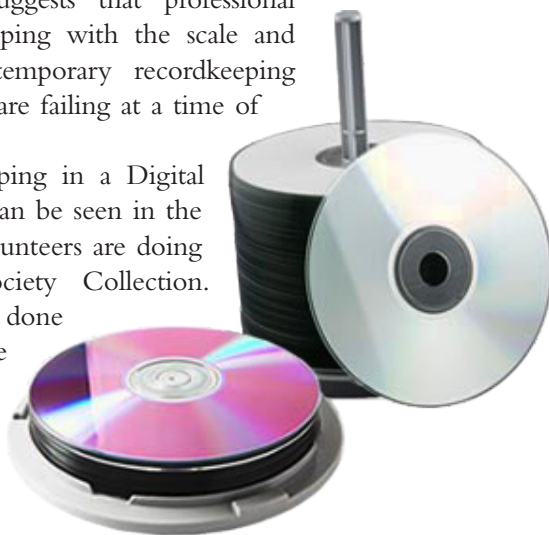
An interesting article from a recent Federation of Historical Societies newsletter:

"On 13 July 2012, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that globally, the amount of data created, collected, and shared in 2009 was 800,000 petabytes. By 2020 this figure will be 35 zettabytes (one zettabyte is equivalent to 260,000,000,000 DVDs).

With rapidly evolving business systems, cloud environments (Online computing resources), expanding application and software development and information profusion, we are in an environment where a stable archival heritage will be difficult to create, let alone sustain.

The evidence suggests that professional methods are not coping with the scale and complexity of contemporary recordkeeping challenges, and they are failing at a time of critical risk."

This "Recordkeeping in a Digital World" complexity can be seen in the work the Society Volunteers are doing to digitise the Society Collection. Much work has been done and continues to be done in transferring our records to the Mosaic Data Base.



The Diaries of Frank Hood

The Society has lately received an interesting addition to its collection - a copy of the diaries of Frank Hood covering the period from the early 1900s to the 1970s.

Charles and Sarah Hood and five of their six children arrived on Maria Island from Risdon in 1919. They were very unhappy there and after a short time they rented a house with some land at Okehampton, near Triabunna and then moved to Spring Beach where they remained for the rest of their days. They were an eccentric, reclusive family with strong religious beliefs and strong opinions on everything.

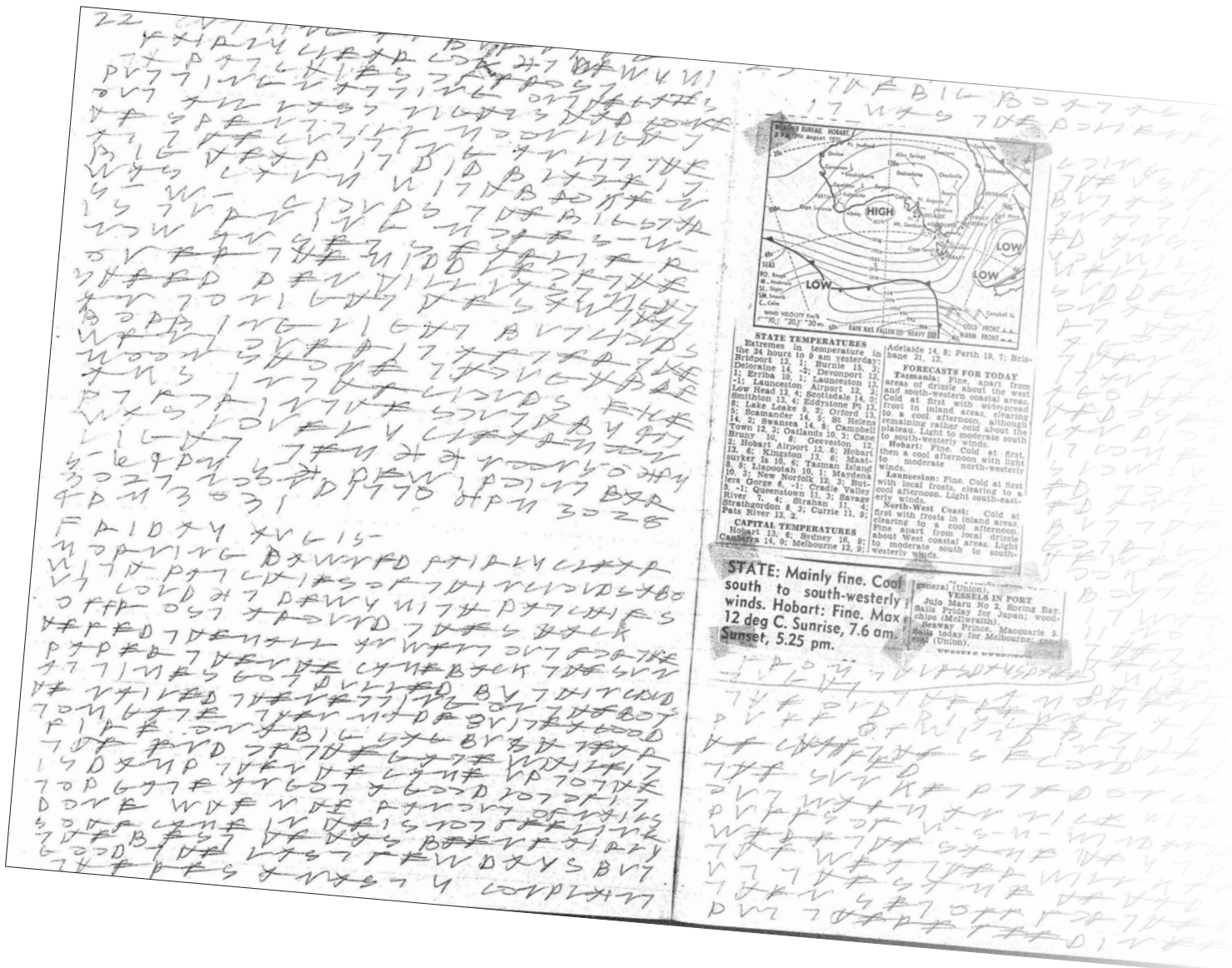
There was often dissension among them, yet they stayed together, battling poverty and misfortune and carving a living from their land by hard labour. All this is recorded in Frank's

diaries, together with his love of nature, his affection for his Jersey cows and his observations on the weather, his neighbours and the wider world. It is an insight into the lives and attitudes of a poor family of those times and we are very grateful to the lady who had the foresight to get Frank to read his coded writing to a tape so that she could type them out. Frank died in 1980.

We already have other documents relating to the Hood family in our collection and we hope to put together a portrait of these unusual people and their ultimately tragic history.

Two or three people have already shared their memories of the Hoods with me and I would love to hear from anyone else who remembers them.

Judie Hastie



Millewa Pioneer Park

by Michael Watt

Planning to attend a conference in Adelaide at the end of October, I decided to hire a car in Melbourne and drive to Adelaide via Mildura. While staying overnight in a motel at Mildura, I scanned through tourist brochures to identify places of interest to visit during the next day while travelling on the route between Mildura and Berri. In a guide, I came across an article on the Millewa Pioneer Park, stating that it is located about 90 kms west of Mildura south of the Sturt Highway at Meringur. The next day, I kept my attention on identifying a sign at the junction of the road southwards to Meringur.

On the route I travelled, Swan Hill in Victoria and Loxton in South Australia have well-known pioneer villages presenting displays depicting the lives of early settlers in these towns. Although the layout of the Millewa Pioneer Park is similar, the contrast in its setting and the nature of the displays makes it worthy of bringing to the notice of readers of this newsletter. A strip of land bounded by the Murray River to the north, Mildura to the east, the Murray Sunset National Park to the south, and the border of South Australia to the west, the Millewa was opened up to settlement in the 1920s for wheat growing on semi-arid land. By 1928, 708 families had purchased allotments averaging 300 hectares. Beginning in 1948, droughts and poor prices for wheat led to the consolidation of the farms, and many of the pioneering families gradually drifted away from the Millewa.

In 1986, a committee of Millewa pioneers established the Millewa Pioneer Park to recognise the efforts of the early settlers by recreating a display of buildings, artefacts, and family history documents and photographs. Today, the park consists of approximately 50 buildings and artefacts set out among plantations of native trees and shrubs. Open daily, the park provides barbeque facilities, and a guide and light catering can be arranged by appointment. The committee publishes a brochure on the park, and maintains a web site at www.millewapioneerpark.org.au. On the first Sunday of October, the committee holds an open day providing visitors with a program of activities.

When I arrived at Meringur in the early



Entrance to the park showing pioneer cottage, parking area and information shelter



Inside the park showing hall and telecom building

afternoon, I noticed a dilapidated wooden church partly obscured by a copse of trees but there was little sign of habitation in the locality of the park. While inspecting the collection of buildings, two cars arrived with travellers from Mildura. In a conversation with the group's leader, the elderly man disclosed that he had grown up on a farm in the Millewa. He was clearly showing the heritage of the district to the other members of the party, and I learnt first-hand about the lifestyle of the early settlers.

Tasmania does not offer residents or visitors with a comparable experience. While the scope of the Millewa Pioneer Park makes the endeavour of developing a similar venture beyond the capacity of a local historical society, it could be feasible for several local historical groups to mount a collaborative effort. The writer suggests that the committee of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society could investigate the practicality of this concept by identifying and reviewing examples of pioneer villages and museums in other states and territories.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE REPORT

Early in the year, as Treasurer I sought a very large grant as part of Your Community Heritage. A federal Government program broken up into many sections, it was late at night and as I plodded through section after section of the online grant application process, I felt as I often do with grant applications the strange desire to fill in all of the boxes and see what comes back.

The major application of 50 thousand dollars to stage a very grand Highland Games as part of the 2013 Heritage Festival obviously fell well short in the selection criteria.

But the idea of reproducing Louisa Meredith's "My Bush Friends in Tasmania" Volume 1 and 2 in the one affordable A4 size book on glossy paper, scored a direct hit and as such we have been awarded in excess of 10 thousand and the rest of 2013 to complete the task. The argument I made was that the rarity, expense and condition of the very few volumes available has meant that few people ever get to read the text, and it was our earlier re-mastering of the Lithographic plates of the excellent copy owned by Ian Bronowski of Hobart that has made so many excellent reproductions available for many who do not and will never own a book as rare and beautiful.

The project has 4 phases, as we have the remastered Plates of Volume 2 we need to finalise the Plates of Volume 1, and Scan, and OCR or read into the computer in a word file format (Optical Character Recognition) the text of both volumes, then in conjunction with Di Bricknell who has already done a great deal of work on this project to date, as a true professional she has along with Phillip of Copicentre done some great work towards the final project; a by product of this work the Lithographic Plates of Volume 1 will also become available for the Folio Sets and individually.

The publishing committee (all 3 of us) have also started on a reproduction and the Lithographs of "Friends and Foes, Finned, Furred and Feathered" which is not one of Louisa Meredith's more famous or well known works. Published in 1880, just after the death of her husband Charles Meredith. It is a peculiar and intriguing book, essentially a work of fiction but the signs are there to indicate the text is closely modelled on her own family and their experiences at the many houses occupied by them in our region. Louisa is at great pains to point out that the entire volume did not

have the benefit of her close supervision and as such the standard may not be as she would have liked, equally she acknowledges her acquaintance with John Gould, and the permission granted by John Gould to allow Louisa to trace some of his drawings, along with Chevalier and a close association and collaboration with Dr Henry Allport on the Tasmanian Fish, with a beautiful eulogy to Charles. The book when reprinted will hopefully give a rare insight into the life and times other than the various biographies that are available.

The Lithographs vary in quality the floral plates being the least spectacular, however the fish and the many Black India Ink drawings are spectacular, and it is thanks to Di Bricknell once again who saw the talent and potential in the Black Line drawings and the similarity to Gould's many drawings. The format and cost for this project have not been decided, the priority being to complete "My Bush Friends" before December 2013. Whilst we have an undertaking to reproduce an affordable version, once the file is finalised and the printable artwork is completed by Di Bricknell we will have the opportunity to produce a bound copy on better stock and can take orders to do so, if any one desires to have a remarkable volume of both books in a leather bound tome.

TREASURER'S GRANT NEWS

As we go to print, I am pleased to announce that we have also been favoured by Arts Tasmania albeit, not for as much as I had originally asked for, so I will try to get Tasmanian Community Fund monies in February 2013.

The Arts Tasmania grant is for storage boxes and equipment for our compactus, which you may remember was partly funded by Arts Tasmania originally.

The major stipulation of this grant is that we have been asked to store originals first, and this would be our first priority also. We have been awarded \$2,500 of an original budget of \$13,000, we did however score very highly; in the final analysis I suspect the government coffers are not quite as full as they had been in the past.

Federally I did try for more FAHCSIA Funding in the middle of the year, having been very successful for the past three years I did not think we had much of a chance and I was correct in this assumption. *Better Luck next time!*

Noel Stanley (Treasurer & Publishing Committee)





Maureen Martin Ferris and Joyce Dunbabin - keeping out of trouble!



The 'Reading Room' - The Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society