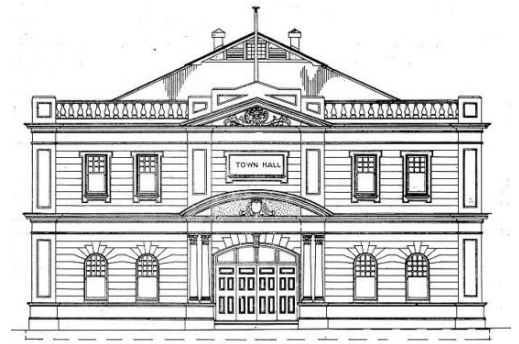


CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2016



We are building a Collection of written and photographic items of historic value to Clare and region



May is History Month!

Celebrations of our heritage are taking place all over the State during May. Take a look on page 2 for the events that the History Group is associated with. Or pick up the State program from the History Collection, or available from many other outlets.

Is it time for a clean out? We are holding a book sale on Friday 27th May and are seeking donation of books on historic subjects, not just local. This month is also an excellent time to look through your family memorabilia and bring along local photos or documents for us to scan.

Birds of the Clare area

One gem in our History Collection is a green plastic binder of Weetbix card pictures of birds, with annotations. It was the work of the Rev. Ken Bingham while he served as Clare's Presbyterian minister. I asked local environmental consultant David Donato to have a look at it, and add a current perspective to this recorded history of our bird life. His insightful article appears on pages 3 & 4.



INSIDE:

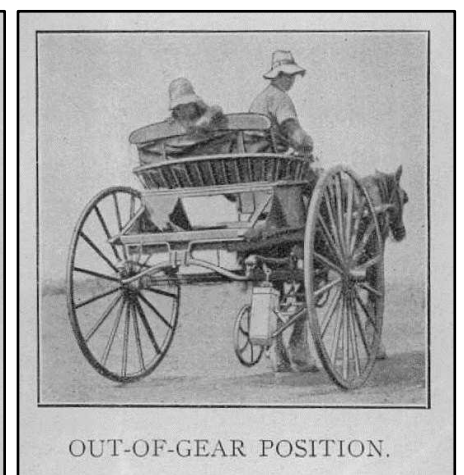
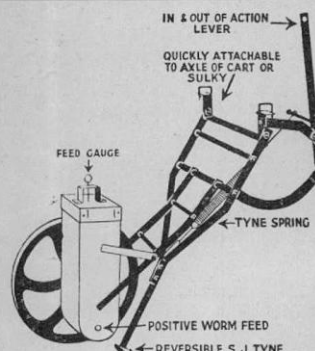
Local History Month events & other coming events (Page 2)
Birds of the Clare area by David Donato (pp 3-4)
Clare railway history prior to the Centenary (Pages 5-6)

"Horsfall" Rabbit Poison Distributor

Quickly attached to the Axle
of Sulky or Cart.

Stump-Jump Tyne. Positive Feed
Simple --- Strong --- Reliable

AS EFFECTIVE AS A £30 MACHINE
AT ONE-SIXTH OF THE COST



NEWS FROM THE GROUP

HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Mon 2nd – Fri 27th May “What’s in your drawers – fabulous records from private places” a photographic display of items found in family records. Clare Town Hall foyer 9-5 daily (not weekends). During the Rotary Art Show this display will be moved to a smaller front room.

Sun 22nd May 2pm **Friends of Clare Cemetery** – initial cemetery inspection to plan jobs for future working bees. CRHG members & friends welcome – wear stout shoes. This will be postponed if rain is forecast.

Wed 25th May 6.30/7.00pm History Dinner and Guest Speaker. Historian Peter Brinkworth will speak about his book on Ernst Siekmann, early settler of Saddleworth and later Caltowie. Two course meal. \$30. Bentley Hotel. Numbers required by Fri 20/05/16 to clarehistory@internode.on.net or phone our volunteer staff at the Collection 8842 4100 on Thurs or Fri 1-4pm.

Thurs 26th May 4/4.30pm Launch of Ass. Professor Jack Cross’ new title – Two Crosses – Ephraim & Jack. Also the gifting of **The Cross Collection** - a selection of SA regional histories given by Jack Cross. Barbara J Long Function Room & History Collection, Clare Town Hall.

Fri 27th May 10am – 3pm Old and new history book sale – Clare Town Hall foyer. Please check your shelves and donate towards this fundraiser. We will sell books of which we have duplicates and our own publications will also be on sale.

Sun 29th May 5pm Unveiling of the stone entrance wall and interpretive sign at Melrose Park. Train rides and refreshments. The existing plaque will be incorporated into the wall and an interpretive sign about AJ Melrose and the park erected nearby.

There are many other events in the mid-north during May – refer to the History Month magazine.

OTHER COMING EVENTS

Thurs 9th June 7pm Riverton-Clare Railway Centenary committee meeting – BJ Long Function Room, Clare Town Hall – all welcome

PROPOSED HISTORY & GENEALOGY EXPO

Fri 7th & Sat 8th October 2016

Immanuel College, Novar Gardens

Following on from the success of the 2010 ‘Unlock the Past’ Expo, this event will return, bigger & better, in October 2016. There will be exhibitors, presentations, product demonstrations and consultations with experts. CRHG will hold a book stall and information display over the weekend. Enquiries to 8395 7476 or email Alan Phillips at alan@unlockthepast.com.au

HISTORIC SIGNS

Since 2011 we have researched and erected signs throughout the district – for the local churches and former schools in the Blyth district, among others. We are currently helping other groups to research signs in the following locations: Stanley Flat church, school and hall, Melrose Park, Bain Rotunda, Kybunga School and the Riesling Trail.

We are also working on signs for the reserve in Berwick Street, Clare (formerly Clare Showground from 1889), Maynard Pioneer Park and possibly the former Clarevale building in Lennon Street. For each sign we try to write about 200 words of text, in different formats including newsprint, and several photos. Apart from our own resources and the photos held at the National Trust Museum (corner of Victoria Road and Neagle’s Rock Road), we welcome donation from the community. To assist with the old Showground sign, David Bond has lent six photos including this early one.



Its caption shows it to be part of “Kelly’s Clare series”. Information about this series of pictures would help to ascertain a more accurate date for the picture.

Native Birds of the Clare district – then and now (by David Donato)

David Donato lives in Clare and is an environmental consultant and bird nut. He works professionally as an environmental auditor, wildlife toxicologist and environment manager in the mining industry. He is more likely to be seen standing in the main street of Clare staring into trees or far up into the sky.

More information about Rev. Ken Bingham can be obtained from **Clare Presbyterian Church 1856 – 1988 a history** by the editor and available from the History Collection for \$16.

The Reverend Ken Bingham compiled an annotated bird list of the Clare District between 1967 and 1971. It was his wish *"that all who use this record, may enjoy the sight of our native birds around Clare"*. It has certainly been a pleasure to read through this list, to understand the Clare avifauna of the time and obviously make comparisons with birds we see today.

Two of the three threats to birds he describes essentially no longer exist, being "small boys with air guns" and "poison baits for rabbits". The third threat, "the plough" can, in today's terms, equate to the extent of land clearance for agriculture. Bingham's foresight in suggesting that "farmers should endeavour to set aside no less than 10% of their land for the growing of native trees" shows his understanding of the plight of native birds in the district. Land clearance in

South Australia became illegal after 1983. However, remnant isolated trees on broad acre cropping land are still being lost. Contrary to this, native tree cover within the immediate Clare township and surrounding hills has probably increased since his time. The change in people's attitudes, and the native vegetation over the last 50 years, has influenced the composition and abundance of the birds around us.

We do not know what the "Clare District" meant to the Reverend but, judging by the bird list, he may have travelled north of Clare. A number of birds recorded had their origins in semi-arid regions. These birds may have ventured into Clare district as the countryside was extensively cleared and heavily grazed, and so would have resembled the arid landscapes. With the recent increase in tree cover within Clare township and surrounding hills, those semi-arid birds may have again ventured back to the north.

The birds annotated by Rev Bingham are compared to the birds we see today. This comparison has been done by personal observations (from 2002 to 2016) and in using resources such as *Birds Australia Atlas* and available field guides. Of course none of these resources were available to Rev Bingham, so a number of species were misidentified. Not all birds are compared but a few interesting comparisons are made.

First of all, the following birds (current nomenclature given in brackets), are no longer found in the Clare district; Black-backed Wren (Splendid Fairy-wren), Blue Wren (Superb Blue Fairy-wren), Blue-winged Parrot, Curlew (Eastern Curlew), Emu, Flame Robin, Red-capped Robin, White-eared Honeyeater and Zebra Finch.

Bingham noted that the Crimson Chat was found in the Blyth to Koolunga area after good winter rains. The species is still common in semi-arid Australia but does not venture south to these districts anymore. The nearest it is found is east of Burra, and Peterborough to the north.

He recorded Budgerigars in "large flocks in the tree country around Clare". They are now recorded occasionally on the Blyth plains during the summer but have not been seen in large flocks since 1983 when large numbers moved down from the interior.

Spotted Pardalote "may be seen at Christison's Park" but the species is now rare in the Clare district. Another interesting record states that the "Rainbow Bird (Rainbow Bee-eater) is migratory, staying no longer than six months". Today the species is a passage migrant, moving south through Clare in high flying flocks in September and returning northward in March. It is rarely resident in the district and no longer breeds close to Clare.

A real surprise was Eastern Shrike-tit (Crest Shrike Tit) - a "good bird" in the orchards and "seen amongst flowering almonds". The species has declined in Clare, and recently only three birds are known near Sevenhill township.

Some birds have increased in numbers since Reverend Bingham's time.

The Crested Pigeon is the most common pigeon in Clare, yet was only found on country roads according to Bingham. The species expanded out of the Murray River region and arrived in Clare in the early 1950s. It now breeds regularly within the township.

Ringneck Parrot (Australian Ringneck) is now common in the streets of Clare, but was found in the open forest in Rev Bingham's day. The species is interesting in that it is more common in Clare township than the surrounding countryside. This is testimony to the change in people's attitude towards birds since, as the Reverend states, "their life span (had) dropped because of the birdcage racket".

The same is true for the Adelaide Rosella (Crimson Rosella) which is now more common in the Clare township than in surrounding countryside. A pair nests most years in a hole in the brickwork on the south side of the library, close to the second floor.

The Red Back Parrot (Red-rumped Parrot) is another bird more common in the Clare township than surrounding countryside. It was said by Rev Bingham to be "often killed by small or large boys who use daisy air guns. The bird is killed and left on the ground". The bird is not persecuted in Clare anymore and is common particularly in winter on green lawns. It is probably more common today than 50 years ago.

The increase in parrot species in the Clare township, with the cessation of unpermitted shooting and trapping, is a direct reflection of a change in people's attitudes to birds and wildlife in general.



Man Killed while dismantling circus tent at Clare oval

ON Thursday night, Aug. 28th, while helping to dismantle the big tent of Bullen's Circus, erected on Clare Oval, a young married man from Western Australia, was killed.

Getting on toward midnight, after the show was over Francis William Davies (25) said to be of Temby St., East Cannington or East Carrington, received a severe blow on the head from an iron coupling or collar that bears the strain on the tent pole ropes atop the big marquee.

In the hurry-scurry or dismantling, so common in circus spheres, the iron ring hurtled to

Only 7 people at Clare funeral of circus hand

WE refer on page 1 to the tragedy when a West Australian married man aged 25 years, Mr. Francis Davies (an employee of Bullen's Circus) was killed at the Clare Oval when he was hit by a steel collar, attached to a Tent Pole, when helping to dismantle the big tent after the circus performance on Thursday night, Aug. 28, getting on toward midnight.

Arrangements for the funeral were held up until Monday Sept. 1, when the Clare RSL and Clare RAOB provided pallbearers, and sent floral emblems.

Pallbearers were Messrs D. R. Birdseye, R. Stebbing, the Mayor Mr. M. G. Scott and Ian Tremethick.

The only others present were Sgt. H. Hughes of Clare Police and Mr. M. Stopp (for A. J.

Bowley & Son) as funeral directors. A total of 7 persons together with the Minister Rev. D. J. Howland.

We have stated on Page 1 that Rev. R. O. Nichols was officiating Minister. This was changed at the last moment to Rev. D. J. Howland, owing to Rev. Nichols leaving for appointments on Kangaroo Island. The RSL Pledge of Remembrance was recited by the Mayor of Clare. A Union Jack covered the casket.

Income Tax Returns

and advice on all Taxation problems, consult

General Taxation Services Limited

Bowman Building
65 King William St., Adelaide.
Telephone LA1094.

Ref. *The Northern Argus* 3 Sep 1958

RAILWAY ARTICLE 3 – The Line Opens (by Euan & Carol Semple)



Getting a railway to Clare had been a long business. This was due in part to politics but it was also in large measure due to the difficult terrain through which the rail track would have to pass: it was even suggested that it was impossible to find a suitable route. When a route was eventually agreed upon, construction was difficult because it was not easy to find labour during the years of the First World War. Even when labour was found, there were the strikes for better pay, heavy rain during construction, etc, etc.

But eventually the line was complete and after straining up the gradients and squealing round the sharp corners a train with three carriages filled with dignitaries pulled into the Clare station. It was of course a significant event and a tape was cut by the locomotive while the ends were held by the Governor Sir Henry Galway and Mayor LE Lewcock. The governor needed to make a speech but had to be very careful in what he said. Normally he would have been fulsome in his congratulations of the workers for their efforts, but it was the tail end of the war and almost any fit person had been conscripted to the army. It is not clear how the 200 labourers who built the railway avoided the war - probably a good many were too old. None the less he had to be careful as there were probably people in the crowd who had lost sons.

As His Majesty's representative I thank you for your expressions of loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of His Majesty the King. I would also thank you for the very kind welcome you have accorded me on the occasion of what must be a red letter day in the annals of Clare and the three adjoining districts. I gladly accepted the invitation of my Ministers to open the Riverton to Clare Railway, and consider myself fortunate that the opening of the line should take place during my term of office.

I associate myself with you in the view that all our energies should be devoted to winning the war, but that at the same time everything possible should be done toward developing the industries of Australia, so that the country may be well prepared to ship its produce in vast quantities to overseas markets when the war is over. The extent to which such development work should be carried on can only be measured by the labour available. The first call on the manhood of the country comes from the fighting divisions, and that call is

imperative. The first duty of every eligible is to get into khaki and go to the help of his gallant kinsmen in Europe, in Palestine, and in Mesopotamia.

Those men who cannot go to the front, assisted by the women, will see to development here at home. I very much appreciate your kind reference to any small services Lady Galway and I have been able to render to the common cause. Our task has been made both easy and pleasant owing to the hearty cooperation we have received on every side, and to the generous recognition given to anything we may have been able to do. I join with you in the fervent hope that before long the war may be brought to a victorious conclusion, and that the blessings of peace may again be vouchsafed to a stricken and weary world.

In the meantime let the manhood of Australia hold high the torch handed to them by the glorious dead and so keep faith with those of their kinsmen who gave their lives that others might live.

May the railway that has been opened today contribute more and more each year to the prosperity of the smiling lands through which it runs, and may the results attained fully come up to your well placed anticipations.

After the opening of the line there was a lunch in the (old) town hall. There was of course a toast to 'the King' but this was followed, perhaps surprisingly, by a toast to 'The President of the United States'. Following a long delay to build up its forces, America was on the verge of providing a two million strong army to finish the war. Clare station opened on the 4th July 1918 and the war finished a few months later on 11th November 1918. At the time of the opening, the participants had more on their minds than just the completion of the railway to Clare.

Addendum: Our apologies for errors in the 5th paragraph of the Summer Newsletter; '\$ per hour' should have been 'shillings per day'.

References: Dr J Wilson, *Unpublished manuscript*
R J Noye, *Clare: a district history* (1974)
The Northern Argus, Clare

Please note:

The next meeting of the Riverton- Clare Railway Centenary Committee will be held on Thurs 9th June at 7pm. Town Hall Function Room

The Northern Argus Dec 1880
Isaac Kerr owned a considerable amount of property in Clare. He died in 1859.
Also a good example of the need to watch where the shadow falls when using a camera.

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1880.
AT FORD'S HOTEL, MAIN STREET.
CLARE.

IMPORTANT SALE OF PROPERTIES
IN FIRST-CLASS POSITION IN THE
MAIN STREET, AND BEING ONE OF
THE BEST POSITIONS IN THE
TOWN, COMPRISING PROPERTIES
IN AND NEAR CLARE.

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE WM.
ISAAC KERR.

F. G. RICHARDSON & CO.
WITH
J. W. GLEESON
are instructed by the executors under
the will of the late William Isaac Kerr to
sell by auction, as above—

All that piece of LAND fronting into
MAIN STREET, CLARE, and com-
prising the whole of the land between
Mr. Fels's Saddler's Shop and the Old
Brewery, with all BUILDINGS and
IMPROVEMENTS thereon. These
frontages will be divided into suit-
able lots.

The piece of vacant LAND ADJOIN-
ING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
on the North, and the vacant piece
of LAND OPPOSITE the PRES-
BYTERIAN CHURCH.

Lots 18 and 19, OPPOSITE HILL &
CO.'S STABLES; very well fenced
with posts and 7 wires.

LOTS 42, 43, 85, and 86, TOWNSHIP
of ARMAGH.

SECTIONS 247, 1,988, and 1,999
HUNDRED of CLARE, containing
243 ACRES, fine wheat-growing
land, with Homestead, Stables, Barn,
Sheds, Hut, &c., and any quantity of
surface water.

Terms—For the Clare and Armagh Pro-
perties, 20 per cent. on the fall of the ham-
mer, the balance in two months. For the
three sections Nos. 247, 1,988, and 1,999,
Hundred of Clare, 20 per cent. on the fall
of the hammer, balance on the 1st day of
March, 1881, subject to a lease which has
12 months to run from the 1st of March.

BOOKS & CDs FOR SALE

THE OWNERS OF STANLEY FLAT 1836 – 1986

researched and compiled by **William Pattullo**. This item has been out of print for 30 years but has now been reprinted in July 2015. **\$30**

COTTAGES AND CAMEOS OF CLARE by WN Johnson (1988) 100pp, illus. **\$25**

JUST AS IT WAS by WN Johnson (2001) 97pp, illus. **\$20**

CLARE - A DISTRICT HISTORY by R. J. Noye (1998). Definitive history of the town and district. Includes photographs, sketches & maps. Essential starting point in Clare research. 231pp. 4th edition, with new index. **\$20 (\$15 - members)**

CLARE VALLEY, SA by Coralie Jones (2014) (A pictorial souvenir). **\$20**

CLARE SHOW "A fine all round display" for 150 years by David Bond (2014) Written to celebrate 150 years of shows in Clare. **\$33**

A History of Ngadjuri Lodge Trust by Win Johnson (2011). **\$10**

The story of Bungaree Station by Rob Linn (2011) Illus. **\$17**

FROM WHERE I SIT A Collection of articles on chosen themes written over past times by Win Johnson **\$16**

THE PATHS OF GLORY LEAD BUT TO THE GRAVE a history of Clare Cemeteries by EHH 'Clarion' Tilbrook and Miss M Tilbrook (originally published in *The Northern Argus* in 1939) **Re-released with updated index. \$20**

CLARE CAMEOS by Win Johnson (1986). 2nd ed. Includes oral histories of our older Clare residents as interviewed by Win in the State's Sesquicentennial year. **\$15**

TALKING HISTORY – Tales of Clare S.A. by R.J. (Bob) Noye (2003). 50 articles published weekly in *The Northern Argus*. **\$15**

THE CLARE I REMEMBER by J.J. 'Boss' Simons. 13 articles published in *The Northern Argus* in 1944, describing the Clare of Simons' boyhood in the 1880's and 1890's. Fully indexed. **\$15**

THE LAND HISTORY OF POLISH HILL RIVER 1842 - 1990 by William Pattullo (1991). Details the ownership history of 120 sections of land in Polish Hill River, to the edge of Mintaro township. **\$25**

CARINYA 1956 - 1989 A Peaceful and happy home Compiled by Marj. Ashby. **\$5**

THE METHODISTS OF CLARE 1851 - 1977 by Win Johnson (1994). 124pp. Indexed. **\$12**

CLARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - a history 1856 - 1988 by Helen Dickeson (1993). 120pp. Includes baptisms, marriages, burials, and extensive index. **\$14**

HARD-YACKA - The story of a Mid-North town in South Australia by Julie-Ann Ellis (1995). **\$40**

JUST AS IT WAS by Winifred Johnson (2001) Tells the story of Win's life with humour and affection. 96pp including photos **\$18**

BLYTH - a silo of stories 1860 - 1990 by Win Johnson (1991). A comprehensive history of the town and district of Blyth, including family stories, farming, community and sporting activities. Excellent photographs, many in colour. **\$45**

BUNGAREE – Land, Stock & People: History of Hawker family and Bungaree Station (1992). 230pp **\$45**

MAGPIE CREEK JUNCTION a history of Brinkworth and district 1892 – 1992 (1992) **\$50**

SADDLEWORTH - Hub of the Wheel by Elinor A. Bellman (1995) **\$35**

CLARE – A BACKWARD GLANCE – by J. Haynes & E.J. Schmaal (1980) **\$8**

HEAD OF THE RIVERS – Black Springs, Manoora, Waterloo (1992) **\$25**

MARRABEL AND DISTRICT – The Legend of Curio – a history of Marrabel & district **\$25**

MARRABEL & DISTRICT REVISITED – additional material of the 'early days' at Marrabel **\$25**

HILL RIVER A Valley of History by Gerald Lally (2004) **\$30**

A LANDMARK OF FAITH Church of the Immaculate Conception Mintaro and its parishioners 1856–2006 by Gerald Lally (2006) **\$35**

TIMES PAST – a pictorial history of Farrell Flat by Gerald A. Lally (2012) 194pp. **\$30**

"A WALK WITH LAUREL" a walking tour of the buildings and families of Farrell Flat from the memories of the period 1929 – 1939 by Laurel Neill (nee Mickel) (2012) **\$5**

South Clare Sports Club – Celebrating 50 years of success 1960 – 2010 by Gerald Lally et. Al. (2010) **\$20**

THE INCHQUIN STORY by Jean Schmaal. **\$5**

A QUAIN COURTHOUSE by Jean Schmaal, **\$5**

CD-ROMS

HEADSTONE PHOTOS FROM LOCAL CEMETERIES (CD Rom) (2005) **\$10**



THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF ROTARY CLUB OF CLARE 1964 – 2011 (DVD) **\$20** Limited release

FEDERATION CD ROM - history of the Clare & Gilbert Valley District for all computer buffs and their friends - a great gift idea! (2002) **\$10**



CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP - CONTACT DETAILS

Postal Address: PO Box 6 Clare SA 5453
Location: Clare Town Hall (upstairs)
Phone: (08) 8842 4100 (only in opening hours)
Web: www.users.on.net/~clarehistory
Email: clarehistory@internode.on.net

OPENING HOURS

Thursdays & Fridays – 1.00– 4.00pm
(If travelling some distance we recommend
that you ring and check.)
Out of Hours Opening Fee - \$20.00

CRHG COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Gerald Lally
Secretary:	Val Tilbrook
Curator & Treasurer:	Helen Perry
Committee members:	David Bond, Jill Clarke, Carolyn Semple, David Spackman, Lyn Woods.
Newsletter editor:	Helen Perry

The committee meets bi-monthly, the AGM is
held in August.

ACQUISITIONS Autumn 2016

BOOKS

Brinkworth, Peter *From Westphalia to South Australia: the
story of Franz Heinrich Ernst Siekmann* (3rd Edn), 2015
Kenneally, J. J. *The Complete Inner History of the Kelly Gang
and Their Pursuers* (4th Edn) 1945
Lindsay, Joan & Daryl *The Story of the Red Cross* c1940
Schadel, Chas *South Australian Airmen of the Great War* 2015
Lester Firth & Murton P/L *An Insight into the Development of
Western Adelaide*, 1982
Hignett & Co. *Glenelg Heritage Study: Stage 1*, 1983

PAPERS & Other

Clare Rotary Club *Bulletins 2013-2014* (CD), 2015

THE CROSS COLLECTION

A list of the books received to date from Jack
Cross will be included in the next issue of this
newsletter. We apologise for the delay.

The photo below depicts two women
supervising the art exhibition held on the
footpath adjacent to the Town Hall
Carpark (now Ennis Park). It was
conducted in conjunction with the 1966
Autumn Festival. Can anyone identify the
two women please?

