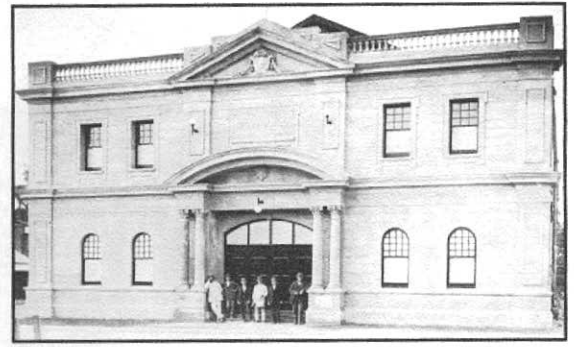


CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2015



RECORDING OUR PIONEERS

Earlier this year, a small shelter was erected on the western side of Benny's Hill Road, adjacent to the new section of the Clare Cemetery. Designed to provide protection from the weather and as a meeting place, the back wall of the building will display useful information for visitors.

It will contain a complete list of all 2,500 burials which have occurred in the cemetery since it was established in 1872, together with a plan of the cemetery. Details will include surname, forenames, age, place of residence, year of death, row and grave number, all sorted alphabetically. Thanks to the speedy typing of Sue Mayfield over some 20 hours, all the burials have been transcribed. We are now working to fill in the incomplete entries which were very common prior to 1900. Using District of Clare death registrations, headstone details, newspaper entries, church records and other resources the gaps are being filled in.

Babies and young children made up a considerable proportion of the nineteenth century burials and were often only recorded by surname and possibly father's name. Two indigenous men have also been named by comparing dates of death and other details. It is very satisfying to be able to give each person the dignity of identification.

The cemetery was established in 1871 as a joint approach by the Corporation of Clare and the District Council to address health issues. For some years it had been evident that the three church cemeteries in Clare, all placed on high ground, were contributing to the contamination of ground water and affecting the quality of domestic wells.

In 2007 I did an intensive study of the first 100 burials in the cemetery for a course I was

undertaking. Over 50% of these burials were of children aged under five years. A terrible scourge, Scarlet Fever, invaded the Clare township during 1875 and caused the deaths of 21 children between January and September. Also known as Scarletina or Malignant Scarletina, its incubation varied from several hours to a week. Symptoms included vomiting and a chill proceeding to a high fever with sore throat and swollen neck glands. It was characterised by scarlet red skin eruptions which lasted up to five days. This disease was a frequent complication of tonsillitis but is rarely seen now because of the emergence of antibiotics. Highly contagious, the children affected were aged between 18 months and 15 years.

Of the first 100 burials in the new cemetery, four deaths were as the result of accidents. Only 4 were aged over 60 years – in sharp contrast to today's statistics. Unlike many general cemeteries, Clare has never been delineated by religious denomination.

Editorial – *The Northern Argus*, 2 Dec 1870, p2D

It is gratifying to learn that the District Council is taking measures to secure the setting apart of a suitable piece of ground as a public Cemetery. The present Cemetery in the Police Paddock is totally unfit for such a purpose. The ground is rocky and the place is difficult to be got at. It is a Cemetery in name only, as it has never been used for the purpose for which it was intended. It is known, however, that there is land in the Police Paddock suitable for a Burying Ground; and the Council desire to resign the present cemetery, and have about five acres in the North West corner proclaimed instead. A road has been opened to the land in question, and a little cutting will render the means of ingress and egress reasonably good, and quite sufficient for the requirements. The negotiations for the exchange are now progressing; and it is expected that the new Cemetery will be proclaimed in about a month or six weeks. When properly opened, steps will immediately be taken to have the cemeteries in the Town closed by Government proclamation.

NEWS FROM THE GROUP

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thurs 13 August 2015 in the Function Room, Clare Town Hall. 6.30 for 7pm Dinner and speaker. Historic film footage. Please RSVP to Val or clarehistory@internode.on.net by Fri 7th Aug.

All welcome.

UNVEILING OF BLYTH DISTRICT SCHOOL SIGNS

Sunday 25th October 11am – please record this date. The seven signs will be unveiled on the sites of the former schools of Blyth Plains, Everard Central, Bowillia, Boucaut, Harmerville and Hart and at Gleeson's Well. We envisage a "drive-by" unveiling procession, with a BBQ lunch along the way and afternoon tea back in Blyth afterwards.

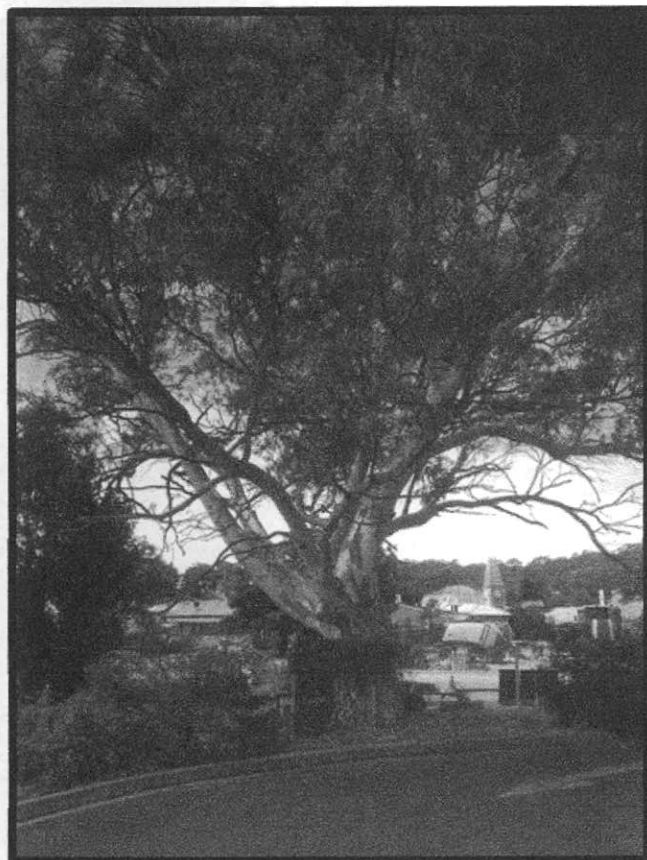
The cost of each sign is \$825 (a total of \$5,775) and a grant application has been submitted to assist with the cost.

We also invite any families connected to a particular school to make a donation of \$50 towards its sign. These donations can be made to Ian Roberts or Kerry Smith at Blyth, Jeff Pratt, or at our History Collection. Cheques should be made out to **Blyth Progress Association**. All donations will be acknowledged on the relevant sign.

Research into the history of the sites is continuing. Each 600 by 900 interpretive sign will include a history of the school, a list of teachers and of the families who were enrolled there, photos, acknowledgement of funding and a map showing the location of all the sites to link the project.

If you would like to help with information or have questions about the project please contact any of the above or Helen Perry on 0417 714 151.

THROUGH THE LEAVES OF A TREE



On pages 5 and 6 is a short story written by our Patron, Win Johnson, late last year. It is the tale of the tree she can see from her unit at Carinya, in Victoria Road, Clare. In her writing, Win tells the story of the history of Clare, as the tree has witnessed it, over the last 200 or so years.

The tree is pictured here from the west. The tower of the first Clare Town hall can be seen in the distance.

BROUGHTON AND KULPARA RECORDS

Jill Clarke is again busy on the copy camera, photographing the records of these former councils prior to their transfer to State records. We are pleased to be able to offer this service.

A VISIT TO A CLARE SOLDIER – by Gerald Lally



In March/April, Helen, Joseph and I travelled to Europe. As both Helen and I had relatives who fought on the Western Front during World War I, it was decided that we should pay respect and visit their graves. From Paris we caught the train to Amiens, where we met our tour guide, Sylvester, the owner of his small company, 'Terre de Memoires'. We travelled through the beautiful countryside, of the western front, taking particular note of the different crops and their growth stages (the farmer in me). We arrived at the Australian War Cemetery of Villers-Bretonnax where we soon located our relatives, either their graves or their names on the memorials and spent some time in reflection. This extremely well maintained cemetery is on a hillside overlooking the vast expanse of

countryside, with the small town of Villers-Bretonnax, 3 kilometres in the distance. We visited the town and located the small primary school, where they have a memorial and small museum to our fallen Australian soldiers who recaptured the town from the Germans on 24 April, 1918.

From Villers-Bretonnax, we continued through the countryside stopping at several other cemeteries on the way, where Helen had relatives buried. What stood out from me was the large number of cemeteries dotted throughout the district, on hillsides, down small side roads. All these cemeteries are all very well maintained by the local community, with a book for each, where one can search the index for a particular name. One of these small cemeteries contained a soldier from Clare, William Gordon Taylor who was killed in action on 8 August, 1918. We located his grave, where I stood in silence for a minute or two. I wondered then, if a relative or friend from Clare had ever visited his resting place.

We stopped in Albert for lunch, after which we spent time at a German Cemetery (black crosses on their graves, not white) then the underground museum, which showed terrific displays of both life and death which affected the local French communities during the First World War. We finally parted company with our very friendly and informative guide, Sylvester, at Amiens. It was an incredible day, which left a profound impact on all of us.



Private William Gordon Taylor was born in Clare in 1896, the son of William and Edith Taylor (nee Bowley), and worked as a motor driver. He was in the Senior Cadets and transferred to the Citizens Forces prior to his enlistment at the age of 19. Gordon had the misfortune to contract meningitis while at Morphettville Barracks. After a protracted convalescence, he sailed to Europe on the "Borda" in June 1917, attached to the 15th Field Ambulance. He was gassed in April 1918, wounded in May, and then killed in action in August 1918, when he suffered a head wound from a shell while serving as a stretcher bearer. His parents were living at Melrose at the time of his death.

Copy of Statement by 15th Australian Field Ambulance 15.1.19

No 17153 Private WG Taylor, 15th Australian Field Ambulance, AIF, was killed in action at about 11.30am on 8th August 1918.

Private Taylor was a Stretcher Bearer and was engaged with other members of his Squad in closely following the Infantry during the advance and received shell wounds in the head, death being instantaneous. He was brought to the ADS at Lamotte-en-Santerre, about seven kilometres from Villiers-Bretonneux and buried on the following dawn east of Lamotte-en-Santerre.

Location of grave – 62D.F.30.d.5.3. Lens.1/100000.

A cross has been erected by this Ambulance over his grave.

Private Taylor's next of kin were advised full particulars of his death after this Unit was relieved, on or about 12th August 1918.

EXPANDING OUR RANGE OF BOOKS FOR SALE

The History Group Committee, at their June meeting, resolved to proceed with reprinting a number of books that have been out of stock for some time. These include Just as it was by Win Johnson (2001), Cottages and Cameos of Clare by Win Johnson (1988) and The Owners of Stanley Flat 1836-1986 150 years of land history by William Pattullo (1986).

Cottages and Cameos was first published in hardback in the Bicentennial year with the assistance of a grant and is now being reprinted in paperback, as we did with its older "sister" Clare Cameos, in 2005. Cottages contains the stories of over 40 of Clare's older residents and their homes.

The Owners of Stanley Flat was published by William Pattullo in hardback in the year of the State's sesquicentenary as a limited run of 100 copies, and was quickly sold out. It traces the land ownership of all the sections and allotments in the Stanley Flat area, from first European settlement until 1986. This unique resource was researched by Bill over several years. After the research for Stanley Flat was completed, History Group then-Chairman, Dirk de Zwart, encouraged Bill to broaden his work to include the land history of much of the area from Clare to Watervale, including Armagh and Polish Hill River. Although very much a senior citizen (in his late 80's), Bill would spend two or three days a week at the Lands Titles Office (LTO) painstakingly tracing each land transfer by Certificates of Title. Always in pencil, always using the writing pad upside down, "you never know when that extra bit of space will come in handy". Bill became friendly with the LTO staff and this enabled him to acquire copies of rare plans and maps. This unique resource is held in the History Collection in manuscript form, occupying about ten boxes. The only parts that have been published are Stanley Flat and Polish Hill River.

So if you have a special interest in Stanley Flat and were unable to purchase a copy of the original publication, contact us at clarehistory@internode.on.net or call in any Thursday or Friday afternoon, to purchase your copy of the re-print for \$30. The reprinted books will all be available by the end of July.

Below is the cover photo of **THE OWNERS OF STANLEY FLAT 1836 – 1986**, looking east over Stanley Flat from "Buckhuggary" on Section 118, the property of Thomas Ashby.



Have you seen me yet?

If you have visited Win I bet you have. She shows me to everyone.

The net curtains on her window part, and faces look out at me. On fine days the glass door opens and people spill out onto her porch. Even the dog, Alfie, comes out to admire me. I find this admiration flattering.

I am a large, aged gum tree on the western bank of the Hutt River, in Clare, a town 146 kilometres north of Adelaide.

Many decades ago, I was young, slim and straight but now my branches spread everywhere – even spanning the river. Because of my great height I can see most of Clare and view the sparkling stars in the night sky. I have a good covering of leaves on my western branches which provide shade, but also are sensitive to sights, smells and sounds, so I don't miss much.

Being a gum tree I'm a bit sticky too!

My roots go way down into the river bed, which nourishes me. As I've aged I have gone black in some limbs, I've dropped branches and my huge girth is gnarled and misshapen, but I'm still here for a while yet.

I can remember way back, before the white men came. Often, at night, I looked south to the clearing of Tamblyn's Gully where the indigenous people had their camp. On calm nights the smoke from their campfires curled up into the blackness, scenting the air with smoky eucalyptus.

The Ngadjuri tribe which hunted in this fertile valley held corroborees there. The eerie haunting music of didgeridoos, coupled with clacking of sticks, the chanting, and the stomping of men's feet echoed around the area. For much of the night, flames lit the camp while the mystical, pulsating music fair made my bark curl.

This tribe often searched me for wild possum to use for food and the pelts to make into warm clothing.

Many of the majestic trees, and all of the dusky-coloured inhabitants who understood, loved and cared for this land have gone.

After the white people landed in 1836, they began exploring inland, discovering expanses of fertile undulating farming country which they then occupied, depriving the aborigines of tribal areas. There were many fierce skirmishes as each tried to gain supremacy, but the armed white men were too powerful. I sadly watched the unequal struggle, but could do nothing.

Then, below me the Clare township began, mainly with small cottages built from hand-quarried stone. A town plan was drawn up, roads marked and the settlers moved in, establishing their occupancy with fencing, also planting fruit trees and vegetables. Town shops and buildings quickly appeared along the main street, east of the river. I found the rate of progress alarming, fearing that some of my straightest limbs might go in this building frenzy.

My shade was appreciated over the years by the working animals and the bullockies who drove their teams pulling the heavy wagons loaded with ore or produce, between the northern mining areas to the sailing ships at Port Wakefield. The bullockies could rest their animals here while they slaked their thirst at one of the six hotels nearby.

I have witnessed awful calamities such as horrific bushfires, periodic floods and even a drowning. Though the drowning happened 130 years ago, I will never forget it. Heavy rain had fallen for days, causing the river to rise alarmingly. Because residents on the western side crossed to the shops by horse transport via a make-shift bridge on Victoria Road, a rickety rope pedestrian bridge had also been suspended across, just below my lowest branches. A brother and sister decided to cross on that rope bridge. A wall of banked-up water roared around the river bend, ripping the footbridge from its holdings and sweeping the children to their deaths.

So quick, so final!

My leaves drooped for days after that terrible tragedy. I was relieved years later when a strong bridge with a footpath was erected in Victoria Road.

About this time in the main street, another calamity occurred. Mr Kimber's flour mill burnt to the ground. I could see it, flaring up into the night sky. Irreparable damage was done to the two-storeyed mill while townspeople worked feverishly transferring the bags of Snowdrift Flour onto the middle of the road. Men rushed to form a bucket brigade from the river across the roadway to the fierce fire, but too late.

The mill was never rebuilt and milling in Clare ceased.

The blackened ruins were an eyesore in the main street, but there was no move for over thirty years to rectify the situation. Eventually the ratepayers, who knew that the people needed a bigger Town Hall, took matters into their own hands by raising £2,000 to buy the site. They then presented the deeds to the Corporation with the proviso that a new Town Hall be built there immediately otherwise the citizens would take the land entitlement back!

That brought a flurry of action!

From my top branches I saw, in 1926, that large attractive building, the civic centre of Clare, rise very quickly. I've seen many industries come and go. The town contained a brewery, a jam factory, a busy dried fruits cooperative and a milk depot. There were blacksmiths, wheelwrights and coach builders who made the smart coaches, buggies, jinkers, phaetons and wagons which were pulled at speed by spanking ponies or the slower draught horses. Horses pulled the water-cart to fires, the coaches for travellers, the farm implements and the drays loaded with goods. They pulled the beer to neighbouring towns, the night cart to collect human waste and the shining hearse to a last resting place.

But my life has not been all doom and gloom. There have been wondrous times of celebration when the magic of music has stirred my soul. Brass band music is my favourite and Clare musicians quickly formed bands. Their vibrant music was heard at most town gatherings – at the horse races, the skating rink and the swimming baths. No parade through the town was complete without the Clare Brass Band, especially the joyous celebrations which heralded the end of both World Wars. Smaller bands led the singing at Sunday School Anniversaries, and later, Salvation Army gatherings, while on balmy summer nights a group often played on the balcony of the Clare Hotel.

Noises which gladden my leaves are the sounds of the resident birds - the warbling of the magpie, twittering of sparrows, the song of blackbirds and occasional laugh of the kookaburra. These sounds are the first I hear each morning.

Transport has changed vastly, becoming faster, smellier and louder, disturbing my peace. Fumes from motor cars, coupled with the odorous discharge from enormous trucks have infiltrated my system causing limbs and leaves nearest to the main road to deteriorate. It has ruined my health and my looks.

One sound which I have missed is that of the Clare railway. Although I only heard it for six decades, it brought a sense of timing into my life. The hissing, clanging, whistling and tooting of the first steam trains alarmed me, but when they were regular and harmless, they became a highlight of my day. I looked to the south-east to see white steam billowing upwards, while my leaves quickly detected the distinctive tang of coal. That all changed, then ceased.

Now humans use different power from horse and steam. Workmen lift the 'lids' of huge farm monsters which park for repairs under my eastern limbs. These emit alarming noises.

I was terrified too, of the strange flying things which made my leaves cringe, but these have been using the air for about 100 years now, so I have adjusted to them.

This is a busy progressive place with different use made now of much of the land. As well as the staple grain crops, the prized flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, there are thousands of acres planted to vineyards. Smaller holdings grow olives, cherries and flowers.

Many of the Clare wines are world class, so the wineries have lots of visitors. Some pass through the streets with homes on wheels, but others are encouraged by the friendly people to tarry a while.

I often have a nostalgic day, when I look down at the odd things below me. There are cars, vans and trucks, overflowing rubbish bins, heaps of wood and sheets of iron. To boost my spirits, I gaze up into the sky instead. I hope that I can keep myself together. Dropped branches could be the end of me.

In my aged state I need respect from the people around me and I hope that Win's visitors will admire me for years to come.

That's all that an old gum tree can ask.

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 & 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**

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**

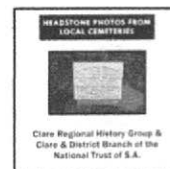
THE INCHQUIN STORY by Jean Schmaal. **\$5**

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

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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

ACQUISITIONS Winter 2015

BOOKS

Carey, Cristene, et al *Secrets of the Hills & Vales: an explorer's companion*, 1988

Austin, Nigel *Bob Rowe: the great cattle trader*, 2014

Smailes, PJ & Clermont, R (Ed) *Agriculture, Business and Population Mobility in the Wakefield Plains District Council*, 1994

Lower North Soil Conservation Board *District Plan 2003*, 2003

Wells, Adrian *Up and Doing: a brief history of the Murray Valley Development League, now the Murray Darling Association, from 1944 to 1994*, 1994

Seddon, Stephanie *Mapping the 1993 Spencer Gulf Seagrass Dieback*, 1998

Bute Football Club *From the First Bounce: 100 years of football at Bute*, 1992

Bute School Centenary Committee *Bute School Days: 1886 – 1986*, 1986

PAPERS & Other

Flinders Environmental Services *Pirie East Salinity Trial*, 2000

Wind Prospect P/L *BarungaES_ WPPL*

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

Spackman, David *African Safari & Antarctic Adventure (DVD)*, 2015

SECOND HAND BOOKS FOR SALE

The following significant items are surplus to the requirements of the History Collection:

MASTERMAN, Mervinia, Flinders Chase revisited, Nature-lovers' sanctuary - Kangaroo Island South Australia, 1972, hardback \$5

NOBLE, Snow and BLACKLEY, Patricia, A bush horseman - the Snow Noble story, 2006, paperback \$5

FRUITS of frugality Eudunda Farmers 100 years, 1997 (paperback) \$5

MAYES, Reg J, Pictorial history of Port Augusta 1974 (hardback) \$5

THE HERITAGE of South Australia and Northern Territory – the illustrated register of the National Estate (Macmillan), 1985 (hardback) \$5

The Sporting Car Club's SA Motoring History Books – photocopies of these out-of-print collectors' items. We borrowed originals and photocopied them for the Collection some years ago but have since been able to acquire our own copies.
Yours for \$25 each.

No. 1 A collection of photographs 1898 – 1918;

No. 2 Motor car portraits 1901 - 1918

No. 3 A collection of photographs 1919 - 1931

No. 5 Commercial vehicles 1905 - 1931

No. 6 A collection of photographs 1898 - 1918

No. 8 Motor car portraits 1902 - 1916

No. 9 A collection of photographs 1904 - 1918

No. 10 Motor-cycles 1899 - 1930