

# CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022



## New & Second-Hand Book Sale 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May

Was conducted successfully in the Town Hall Foyer and we must thank the following people.

- . Michelle Morgan and Peter Noye for generous donation of books
- . Heather Lymburn for help with sorting through donated books
- . Duncan Welgemoed of Africola for donation of 12 copies of Flavours of SA
- . Everyone who made donations, including cash
- . Everyone who helped on the days
- . Jen Chestnut, caretaker, for helping in lots of ways including set up of tables



We would like to thank Duncan Welgemoed for his generous donation of two boxes of “Flavours of SA” to sell at our May Book Sale.

Thanks DUNCAN!

Please support his restaurant Africola, located at 4 East Tce, Adelaide

And look out for Africola Canteen, opening at 1/89 The Parade, Norwood in the next few weeks.



# HISTORY GROUP

## Annual General Meeting



**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

at

**RAGU & Co**

308 Main North Road, Clare (previously Seed, then Umbria)

**6.30pm**

Two course set menu      \$40 pp

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Trudy Hart**

Head of Music – Clare High School

*“What the Clare Town Hall means to me”*



**RSVP and dietary requirements to Gerald Lally by Fri 29<sup>th</sup> July**

Mobile 0457 020 680      Email [lallygh66@gmail.com](mailto:lallygh66@gmail.com)



Trudy Hart (nee Dawson) grew up in Clare, attending St Joseph's Primary & Clare High Schools. After study at Tabor University and Adelaide University and appointments at Woodville and Marryatville High Schools and several secondary colleges, Trudy returned to Clare High School as Head of Music in 2018. Starting as a young performer on the stage of Clare Town Hall, Trudy sees a crucial part of her role as creating opportunities for today's students to also perform there.





## Jack Cross, Teacher with a Passion for life.

Jack Cross who passed away on January 20<sup>th</sup>. 2022 was a loyal supporter of Clare Regional History Collection and donated a large number of SA Histories, many of which are rare and out of print. These are housed in a special cabinet in the History Collection and catalogued as "The Cross Collection".

A life member of the WEA, the University of the Third Age and the Friends of the State Library, Jack became a Member of the Order of Australia in 2013 for his service to tertiary education.

But Jack's passion for teaching inspired several generations across this state and his passion for history lives on through his writing.

*More about Jack's life in the next Newsletter*

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### **FURTHER TO THE STORY ABOUT BETTY WESTWOOD IN THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER I OMITTED TO MENTION THAT SHE WAS A GRANDDAUGHTER OF E.B. GLEESON.**

From Lucy Webb's Diary in the Northern Argus of July 21 1949 we learn more of her exploits as a nurse in London.

Betty Westwood, a nursing Sister and grand-daughter of E.B. Gleeson, the founder of Clare, is one of six Adelaide girls, mostly nurses, who have taken a flat in London for their time off. They each pay 12/6 rent so it does not come hard on all.

The girls had a party to celebrate their first year in the flat and saved up coupons for food and parcels from Australia for weeks before hand.

They have a kindly landlord who however had a word with them about their washing, "your undies are very glamorous he said, but please take them off the line on Sundays." Betty went to England in charge of an old lady, as the shipping companies will not take elderly passengers unless someone responsible is with them. In Betty's case the role was reversed, as instead of taking care of the old lady, the old lady had to take care of her as she (Betty) was ill all the voyage.

The photo below courtesy of the SLSA is from Dollar Cottage and the stool Val Tilbrook tells me once belonged to E.B. Gleeson and can now be found in the Clare National Trust Museum. The lady in the chair we assume is Betty's mother.



The following story is from the Northern Argus July 21 1949 and is appropriate given the upcoming AGM and the topic chosen by the guest speaker, it recalls the halcyon years of the Clare Town Hall.

## **£100 Taken at “Happy Days” Revue**

With an approximate attendance somewhere between 750 and 800 people for the local “Happy Days” Revue at the Clare Town Hall on Friday July 15, is thought to be an all-time record since the new hall was built, for a concert charging popular prices. Proceeds were in aid of the Mothers and Babies Health Assoc. at the community centre.

The hall was taxed beyond capacity and about 150 were seated on emergency accommodation around the walls. It was one of the finest local shows for a long time. Decorations and costumes were spectacular and colorful. Performance excellent, interlaced with farce, comedy and burlesque.

The lovely ballet of 9 young girls led by their instructor Betty Williams were Reva Waldern, Pat Darby, Beryl Botchen, Valerie Hallett, Yvonne Eglinton, Joan Newman, Bobbie Darmody, Nancy Chard. Each girl personally bore the cost of the costumes and the audience were delighted with this artistic effort which was enhanced by effective use of colored balloons and supporting stage decorations. Mr. Len Easson made an excellent compere and by use of a microphone could be distinctly heard in all parts of the hall. Only one critical note. Something should be done by Town Hall authorities to ensure more efficient stage lighting. The footlights on this occasion were supplemented by a big arc light on one side. Even then many members of the audience, particularly those at the back of the hall fifty feet or more from the stage lost the value because faces of performers were partly in shadow. This partly destroys appreciation of artistic animation and presentation.

Jim Newman and Errol Williams were hosts in themselves. They had the burlesque and comedy, with local quips and anecdotes down to a fine degree and kept the audience in rare good humor. The young Gervasi Sisters at the piano showed distinct promise. Marjorie Forsaith sang two numbers in each half, the best of which seemed to be “Lo Hear the Gentle Lark” and “Loch Lomond.” Her artistic interpretations were loudly applauded. The Male quartette consisting of Messrs S.H. Lovell, E. Newton Long and Keith and Len Hore gave renditions in both halves of the programme, their harmony and balance being outstanding.

Mr. Dominic McDonnell is a fine artist. His songs were characterized by animation and interpretation of the themes of composers. No doubt he inherits the charm of stage appearance and presentation from his Mother (formerly Nora O’Brien) who used to sing beautifully many Irish songs and ballads in Clare at one time on occasional visits. She founded and conducted for years the St. Cecilia Ladies Choir in Adelaide familiar over the radio.

John Pargeter is a grand cornetist and he together with his skilful fiancée (Miss Carlien Pearce) at the piano gave a polished cornet solo. Viola Beinke of Booborowie who has carried out radio work delighted with hill-billy guitar song themes and yodelling. Isobel Grace of Watervale charmingly rendered songs, one as a solo with the ballet. Elizabeth Chard, the 7 year old is another unit of the well known Chard family to grace the Clare stage and her tuition reflects credit upon her parents and teachers. With sister Nancy at the piano the charming little girl delighted theatre goers. Young Tina Gervasi seems to be a coming pianoforte player and her Italian ancestry reveals much promise in this cultural sphere. Rachel Paull revealed distinct talent as an elocutionist.

Members of the Clare Brass Band in John and Peter Pargeter, Ian Tilbrook and Alan Davis, rendered a brass quartet. Their harmonious appropriate interpretation “O Lovely Night,” indicated excellent practice and no mean skill. One of the burlesque sketches by the Crazy Gang included a topical feature “Housing Problems,” dedicated to the administrators of local Govt. and State Housing authorities. Interspersed comedy and sketches by the Crazy Gang consisting of Jim Newman, Errol Williams, Joan Newman, Mrs. Melva Kain and her son Eric Kain proved of high merit. The chief accompanist was Mrs. Errol Williams whose time and devotion to developing local talent merits high praise. Accompanists throughout were Mrs. Errol Williams, Mrs. H.J. Aitken, Mr. L.J. Easson, Miss Nancy Chard and Miss Carlien Pearce. A number of girls acted as ushers and they with the doorkeepers played their part in a grand community effort. Behind the scene activities no less important, saw good work by R.S. Stacy, Pat Newman and Jack Williams.

## BURRA BURRA 'Burra of the Five Towns'

The five towns were Kooringa, Aberdeen, Hampton, Redruth and Copperhouse. Two of these, Hampton and Copperhouse, are deserted now and in ruins. The other three, Kooringa, Aberdeen and Redruth were only officially incorporated into one town, Burra, in 1940, but the old names remain in common use.

Other villages were optimistically named, some laid out and some actually lived in. Such were Millerton, Nelson, Llywchrr, Princetown and Graham Town.

The derivation of names is both interesting and revealing.

KOORINGA - The name given to the private town of the South Australian Mining Association, the owner of the Burra Burra Mine. The name was chosen by the directors in 1846. They had seriously considered naming their new town Truro after the Cornish Truro. The name Kooringa (originally spelt Cooringa) is an Aboriginal word meaning she-oak.

REDRUTH - Named after the Cornish Mining Town of Redruth. Laid out in 1847 by the South Australian Government just outside the boundary of the Mining Association Special Lease. It lies East of the Burra Creek.

ABERDEEN - Named after the Scottish Aberdeen. This was sub-divided in 1849. It formed part of Section 4 purchased by the Scottish Bon Accord Mining Company in 1846. It also lies just on the boundary of the Special Survey of the S.A.M.A. It is part of Burra North West of Burra Creek. The two towns of Redruth and Aberdeen now form Burra North.

COPPERHOUSE – Named after the mining village of Copperhouse not far from Redruth in Cornwall. Now deserted and in ruins. In 1867 a thriving village with school, church and pub. (1 mile west of Burra).

HAMPTON - Named after Edward Hampton, who was for many years assayer to the Smelting Company (English and Australian Copper Co.) which smelted most of the copper ore after 1849. This deserted village lies just beyond Redruth.

BURRA BURRA - Name given by Indian coolie shepherds to the creek which ran through the valley in which Burra is now situated. The Indian shepherds worked for James Stein who held a pastoral occupation lease in this area before copper was found. The word is Hindustani and means Great Great, referring to the creek which is the largest and longest in the district, flowing out through Princess Royal and the World's End Gorge on to the Eastern plains. On a few occasions during the past 120 years floods coming down the creek have been known to reach the River Murray near Morgan.

The name was given to the creek and then to the mine and finally when a name for the railway station had to be chosen in 1870, the name was given to the three towns under the one corporation. Burra has always been referred to as The Burra probably because of the Burra Mine.

PAXTON SQUARE – Named after William Paxton, one of the shareholders and Directors. This square, unique in Australia, contains 33 cottages originally of 2 rooms each. They are still in good order and well-preserved after 100 years.

They were built by Cornish masons for Cornish miners brought out in 1856 to work the deeper levels of the mine. After the mines were closed, the cottages were purchased by the Hon. John Lewis, a former resident of Kooringa (father of Essington Lewis), who attended the Burra School. At his death, the cottages were left in trust to house the "aged, poor and needy" of Burra. The National Trust of Burra hope they will stand as a

permanent memorial to the Cornish miners. The cottages have now been placed under the Historic Relics Act and will be preserved intact.

### BURRA PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL

This imposing structure was built as a Model School for Primary children in 1877, the year the Burra Mine closed. The school was built to accommodate 1,000 children but when it opened in 1878 only about 300 children were enrolled. Many of the rooms were unoccupied until the High School opened in the same building in 1913. It cost £6,996/8/- to erect. Recently it cost nearly £8,000 to renovate and paint. At present it houses some 430 Primary and High School students.

### GAOL AND REFORMATORY

This was completed in 1856 and closed in 1894 and was the first gaol erected in South Australia outside of the Adelaide area. Part of the present Police Station (still intact) was used as a temporary gaol from 1847 until the new gaol opened. The gaol keeper was a Mr Tom Perry (for most of its life) and newspapers of the day wrote of prisoners being sentenced to a stay at "Perry's Hotel". The gaol held 30 prisoners, male and female, and the Keeper complained that it was being used too frequently as a Lunatic Asylum as well. After being closed for some years the building was renovated and in December 1897 became a Government Protestant Girls' Reformatory. It held about 25 girls from the age of 15 who had to do all the work – wood chopping, laundry and cooking.

The Burra Burra Corporation and the National Trust have acquired the building and will preserve and partly restore it.

### BON ACCORD MINE, SHAFT AND ENGINEER'S SHOP

A mining company calling itself the "Bon Accord" Mining Co., purchased a survey of 387 acres just outside of the Burra Mine Special Survey. The Company hoped to strike the continuation of the main lode of the Burra Mine a few hundred yards south. This was in 1846 one year after the beginning of the Burra Mine. Much money was spent in sinking shafts, one of them to a depth of 300 feet, but without success. After the Burra Mine closed in 1877 the Burra Corporation used one shaft for the town water supply. This shaft, now filled in, was used from 1884 until 1905 when the Government finally took over the town water supply and purchased the old Bon Accord area and used the main shaft. A pump house was erected and the shaft supplied Burra with its water from 1905 until 1966 when Burra was connected with the Murray pipeline from Hanson (Morgan-Whyalla).

The engineer's shop and house are early buildings of the 'Bon Accord' Company and negotiations are in progress to have the area of land and the buildings handed over to the Trust.

The 'Bon Accord' Hotel is just across from the Water Works.

### OPEN CUT

From 1845 until 1870 all mining was carried on underground. There were many miles of drives although the mine never went below the 600 feet level. In 1870 an English mining 'expert' decided that the only way to keep the mine alive was to open cut the main area, but this proved to be the fatal blow. The Cornish miners had left little but crumbs and by 1877 the mine was forced to close down. The miners were given a week's notice and 300 of them left within a few months for the 3 Yorke Peninsula mining fields at Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta.

### THE JINKER

This was built in England especially to carry the great boiler for the Morphett Shaft Engine House (still standing) from Port Adelaide to the Burra Burra mine. The boiler was used to supply steam for the pump which kept the mine clear of water.

This journey of 100 miles over unmade and unsurveyed roads and across unbridged creeks and rivers took two months and is an epic in the history of Australian bullock transport. Its progress was reported week by

week in the *South Australian Register* newspaper. The final arrival in the streets of Burra was greeted by cheering thousands of miners and their families – indeed the whole of Burra declared a holiday.

This achievement was mainly due to the perseverance and skill of Mr William Woollacott, the teamster who undertook the contract. Mr William Woollacott was the grandfather of Mr Stan Woollacott, a past Chairman of the Burra Burra Trust.

Each tyre of the jinker was really three tyres joined together. Forty bullocks in groups of four abreast were used to pull the main jinker which was followed by another carrying castings for the engine. There were six bullock drivers, walking three on each side. The bullock teams needed to be replaced with a fresh team every 10 miles or so. The jinker was recently housed in its present site by the Burra Burra Corporation.

#### MINERS DUG OUTS

Rather than buy permanent houses in what might have turned out to be an insecure mining town, many of the Cornish miners preferred to dig themselves huts into the sides of the Burra Creek. Two of these huts are still to be seen but in 1849 there were nearly 1,500 miners and their families living along the Burra Creek. All that could be seen from above were the chimney pipes poking out above ground. The dug outs were cool in summer and were whitewashed inside and generally consisted of three or four rooms.

Tremendous floods in 1852 brought sudden disaster to most of the homes, but until 1860 many hundreds were still living in them. Finally, the mining company refused for health reasons to employ any miners who persisted in living in the dug outs. Cornish cottages of enduring stone were built by the company and many hundreds of these are still lived in today. Rows of them, built right up to the footpath in the Cornish village style, exist in all parts of Burra.

#### CRHG COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Helen Perry

Vice Chairperson : Wendy Spackman

Secretary : Josie Hudson

Treasurer : Helen Perry

Curator : Gerald Lally

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PHONE CLARE 72.



## BOOKS & CDs FOR SALE

NOYE, RJ **Clare – a district history** (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) (2021) 298pp. \$50 – newly released

ASHBY, Marj **CARINYA 1956 - 1989 A Peaceful and happyhome**, (1989) CWA of SA Clare Branch, Clare, SA \$5

AUSTIN, Nigel **BOB ROWE – the great cattle trader** (2014) \$50

BELLMAN, Elinor A. (1995), **SADDLEWORTH - Hub of the Wheel**, (1995) Saddleworth, SA \$35

BOND, David **CLARE SHOW “A fine all round display” for 150 years** (2014) Clare SA \$33

Brinkworth Centenary Book Committee, **MAGPIE CREEK JUNCTION - a history of Brinkworth and district 1892 – 1992**, Brinkworth, SA. Recently reprinted. \$50

**THE CIVIC RECORD 1836 – 1986**, Wakefield Press 695pp. \$50

CROSS, Jack, **Two Crosses: Ephraim and Jack - a proletarian history: including life in the unusual village of Armagh 1840 to 1910; as well as on Bungaree Station after 1860**, (2016) Printak Pty Ltd, Adelaide, SA. 145 pages, illustrations, maps, portraits, facsimiles \$30

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

ELLIS, Julie-Ann, **HARD-YACKA - The story of a Mid-North town in South Australia**, (1995) Yacka Historical Group \$40

HAYNES J. & SCHMAAL, E.J. **CLARE – A BACKWARD GLANCE** (1980) \$8

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

Johnson, Winifred N.

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

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

**BLYTH - a silo of stories 1860 - 1990** A comprehensive history of the town and district of Blyth, including family stories, farming, community and sporting activities.

Excellent photographs, many in colour. \$45

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

**FROM WHERE I SIT** (2010) A Collection of articles on chosen themes written over past times \$16

**A HISTORY OF NGADJURI LODGE TRUST** (2010) \$10

**JUST AS IT WAS** (2010) The story of Win's life with humour and affection. 96pp including photos. \$20

JENNER, Rosemary, **Mintaro recollections (2020)** \$30

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

### USBs and CD-ROMS

#### HEADSTONE PHOTOS FROM LOCAL CEMETERIES

(USB) (2005) \$15

**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) \$5

### CARDS FOR SALE

Local images on a blank card for your personal message \$3

KEAIN, Maurice **From where the Broughton flows – a history of the Spalding district** (1976) 214pp (15)

LALLY, Gerald A.

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

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

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

**TWO CHURCHES – Catholic faithful of the Clare Valley** (2019) \$50

LALLY, Gerald, et al, **SOUTH CLARE SPORTS CLUB – Celebrating 50 years of success 1960 – 2010** (2010) \$20

LINN, Rob, **The story of Bungaree Station** (2011) (Illus) \$17

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

NOYE, Robert J. **TALKING HISTORY – Tales of Clare SA** 50 articles published weekly in *The Northern Argus* (2003) \$15

PATTULLO, William

**THE LAND HISTORY OF POLISH HILL RIVER 1842 - 1990** (1991) Details the ownership history of 120 sections of land in Polish Hill River, to the edge of Mintaro township. \$25  
**THE OWNERS OF STANLEY FLAT 1836 – 1986** reprinted 2015 \$30

SCHMAAL, Jean

**THE INCHIQUIN STORY**, Clare & District Branch, National Trust, (c1986) Clare SA \$5

**A QUIANT COURTHOUSE** (1987) Clare & District Branch, National Trust, Clare SA \$5

SEMPLE, Carolyn **“TO THE BEAT OF A DRUM” – Gum Creek School 1898 – 1957** (2018) \$20

SIMONS, J.J. ‘Boss’ **THE CLARE I REMEMBER** 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

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

WARRIOR, Fred et al, **Ngadjuri – Aboriginal people of the Mid North region of South Australia**, (2005) Meadows SA, SASOSE Council Inc \$40

WILSON, John

**Bob's railway – turbulent political times in SA & a remarkable railroading dog**, (2019) \$78

**The Riesling railway** (2018) Photographs, illustrations, maps, drawings, USB \$110