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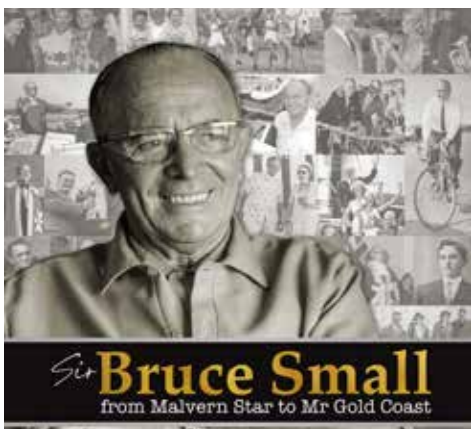
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HISTORY MATTERS

CENTENARY OF TORQUAY BOWLING CLUB
ORPHANAGE FOR TORQUAY
TORQUAY HORSE RACING

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Volunteers play an important role in the operation of our history group. They work in a variety of areas including research, filing, data entry, collections management, photography and working with community groups.

VOLUNTEER WITH US:

We welcome new people and you don't have to be an expert in history. A friendly attitude and willingness to join in is all you need.

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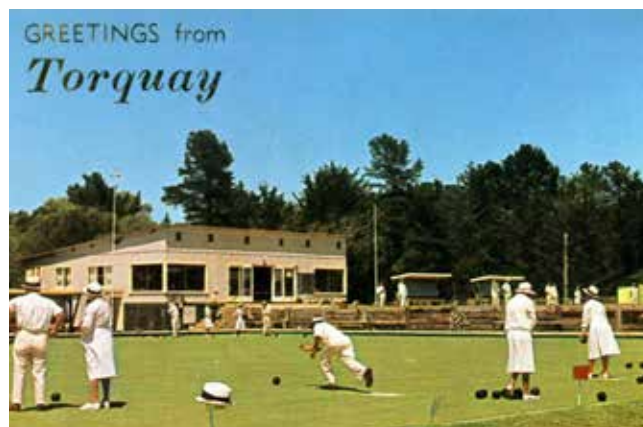
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TORQUAY BOWLING CLUB

CHERYL BAULCH



NEW CLUB FORMED was the headline in the Geelong Advertiser when a meeting on 19 January 1924 confirmed the formation of a lawn bowls club for Torquay and established the committee.

In 1866, Torquay, also known as Puebla and Spring Creek in the early days, became popular for picnics and fishing during the 1860s. The first Crown Land sales in 1866 offered land for sale, but not all allotments were purchased, including the area used by fishermen and campers on the land that we call Taylor Park today.

In 1898 the Torquay Improvement Association (TIA),



*Torquay Bowling Club
celebrates 100 years in 2024.*

initially under the name Spring Creek Progress Association, had been formed to develop a town with amenities for locals and visitors. One of Torquay's most significant assets had always been the beaches, but swimming was not the only pastime holidaymakers needed. Some spent their holidays rabbiting, shooting, boating on the creek, or fishing, but more amenities were needed to become a popular holiday town.

Over the ensuing years the TIA pushed for such things as improved roads and bridges, postal services, sanitation, electricity, better beaches and recreational pursuits.

They also encouraged the development of a newly formed golf club to lease the unsold crown land.

After Carl Voss relinquished his lease in 1911 on the parcel of land we now call Taylor Park, the lease was transferred to the Torquay Improvement Association who wanted to create a three-hole golf course with the permission of the Torquay Public Reserves Trustees who managed Torquay public land. The course was rough, and players had to go around three times for a game of golf.

Over the ensuing years the Palace Hotel provided a tennis court, refreshments, and the Molyneux Hot Water Depot /Cafe.

A new kiosk on The Esplanade reserve was immensely beneficial to visitors, particularly to picnic parties requiring hot water and water for horses.

Mrs Woolf provided guests staying at Melba House (later Pioneer House) greens for lawn bowls and croquet on the

grassland adjoining the tennis court to attract visitors to her establishment. These facilities were for guests only – not the general public, so no club existed.

Encouraged by the 1885 & 1886 Crown Land sales successes, the government considered readvertising vacant land early in 1916. The six allotments totalling just over 26 acres comprising Taylor Park were to be put up for sale. John William Taylor, President of the Torquay Improvement Association and Trustee of the Torquay Public Reserves, who was a staunch advocate for the permanent use of the park for recreational purposes, collected support and successfully fought to preserve the park by suggesting land south of Bell Street be advertised instead.

By 1920, the three-hole golf links were found not to meet the needs of golfers like Alex (Sandy) Crow, a keen golfer who had recently purchased the Torquay Palace Hotel.

In 1921, golf was moved from Taylor Park to the reserve opposite the Palace Hotel. The Public Reserves Trustees continued to plan and develop the land as a public park/ reserve.

Not long after the death of John William Taylor in 1921, the Trustees of the Torquay Public Reserves named the park as a memorial to him for his contribution to Torquay's development and for preventing sale of the land.

His brothers Arthur and Harry were also very involved in the town's development and were members of the TIA and Trustees of the Torquay Public Reserve.

Arthur Taylor continued planting trees, and flowering shrubs after the death of his brother. John William's son, Ernest and grandson Alan instigated the relocation of the former Model School gates from Spring Street, Melbourne, to form the main eastern entrances to Taylor Park in 1935.

With the golf club moved to the southern end of the town, informal discussions began about establishing a lawn bowls club. It was not until 19 January 1924, when an official community meeting chaired by George Sprake was held in the public hall, that a final resolution was made to form a bowling club.

Elected on the night of the meeting were George Sprake as President, Alderman John Pettitt and Harold Hirst as club vice presidents. Archibald Dickins was elected treasurer, and Arthur Taylor, Secretary. Other committee members appointed were Basil Drayton, Alexander (Sandy) Crowe, Carl Voss, Thomas Welch, (unknown) Dickins and Joseph Thear.

Once the club committee was formed, the first meeting made the final selection of the proposed site. At the meeting it was also decided to create a ladies' croquet green adjoining the bowling greens. It proposed laying five rinks for lawn bowls, with work to commence straight away.

The meeting was enthusiastic, and an appeal for donations resulted in £40 being promised. Other promises were made by people who did not attend. The membership fee was fixed at one guinea for the ensuing twelve months.

In 1924, the newly formed bowls club successfully applied to the Trustees of the Torquay Public Reserves to create bowls rinks and permission for a small building as a clubhouse.

Over the next twelve months a green was formed, graded, and grass sown. A concrete dam was built across the gully as a catchment for water in the hope of the green being ready for play in the 1924/25 summer season. Toward the end of that summer, a pavilion was erected from material provided by Joseph Thear. The green was still not in playing order.



Voss digging drain at Fisherman's or Felix Rossers Creek c1919. Carl Voss centre.

During 1925, work continued to complete the bowling green, fully equipped with roller cutter mats and kitties for those who wanted to play a game.

A concrete pavilion was under construction in December 1925, and trees and shrubs were planted around the club grounds for protection from the wind. A windmill and tank had been erected, as well as a dam with ample water supply.

In December 1925, practice games took place across the three rinks that were available to players. The club was looking forward to an expansion to six rinks in the near future. With committee members holding membership with the Belmont Club, it was only logical that their first game would be against the Belmont Club. The Torquay team was confident of winning the first match on New Year's Day for trophies presented by the President.



Surf Side Bowling Club green adjacent to Palace Hotel



Some members of the Torquay's two bowling clubs in 1947. L-R: Harold Humphrey, Jonathon Hosford, Fred Baensch, Ted Duffield, unknown, Norrie Scott, Col Follett, Arthur Taylor

It is not known when, but another bowling club emerged in Torquay and was active during the 1940s. After WW2 until 1971, two generations of Pawson's owned the Torquay Hotel, previously known as the Palace Hotel. When John Pawson's parents Charles and Emma Pawson purchased the Torquay Hotel from Clive and Hazel Evans in 1948 the Surfside Bowling Club had been playing where today's bottle shop is situated. It is doubtful that the club had entered any formal competitions. To maintain the area John Pawson had two sheep that kept the grass down!

Over the first 50 years the Torquay club grew to 14 rinks. From this humble beginning, the club was voted a Victorian finalist as the Best Bowls Club in the Wotif Uniquely Aussie Awards 2020!

BOWLING CLUB FIRST COMMITTEE

Members of the 1924 foundation committee of the Torquay Bowling club consisted of locals, holidaymakers and those who lived in neighbouring towns. Many stayed on for years.

CHERYL BAULCH



CROW, Alexander Victor (1884 - 1955), known as Sandy

Alexander (Sandy) Crow and his family lived at the Traralgon railway station, where they ran the railway kiosk, when siblings Sandy, James Harold, Joel Thomas (Tom) and Jane purchased the Torquay Palace Hotel in 1920. The Geelong Licensing Court granted the transfer of the Torquay Palace Hotel victuallers licence from James Powell to Alexander (Sandy) Victor Crow. Sandy, a golf enthusiast, commented at the time that he "intends to revive the links at Torquay".

In 1920, Sandy Crow was elected president when a public meeting was held about forming a new golf club. He oversaw the development of the new golf course. He then supported the development of the bowling club by joining the new committee for the 1924 year.

DICKENS, (Unknown)

This unknown person was a committee member during 1924-1926 before becoming a Vice President during 1927 and 1928



DICKINS, Archibald Thomas (1884 - 1964)

Archibald and Thomas Dickens were Geelong-born ironmongers with their store on Moorabool Street, Geelong.

Archibald became a foundation treasurer of the newly formed Torquay Bowling Club even though he lived in Belmont. In 1924, he purchased a holiday house in Pride Street. He remained treasurer for many years.

'Archie' was a South Barwon councillor, serving from 1931 until 1934 and from 1937 until 1940, including a term as president for the 1933-34 year.

DRAYTON, Basil Thomas (1891 - 1959)

In the early twentieth century Basil was a Chilwell carter. After World War One Basil moved to Torquay, purchased the Gilbert Street general store from Thomas Vains in 1918 and ran the post office. Shortly after, he was elected Secretary to the Presbyterian Church management committee and trained the Sunday School choir.

In 1920 Basil obtained his stage carrier licence for travel between Geelong and Torquay. The following year

he unsuccessfully tendered for maintenance of the Golf Links reserve. He was an active member of the Torquay Improvement Association, serving as president in 1924 and 1925. Basil served on the Torquay Bowling Club committee in 1924 and 1925.

Basil became a member and Patron of the Surf Lifesaving Club for the 1945-46 season shortly before he moved to Berrigan where he returned to the carrier business.

Basil was a talented musician with his own orchestra. He played the cornet and often within a musical program, his wife would play the piano and daughter the violin.



HIRST, Harold E (1883 - 1934)

Harold Hirst was the son of wool merchant Godfrey Hirst. After completing his schooling at Geelong College he worked in the Geelong woollen mills. Harold enlisted as a Private in the AIF and was wounded in Gallipoli. He went on to serve in France, arriving home just before the end of the war.

Harold was Secretary of the Henly on Barwon carnival before he resigned in 1920, and he later served as district commissioner for the Geelong Boy Scouts.

In 1924, Harold purchased a house on Gilbert Street, which he sold four years later. During 1924 and 1925 he was a foundation Vice President of the Torquay Bowling Club.



PETTITT, John (1868 - 1951)

John Pettitt, Barrabool Councillor and Great Ocean Road Trust member, bought the Bungalow on the corner of Anderson Street and The Esplanade in 1920 from Dr Marwood. Later he purchased all the land south of Two Bays to the corner and up Price Street and along Pride Street to a house next to the Scammell house.

He initially was a foundation Vice President of the Torquay Bowling Club and served as president in 1927 and 1928. In 1984, the Jubilee year, his son Robert was president.

John was strongly connected with the Presbyterian Church and used his staff to build the new church in 1925, along with the Sunday School.

In 1940 the Torquay bush fire destroyed the Sunday School, the front corner of the Church and the cottage purchased next to the Church for the future Manse. By 1954, a new manse was completed and opened in March by Mrs. J. Pettitt.

SPRAKE, George (- 1942)

George SPRAKE lived at Sunnyside, 224 Colac Road, Belmont, in a 1911 house designed by architects Laird & Buchan. After retiring from his farm in the Rupanynp North (Horsham) district, he moved to Geelong. George was a prominent figure in the bowling world before moving to the Geelong area, so it wasn't long before he joined the Belmont Bowling Club in 1912 and was elected Treasurer in 1915.

During 1920, he became a member of the Belmont Improvement Association and in 1924 he became a founding member of the Torquay Bowling Club. It appears he continued his Belmont Bowls Club membership. When they played each other, he played for Torquay; however, at the 1926 Country Championships he represented Belmont.

In 1942, George died suddenly on the Belmont bowling green doing what he enjoyed - playing bowls.



TAYLOR, Frederick Arthur (1868 - 1948)

Frederick Arthur Taylor, known as Arthur or in later years as 'Pop Taylor', was a member of the prominent Taylor family siblings and their descendants. Family members contributed to many Geelong, Torquay and Barwon Heads community groups.

As a skilled engineer, Arthur was a founding director of the Geelong firm Winter & Taylor. After the death of his wife in 1929, Arthur moved to his holiday home in Torquay and became a local real estate agent.

Arthur was a much-loved projectionist of the movies held at the Torquay Public Hall.

He was a Trustee of the Torquay Public Reserve committee and a member of the Torquay Improvement Association, of which he was made a life member in 1945. After the death of his brother, John William Taylor in 1921, Arthur continued with tree-planting projects and influenced the direction of the development of the bowling club.

In 1949, in honour of Arthur, 85 trees were planted along Anderson Street as a memorial, with one tree dedicated to his nephew who died in WW2.



THEAR, Joseph Alexander (1870 - 1929)

Joseph started in the furniture trade as a young man, becoming a well-respected Geelong furniture manufacturer. He served as a Geelong Councillor and as Mayor from 1925-1926. As well as serving on the committee of the Torquay Bowling Club his other community involvements included the Corio Division of the Sons of Temperance. Joseph also had an important role in developing the Geelong Friendly Society's Dispensary, which led to involvement in forming the Medical Association. These roles led him to be elected to the Geelong Hospital committee, where he played an essential role in the building of the Kitchener Memorial Hospital, and later he was elected President of the Geelong and District

Hospital. Joseph was very involved in hospital affairs, was elected president of the Country Hospital's Association, and had been nominated as one of the association's representatives on the Charities Board just before his death.

Joseph was elected to the city council as a representative of the Villamanta Ward in 1921, focusing on the financial activities of the council and was chairman of the finance committee. He became Mayor of the city in 1925-26. In 1926, he was elected president of the Geelong Football Club. Joseph was also a Geelong West Bowling Club member and president of the Geelong Cricket and Football Clubs. He was a Worshipful Master of the Kardinia Lodge of Freemasons and the Retail Traders' Association president.

In support of the development of the new club and the building of the pavilion, Joseph provided the building material in 1925.



VOSS, Carl (1869-1947)

Carl Martin Voss arrived in Victoria from Hamburg in 1892. He originally lived in Germantown (now Grovedale) and worked at Palmer's Tannery, Oil and Glue works on the corner of Tannery and Sparrovale Road, Charlemont on the Barwon River. Carl later worked for himself as a grazier and then as a contractor for road-making and sanitary services. After marrying Sarah Follett in 1901, Carl applied for a victualler's license to work at the Torquay Palace Hotel owned by Sarah's parents. Around 1913 Sarah and Carl had the Germantown house shifted to their land on Fischer Street close to Darian Road. Carl did odd jobs around Torquay, but mainly his work involved contracting for South Barwon Council to do road repair

and construction as well as sanitary services before he started a carrying business using a large furniture van drawn by two horses.

Carl was involved in community activities and provided feedback to the Torquay Public Reserves Trustees on the state of the foreshore and sanitation around town. He constructed the first Torquay bowling green and was a founding club member.

WELSH, Thomas (- 1935)

As a keen angler, Thomas spent many holidays and weekends fishing at Torquay. Consequently, he purchased a bungalow villa on Pride Street during January 1918.

Thomas Welsh was manager of the Albion Woollen Mills in Geelong for 33 years. He emigrated from Galashiels, Scotland, to take up the manager position. For 25 years he was a prominent member of the Belmont Bowling Club, a committeeman at Torquay and Belmont and an "A" pennant player. Thomas was vice president of the Torquay Bowling Club in 1928. He took an active part in the activities of the Belmont Baptist Church and, at times, was the choir conductor.

GEELONG ORPHAN ASYLUM



ORPHANAGE FOR TORQUAY

CHERYL BAULCH

'Forgotten Australians' is a term the Australian Senate has used to describe children who were brought up in orphanages, children's homes, institutions or foster care in Australia. It generally relates to those in care between 1920-1970 but can refer to earlier and later periods. Forgotten Australians may also identify themselves as 'care leavers, homies, state wards or ex-residents'.

Approximately 500,000 children were placed in institutional care, many of whom experienced neglect and abuse. On 16 November 2009, the Australian Government formally apologised to Forgotten Australians and child migrants on behalf of the nation

In the mid-nineteenth century, people in both Britain and Australia saw large-scale institutions such as orphanages as the best way of providing for children who could not live with their families. They were intended to provide for the 'innocent victims of misfortune', meaning abandoned children, single orphans (whose fathers were deceased) and double orphans (who had lost both parents). In 1853, the Melbourne Orphan Asylum was the first purpose-built orphanage in Victoria. The following year, the Geelong Orphan Asylum was established, changing its name in 1862 to the Geelong Protestant Orphanage. However, it had no formal affiliations with the church or other religious groups.

This home was established by a Steering Committee of wealthy, influential citizens from Geelong and surrounds. The Geelong Protestant Orphan Asylum was their response to concerns about the sudden increase in abandoned, orphaned and neglected children in Geelong after the discovery of gold in Victoria. For this purpose land was bought at Herne Hill and the building to house 100 children



**Old Geelong Orphanage Asylum and Common School
National Trust Database File number B1191**

was completed in June 1885 and was ready to accept children from October 1885. By the mid-1890s, other orphanages operated in Geelong, such as the Convent Girl's Orphanage and St. Augustine's Boy's Orphanage.

In 1909, the Geelong Protestant Orphan Asylum changed its name to Geelong and Western District Protestant Orphanage. It accommodated boys and girls aged between 4 and 14. The institutions provided large dormitory-style accommodation for the children. They sheltered, fed and clothed the children under their 'care', but daily life was dull, heavily regulated and with little scope for personal attention.

Early last century, the children from the orphanages would annually visit the Torquay front beach. Between 100-300

JAMES AUSTIN (1809-1896)

James Austin was born in Somersetshire, England and arrived in Tasmania, along with his parents, four brothers, and one sister, in 1835. Four years later, he left Tasmania for Victoria with his brother, Thomas Austin, bringing sheep and other stock with the intention of settling in the then new territory of Port Phillip. The two brothers landed at Geelong and followed the Barwon River to Winchelsea, first known as Austin's Ford. Here they developed contiguous runs from which evolved Barwon Park, a well-stocked freehold estate of 29,000 acres (11,736 ha) with a magnificent mansion.

James, who married Rebecca Savage in 1842, acquired other property as a speculator by selling out of Barwon Park. His pastoral holdings exceeded Thomas's, but he quickly grasped the potential in urban lands. One of his lucrative land holdings was the country between Little River and Batesford. He acquired interest in other stations, keeping Yeo in the Colac district and Avalon on the North Shore of Corio Bay until his death.

Until 1843, James owned Geelong's leading butchery. In 1850, he was elected a member of the first council of Geelong, and the following year, he was the second mayor after Dr Thomson. He marked his year of office by presenting the town with a large clock standing in Market Square.

But in 1853, he initiated the sale of his local lots and tendered his resignation as an alderman. Soon afterwards, he left the colony with his wife and family to settle in Glastonbury, England, where he subsequently acquired the Glastonbury Abbey estate on which the well-known Glastonbury Abbey ruins are situated. James took a leading role in managing municipal affairs and was elected mayor of Glastonbury four times.

James was known for supporting Geelong organisations, mainly to help disadvantaged residents. He continued his philanthropy after leaving the town.

young people would be transported by Geelong and Torquay residents on drays and, later, cars. Cobb & Co would also provide transport on occasions. While at the beach they enjoyed a sports program that included races and building sandcastles. Dinner would be held next to McFarlane's kiosk who provided the hot water for the picnic. Residents provided access to their bathing boxes, and the children would enjoy their swimming. On one occasion, the highlight of the day was when a 72-year-old past inmate, who entered the orphanage at six years of age, joined them at the picnic and was given a special prize despite him choosing not to compete.

The orphanage was supported by the Torquay Improvement Association and local identities such as Mayor Hitchcock and J. C. Taylor who donated to the Torquay Committee of the Seaside Home Fund. Many residents also made contributions to local fundraising efforts including Frederick Arthur White (Andrew White's son), and William Herbert Smith (Seaview Villa), who was President of the orphanage during 1934-35, Chairman of Torquay Public Reserves Committee and a TIA member.

Surprised by the lack of swimming skills, and to provide memorable experiences for the young people, the orphanage committee devised a plan during 1920 to acquire land fronting Zeally Bay in Torquay so that the children could spend Christmas and other holidays at their own seaside home. Torquay residents embraced the scheme and planned for the erection of buildings; George Berryman offered to plough the land and help with all carting free of charge. Now a Torquay resident, William Parker offered to plant a timber hedge and lay out the garden. Hawkes Bros hardware merchants pledged to donate all wire necessary for the fencing of the block. Carl Voss promised to donate the sand required for the water storage tanks.

The orphanage subcommittee appointed to develop the project began looking for donations to commence building, so the Torquay residents sprang into action to raise the £500 needed. They held card parties and a concert to raise money for the orphanage, raising £120 towards the target.

An unnamed gentleman offered one pound, one shilling (one guinea) for the best name for the proposed seaside home not to clash with "Cottage By The Sea", Queenscliff. Schools were invited to become involved, resulting in entries which included names such as:

- House of Sunshine,
- Ye Bairns Cot
- The Children's Haven

- The Ocean Home
- Bell-Haven for Children
- The Boost
- Prince Renown Cottage by the Sea
- Seaside Orphanage
- Our Ocean Home
- Our Beach Home
- Torquay Orphan's Home
- Our Home by the Waves
- Scammell Rest Home

After months of collecting entries, the name Heathbrae was chosen by the Torquay residents as the preferred name for the orphanage's seaside cottage at Torquay.

During September 1920, it was reported in the Geelong Advertiser that the Mayor (Ald Hitchcock) donated a block of land for the orphanage, but there is no evidence in the rate books or in the titles to land along The Esplanade. It was also reported that through the generosity of Mrs. Harriet Gray (nee Austin), a site had been secured at Torquay, overlooking Zeally Bay. In May 1922 Harriet purchased allotments on the northeast corner of Pride and Price Street. The land was never transferred to the orphanage. The Austin family were generous supporters of the orphanage.

By the end of the year the sub-committee had raised between £600 and £700, which met the original target, but as time progressed it was determined that there was a need for another £600. During 1921 Torquay residents raised a further £30 toward the scheme, and AG White donated 8 acres on the corner of The Esplanade and Darian Road along with posts for fencing and he lent his boring plant. With the project progressing the Torquay residents formed their local committee. It included Messer's Crowe, Drayton, Follet, Berryman, Harrison, Payne, Austin, Wilson, Seiffert, Parker, Jarvis, Rosser, Smith and Miss Duffield.

The working bees, managed by William Parker and supervised by Fred Rosser, had trees and shrubs planted, and a fence erected with the holes bored by the Berrymans. John Pettitt donated a gate and plans for the building of water bores. D Berryman lent his horse and dray to cart posts and other material to the property. Other working helpers included Messrs Seiffert, F Davidson, Scott, D Austin, Roy Rosser, Tom Crow, S Barker, Payne, Drayton, Con Follett, Wilson snr, Anderson, Pescud, L Uastin, E Duffield, Jarvis (with horse and dray), and Voss planned to cart 20 loads of sand.

While the management committee was keen to establish

a Torquay home, they had realised that they may need to move from the present position at Herne Hill because of the cement works expansion. After the quick beginnings of the project financial problems started to appear by the end of 1921, causing further delays in the project. At the same time, the feeling at Torquay was that the management committee was not displaying sufficient interest in the work or the working bees. The community hoped that some portion of a building would be started shortly to give them confidence in the project continuing.

Matters had been quiet for some time. By March 1922, the honorary architects Messrs Laird and Buchan prepared plans for the Torquay property, based on the cottage system which included a convalescent home.

At this time there was a substantial sum of money in hand, but the committee needed to agree to continuing to finance the proposal which was becoming more dependent on water being found. Bores had been put down to 71ft without success, but the President of the Orphanage Mr George List continued to believe that water could be found.

The committee began pinning faith in the divining rod, believing it gave a strong indication of the flow of water at the spot the bore had been put down and practically all round it. Their confidence in success was based on the fact that on Wombat Hill (now known as Wombah Park), a short distance away, water was struck and flowed copiously from a depth of 70 feet.

By mid-1922 it was established that there were not enough funds for the required buildings, so the plans were modified to build a dining hall and kitchen with tents for sleeping accommodation so that children could use the facility at Christmas. It turned out that the Torquay home was not ready, so plans were changed a few months later and the decision was made to send children out at Christmas, as in previous years, to friends and relatives.

The end of the 1923 financial year showed a debt free organisation encouraging the orphanage committee to review the location of the Geelong orphanage. The current building needed repairs and the cement factory was expanding. The orphanage committee looked for the consent of the Torquay contributors to divert the Torquay fund to a new scheme.

Twelve months later the committee believed it unwise to proceed further with the building of the Torquay seaside home. The movement was launched in good faith in 1920, but unforeseen difficulties had arisen such as the absence of good water on the site and the weight of public opinion against the proposal because there was urgent need for

extensive remodelling of the Orphanage at Herne Hill or removing the orphanage to a new site. The Herne Hill site kitchen was obsolete and the cement dust from the factory was a nuisance.

Consequently, toward the end of 1924 the committee felt a new orphanage was more pressing and they could not ask the public to build a new orphanage as well as the seaside home, so the Torquay scheme was dropped, and money invested for a building fund for the new Geelong building.

In the mid-1920s the committee relocated the orphanage to a more appropriate building, the location of which had not yet been decided.

Visits to Torquay continued with the Automobile Club supporting the transport of children to the beach.

In 1934 the Geelong and Western District Protestant Orphanage moved to Belmont due to industrial pollution and building disrepair at Herne Hill. The new Orphanage in Belmont was designed to accommodate 85 boys and girls.

In 1955 the institution became an approved children's home under Victorian legislation and changed its name to Glastonbury Geelong Protestant Orphanage taking the name of the residence of one of its first patrons, James Austin.

The Torquay orphanage was never realised. The land operated as a caravan park for many years before and after the orphanage sold it under the new name Glastonbury Children's Home to Boorala Pty Ltd on 27 March 1981.

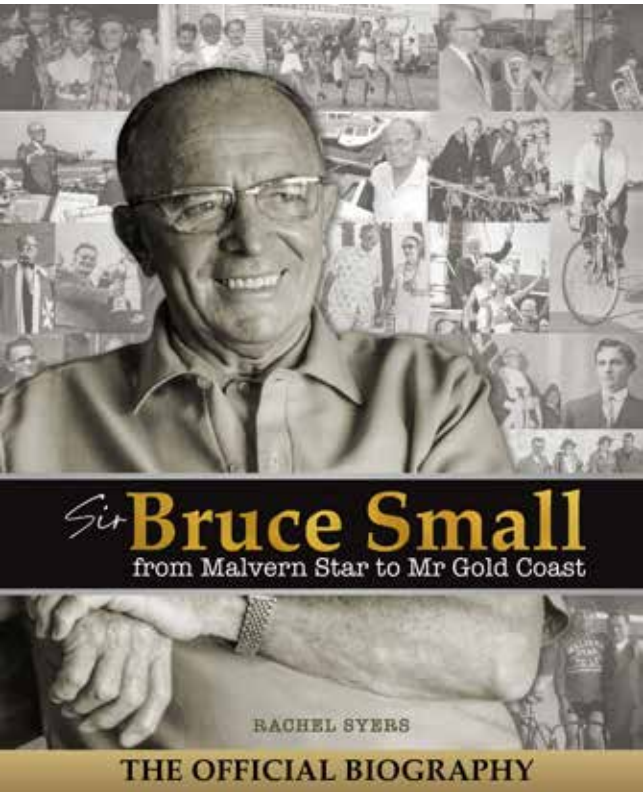


1934 Glastonbury Belmont <https://clan.org.au/>



Image Joe Sweeney collection

STORY RACHEL SYERS



The official biography 'Sir Bruce Small: From Malvern Star To Mr Gold Coast'.

The story behind modern-day Jan Juc has so many interesting parts, yet there is one layer, rich in history, that links the seaside suburb to a most spectacular story of a famous identity whose legacy is well remembered by many senior Australians.

For those who grew up last century riding their bicycles around the neighbourhood, you may have been among the hundreds of thousands - if not millions - of Aussie kids who owned a beloved Malvern Star bicycle throughout your childhood years. Your parents may have even had their own Malvern Stars for family rides on the weekends, or perhaps an uncle or cousin took it much further and pedalled on endurance rides every weekend or around local cycling tracks with the town's cycling club to win a championship medal or sash.

The connection between Malvern Star and the creation of Jan Juc is traced to one man named Sir Bruce Small, who turned the bicycle brand from one store in 1920 into a household name, becoming the largest bicycle manufacturer in the southern hemisphere with over 1000 retailers by the time he sold the company in 1958.

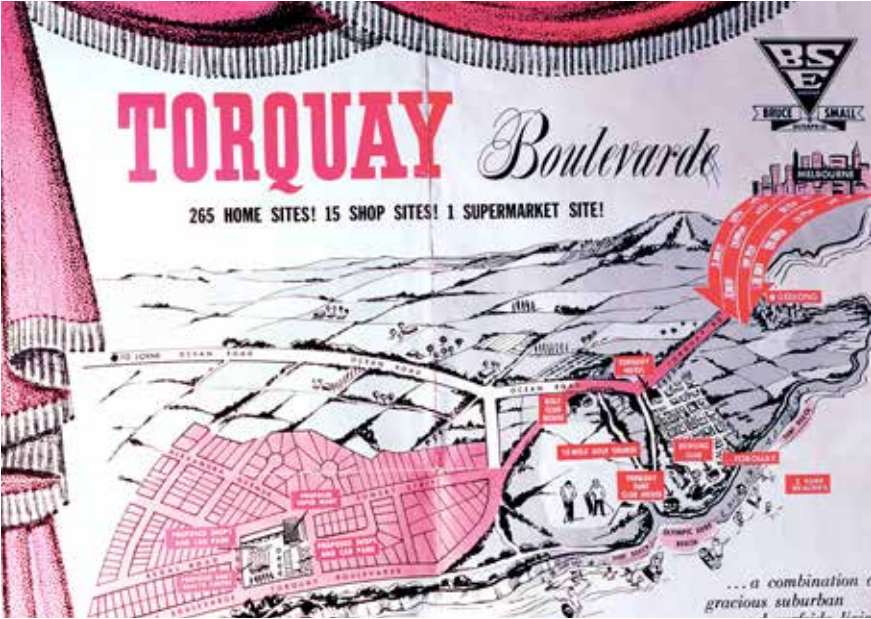
That's when Jan Juc enters the timeline of the entertaining life story of Sir Bruce who became heralded as a 'visionary' for his big ideas and groundbreaking developments that included designing the original suburb of Jan Juc which he initially marketed as Torquay Boulevard Estate.

By the time he passed away in 1980, Sir Bruce was famous around the country in his new role of 'Mr Gold Coast', a title he was very fond of, after dedicating 12 years as the Queensland tourist town's mayor and parliamentarian for the State seat of Surfers Paradise, not to mention developing much of the Gold Coast's luxury canal estates that are now worth billions in the current property market.

The extraordinary full story is about to be told for the first time in a new official biography titled 'Sir Bruce Small: From Malvern Star To Mr Gold Coast' by author Rachel Syers, due for national release into bookstores in late November/early December 2023.

The book took Rachel years to research and write, to ensure all facets of Sir Bruce Small's life of

triumphs and tribulations would be captured accurately. Her 30 years as a journalist for newspapers and magazines enabled her to dig deep into her research through the thousands of news articles over the years that recorded Bruce's every move. "His story begins as a boy born into hardship with Salvation Army parents, who raised Bruce and his siblings in Melbourne. Thanks to his moral upbringing and entrepreneurial skills, he learnt as a youngster to bring money into the family budget.



BOOK IS AVAILABLE THROUGH

www.sirbrucesmall.com.au and bookstores

SOFTCOVER: \$49.95,

HARDCOVER: \$69.95.



Bruce Small, left, watches on proudly as his Malvern Star champion cyclist Hubert 'Oppy' Opperman is treated as a hero by police officers as he wins yet again - the 1938 Hobart-Launceston return race.

"I was so thrilled to find Oppy's son Ian Opperman, then in his 70s, who was very supportive of the book being written and gave exclusive interviews about his memories of growing up with his father and his 'Uncle Bruce'," she says.

Before passing away in 2020, Ian Opperman wrote a personal 'Tribute' at the beginning of the biography which includes his vivid memories of the day he stood as a boy with his father and Bruce Small overlooking the land where Jan Juc would be developed.

"It's these heartfelt personal stories from Ian and the 100 people and organisations I interviewed for the book that really bring Sir Bruce Small's story to life through the 320 pages, along with more than 260 photographs. Many are from Bruce and Oppy's private photo albums kindly offered from their families, featuring stunning photos with historic significance through the years from when Bruce managed the first Australian team to ride in the Tour de France to his years touring the country with the Gold Coast bikini models to promote tourism in Surfers Paradise, which made him famous around the country all over again," says Rachel.

"There is so much in this book for so many people and so many towns and cities throughout Australia - he visited more than 45 towns on his tourism promotions, and toured so many regions in the era of Oppy and dozens of other cyclists he sponsored through his Malvern Star empire," says Rachel.

"There are around 60 cyclists from that golden era mentioned in the book, and around 100 cycling races and events, including some fantastic facts about other riders from the Torquay and Geelong area such as the great Russell Mockridge for whom Oppy had high praise."

Rachel interviewed key Torquay real estate identities Graham McCartney and Bryan Hayden for the biography, sharing their invaluable knowledge of the Jan Juc and Torquay development history from the real estate sector and their memories of meeting Bruce Small when he came to town to visit with Oppy, who lived in Geelong at the time. After his cycling fame, Oppy became Hubert Opperman the politician, representing the Federal seat of Corio from 1949 to 1967,

Sir Bruce thrived to become a legend in Australian sport and politics, appearing in thousands of news headlines for more than half a century," says Rachel.

This all-encompassing official biography lifts the curtain on a life of history-making accomplishments and national celebration through his mentoring of a young cyclist who became a legendary world champion and the most famous cycling icon in Australia - Hubert 'Oppy' Opperman. "Together they became manager and champion, touring the world, finding adoration in France, winning 'the Ashes' of cycling in the UK, bringing glory to Australia on Malvern Star bicycles and becoming soulmates for life along the way," says Rachel Syers.



Malvern Star owner Bruce Small guides his champion cyclist Hubert 'Oppy' Opperman through the crowd at the finish line of the great Fremantle To Sydney record ride in 1937. Oppy's wife Mavys is left, and Bruce's wife Lillian is right. Photographer: Samuel J Hood.

with many ties to the Geelong and Torquay area. He also invested in real estate, likely through his best friend Bruce's urging, and owned a block of units for a time, located on The Esplanade, Torquay.

"There is a great deal of history just in Torquay and Jan Juc alone that forms part of this great Australian story," says Rachel. Comments from Torquay's Museum Without Walls also help shed light on the interesting historical facts of how the Jan Juc township came about, thanks to Bruce Small's development vision.

"He may have been a bicycle manufacturer and famous sports manager and promoter, but he wore many hats," says Rachel. "Sir Bruce attained much credibility in the land development field, so Jan Juc Juc was part of that journey that led him to become President of the Urban Land Institute of Victoria, and in 1979 just before he died, Sir Bruce was awarded Australian of The Year by the Urban Land Institute of Australia for his town planning pursuits of excellence over the decades."

Rachel believes a huge variety of readers will enjoy the many untold details of the Sir Bruce Small story, especially seniors who lived in the era of Sir Bruce Small and the great Oppy, through to younger readers eager to learn the incredible moments in history relating to their parents, grandparents and many home towns and local associations that played a part in his famous journey.

"Reading this book will no doubt bring back wonderful memories for those who remember the entertaining era of Sir Bruce Small spruiking the beauty of the Gold Coast to put it on the world map as a global tourism destination, rode their own Malvern Stars, or heard their parents talk of the golden era of cycling when so many champions like Oppy set fantastic records of endurance."

For Jan Juc and Torquay residents in particular, it will also be an interesting talking point to discover Bruce Small's original vision for the area, including his company Bruce Small Enterprises marketing sections as a 'Farmlet Estate' with larger blocks, and selling blocks near the coastline for a now unfathomable £35 deposit!



**1963 Hubert Opperman at Torquay
Image: State Library Victoria**

**Gold Coast Mayor Bruce Small
with Meter Maid Veronica Cherry
in the late 1960s, Surfers Paradise.
Photographer: Ken Ball.**



'Sir Bruce Small: From Malvern Star To Mr Gold Coast' is available through www.sirbrucesmall.com.au and bookstores.
Softcover: \$49.95,
Hardcover: \$69.95.

Author Rachel Syers



HOUSES PAST & PRESENT

CHERYL BAULCH

1940 Bush Fire Survivor - The Kipsey



James Albert Gear and his brother William built the little house in Parker street completed the construction of the house in 1909. they had travelled from Ballarat regularly to build the house little by little. The house survived the fire that destroyed its neighbours. It was the only house left standing in the street.

After the death of James the house passed to his son Albert and the family continued to travel from Ballarat for their holidays. The family sold the house in 1965 to the Irwin family.

Full story and more photos at <https://www.torquayhistory.com/brief-history-of-torquay/streets-houses/historic-houses/kipsey/>



17 & 19 Anderson Street



After Charles Henry Swift purchased the land from the Crown in 1888, the property remained vacant until Robert Willey, who had bought it in 1892 and subdivided it into three allotments with Thomas Floyd Pescud, a Geelong Market Square butcher, purchased two allotments in December 1920. Thomas quickly set to work on developing his butcher shop business and home and engaged the father and son builders, Sam and Bert Howes, to build the project. David Berryman and Thomas Pescud manufactured the concrete blocks to construct the building. The business continued as a butcher shop until Thomas's death in 1958. It was then converted into a draper's shop for Mr Mack; a Miss Paine of Geelong operated the store. Pat Morgan's custom-built surfboard business moved into the little shop around 1966 before it evolved into a craft shop.

Current IGA Car Park



Ilife Anderson Gilbert Street house

The house was built by Geelong engine driver George Galbraith in 1901. Ilife Anderson, a Geelong carpenter/architect/artist, purchased the little cottage in 1923. The cottage was named Loch Lomond, possibly after the largest Scottish lake or the traditional Scottish song.

Living in Tasmania, Ilife and Mabel couldn't use the Torquay holiday house, so they sold the property in 1948 to the Oliver family of Ballarat, proprietors of 'Oliver Bootmakers'. Their good friends, the Stone family, lived next door to them in Ballarat. When the Olivers wanted to sell their little cottage two years later, George and Alice Stone purchased it.

The Stone family enjoyed the little house for many years. Travels to the beach from Ballarat were days well documented in movies and photos. As the family grew, so did the need for a bigger holiday house. In 1964, the 'new house' was built. Peter Stone, George's grandson, says that part of the old house was shifted to Fisherman's Beach some years later for the Yacht Club. Eventually the land was sold to Tuckerbag, changing the residential face of Gilbert Street.



Stone family Gilbert Street holiday home Image Peter Stone

18 The Esplanade

Behind the high fence on The Esplanade is a lovely early Torquay home built for Ada Dunn in 1926. Ada and her husband, John Dunn, became storekeepers after moving to Torquay and built the adjoining shop simultaneously.

The couple were determined to build a modern shop for Torquay and paid a record price to John Pettitt for the land on the corner of The Esplanade and Price Street.

John, originally a taxi driver from Colac, then Geelong, moved to Torquay in 1925.

Just before the shop's opening in 1926, it burned down with suspicion, pointing to Harry Harrison, who owned the store down the road known as Doc Hughes's store.

The town gathered all the resources they could, and soon the shop was rebuilt in time for the summer holidays.

John Henry Dunn sold the shop in 1928 to Charles Ball and moved back to Geelong, working in sales. The Ball family ran the store for twenty years before selling to Donald Hartwick in 1948.



Dunn's Store Image Barb Robins



Hartwick's Store Image Neil Bailly



THOMPSONS OR THOMPSON CREEK?

«CHERYL BAULCH»

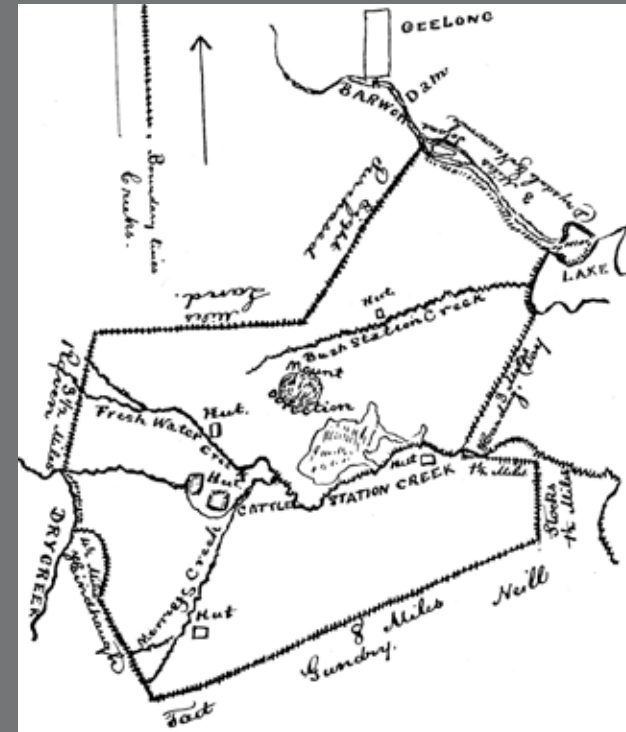
Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) oversees the naming and registration of roads, features and localities in Victoria by administering the Geographic Place Names Act 1998.

As we travel south along the Surf Coast Highway to Torquay, we cross a significant stream of water with the sign Thompsons Creek. This sign represents a combination of historical names. According to the Victorian Place Names Register, the historical term for the watercourse has been Thomsons Creek along with the alternative names of Salt Creek, more commonly known as Bream Creek. The registered name is Thompson Creek. The difference is all in the P and S.

In 2011, someone registered the name of Thompson Creek on the Vic Names Register

using an undisclosed website as the source and the authors' names but not their publication. Consequently, our Victorian maps spell the creek from its source or headwaters to the mouth of the creek at Breamlea/Point Impossible as Thompson Creek. However, if we look at the nineteenth-century Legislative Assembly list of eligible voters and land sales advertisements at the time, the spelling in these documents is Thomson's Creek. The naming probably reflected the name of the pastoral run on the creek and landholder Alexander Thomson.

Alexander Thomson (1798-1866), a Scottish



Mt Direction map in Croll, R.H. and Wettenhall, R.R. (1937) Dr. Alexander Thomson, a pioneer of Melbourne and founder of Geelong. Melbourne: Robertson & Mullens.



Thomson pastoral run map in Billis, R.V. and Kenyon, A.S. (1974) Pastoral pioneers of Port Phillip. Melbourne: Stockland Press.

medical practitioner and Australian pastoralist, arrived in Geelong in 1836 after several voyages to Australia as a surgeon in a convict transport. First, he arrived at Hobart Town in 1831 with his wife and daughter, Jane, before heading to Port Phillip in 1836, settling first in Melbourne before moving to the Geelong district, where he chose land at Kardinia located at the falls on the Barwon River. He became one of the leaders of early pastoral society.

Locally, Alexander invested in pastoral runs at Indented Heads (1836) and then River Station (1838) with William Armstrong. River Station became part of the Geelong Township when it was proclaimed.

Bream Creek, also known as Thomson's Cattle Station, west of Mt Duneed and located on the creek's north bank, was established by Dr Alexander Thomson in 1840, with William Armstrong joining him in 1841. The run was sold to Andrew McKinley in 1850.

Over time, maps have had variations of the Thomson spelling and some dividing the creek so that the start of the creek was known as Thomsons Creek, and the mouth was always referred to as Bream Creek. The township at the mouth of the creek was also known as Bream Creek until it changed its name to Breamlea in the mid-last century. It was not uncommon for the spelling of locations or land holdings to vary depending on who drew up the maps. A classic example is that of Robert Zealley. On some maps over the last two centuries, the spelling of his land holdings is either Zeally or Zealley on that same map.

We know that Alexander Thomson didn't own the creek, but when and why does the spelling include the P? Only the Geographic Names Victoria can give us the answer and we are waiting to hear back from them.

TORQUAY

HORSE RACING

Beside the seaside.

CHERYL BAULCH



Image Alywn Merritt

In the early days of houses being built in Torquay, the local horse race meeting was an important event in the holiday calendar for a short time.

By the time Spring Creek (Torquay) land sales had been successful, the first Melbourne Cup, Flemington's most famous race, had been run in 1861. Three years later, the Victoria Racing Club (VRC) was established by merging the Victoria Turf Club and the Victoria Jockey Club. In 1871, it took control over all racing in Victoria.

The VRC managed the registration of horses, owners' colours, and the licensing of jockeys, trainers and bookmakers. Until 1914, when paid stewards were engaged, VRC committee members officiated on race days.

Geelong jeweller Edward Fischer, a foundation member of the Spring Creek Progress Association (later to become Torquay Improvement Association), earned himself a reputation as a skilled craftsman. His workshop was responsible for most of Victoria's



1899 Orbost Cup finish line, similar to Torquay

gold and silver sporting trophies of the late 19th century. From 1873 to 1890, he produced gold cups for the Geelong Racing Club, Tasmanian Racing Club, and Hay Racing Club (NSW). In 1876, Edward made the first Australian-made Melbourne Cup trophy.

A year after the Spring Creek Progress Association was formed in 1889, Jan Juc and local sports organisations got together to finalise their attempts to create a racing club at Spring Creek. The area had many people involved in horse racing, and they were keen to have a course near home. Access to good stewards and a fair inducement to horse owners was planned in order to bring out some fairly good fields at the first New Year's Day meeting. It was hoped that the races, set in a pictorial landscape with a rolling ocean, as well as fishing and boating, would attract visitors to the popular holiday destination.

The race's timing aligned with the Follett's Coffee Palace opening as a licensed premises. A few months earlier, the court declined Rosina Follett's request for a temporary license to sell liquor at her new hotel; however, a permit was awarded to take effect on 1 January 1891.

In the early days, races started with the horses simply lining up across the track. The starter yelled 'Go!' or dropped a flag to begin the race. Horses were often pushed out of the line, producing unfair starts and prompting the development of technology that helped jockeys control their horses on the start line.

1873	1876	1891	1904
FISCHER GOLD CUP	FIRST AUS MADE MELB CUP	TORQUAY RACES	PEOPLE RACES



Edward Fischer

By the end of December 1890, the program for the racing day had been prepared. It included pedestrian and equestrian events.

The initial race meeting was expected to provide an exciting day and add to the attractions at Spring Creek., although the prizemoney offered for the different events did not exceed the value of 30 sovereigns. At the time, future meetings were anticipated to be more exciting.

August Baensch, licensee of the Racecourse Hotel, Marshalltown, applied for a temporary license for a publican's booth at the Spring Creek races on New Year's Day. The application was refused on two grounds: first, that the trustees of the reserve where the races were to be held had not been consulted, and second, because the Pioneer Palace Hotel (Mr Follett's) at Spring Creek had just been granted a license to start on New Year's Day.

The community rallied to prepare the course, which is today the foreshore camping area. The start and finish line were directly in front of the Palace Hotel.

Finally, the day arrived with a pleasant breeze that tempered the sun's heat but was not strong enough to raise dust. The Coffee Palace opened for the first time as a licensed establishment. Spring Creek was alive and busy with crowds of people that found their way into favourite nooks among the cliffs and shady spots in the ti-trees and on the creek's banks where a few of the rod and line fishermen may not have been as successful as they hoped.

At one o'clock, with all good vantage points of the races taken, and the people of 'canvas town' interrupting their games of croquet or cricket to command a view of the start and finish line from their tents, the races began.

The race meeting was conducted under the management of eight stewards and the secretary. Andrew White officiated as the starter, and Messers William N Richardson and William Gundry were clerk of the course and judge, respectively. The events on the day were reported in the Geelong Advertiser as:

MAIDEN RACE – From the eleven that started, Eric got away with the lead and kept it until half round when he gave way to *Lucy*, who came in about two lengths ahead, with *Markie* a good third.

PONY RACE – The field got away on even terms, with *Creeping Jane* being the first to get to the front, a position she maintained until coming up the straight when *Stella* challenged her and won by half-neck.

DISTRICT PONY RACE – Seven started with William Bubb's *Gipsy* winning by a length from *Alexis*.

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY – J. Mitchell's *Stella* and Mann and Herd's *Eric* were the only starters. The race was a dead heat. A decider run gave the race to *Stella*.

HANDICAP TROT – Thirteen started, H Harding's *Marquin* gradually forging ahead and increasing his distance from A. Young's *Mermaid* with M. Gorry's *Bay Charlie* a good third when reaching the winning post.

HANDICAP MILE AND A HALF – A dispute over horsemanship arose over the race but ended in a wager of £5 laid by Yates on *Considine* and Lamond on *Good News*. From the start, it was clear that *Considine*, ridden by Culph, would win the race. *Good News*, ridden by his owner ran off the course before coming into the straight.

CONSOLATION STAKES – *Good News* raced again and won by half a head from T. Brown's *Poor Me*.

The following year, in November 1892, a meeting was held in the Coffee Palace to arrange what was planned to become the annual race meeting at the creek on New Year's Day. A committee was selected with Messers F. Ellis, A.F. Grossman, H. Harding, H. Young, J. and C. Follett and G. Lamond, with A. G. White hon. Secretary. Andrew White JP was appointed judge, and C. Hoffman was the starter. The 1893 New Year's Day program of events was successful for the estimated 1500 present.

Torquay changed its name in 1892 and, on New Year's Day 1894, the first meeting of the Torquay Racing Club was held in front of 3000 spectators. The course was half a mile (800m) round. It was decided that a new course on the opposite side of the creek would be a better location for the course. The club obtained a ten-year lease for the course from Andrew White with the option of purchase. The course planned was a measured mile (1.6km), with turns well-rounded and the whole course in full view of the spectators. Eight events were drawn up with £75 to be distributed in prizes. To support the location change, a pontoon bridge was placed over the creek to enable people to access the course easily. Frank Shepherd of the Melbourne Club was the successful tenderer for the publican's booth and fruit stall, based on his experience in catering at country shows and other race meetings.

The 1895 race meeting was deemed successful but not without incident. During the Barwon Stakes (ponies), the stewards were suspicious of the running of third-placed brown mare *Alice*. After due consideration, they disqualified E. Hooper, W. Pyers and the mare for three months, a decision which the VRC supported.

After paying all expenses, the Torquay club had made a handsome surplus, so it was decided to donate three guineas to the Torquay Improvement Association (TIA).

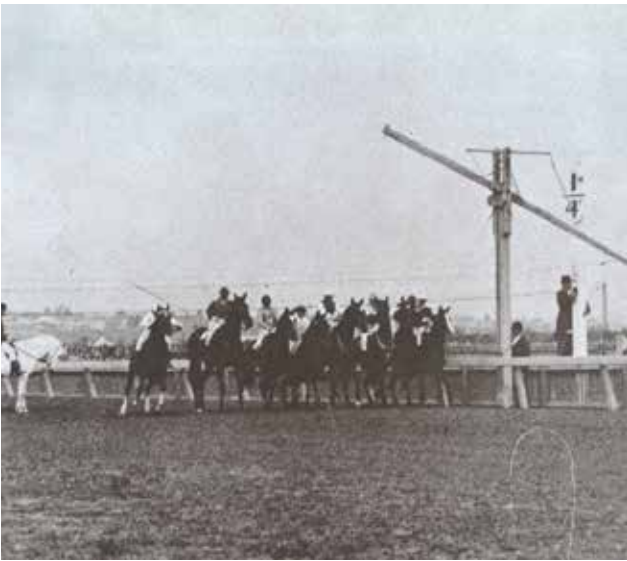
The president, Andrew White, intimated that he would fence the course in.

During the club's annual general meeting in November 1896, the racecourse was reported to be in excellent order. Senior members of the club felt that the junior members should be given more responsibility to reduce their workload. It was also suggested that the race meeting be held on Boxing Day instead of New Year's Day to minimise the clash with other race meetings at Flemington, Lal Lal and Terang. A motion to change the date was successfully passed and approved by the VRC.

The 1896 race meeting attracted many visitors, creating a road lined with vehicles entering the town. However, the event didn't meet the senior committee members' expectations, and the date was reverted to New Year's Day for 1898.

The races continued to be a well-attended event on the local calendar despite other celebrations attracting visitors to Torquay. Still, cracks started to show in the planning when, in 1898, at the Portarlington race meeting, racegoers expressed dissatisfaction with the Torquay Racing Club for not having paid out all the winners and being slow to recover the outstanding stakes.

By 1904, the Torquay Races on New Year's Day had become more of a 'people' sports day with a program of events comprising cycling, horse and foot racing. Shortly after, horses were not seen on the calendar of events for New Year's Day. The White family eventually donated the land to the Torquay Golf Club, which had formed in 1921 and used the land that once formed the race track.



The starter of the 1898 Victoria Racing Club Derby at Flemington raises the rope barrier to start the race.



**Cricket in front of the Palace Hotel, inside the race track
Image Alywn Merritt**

CEMETERY TALES

TALES FROM BELLBRAE CEMETERY

GWEN THRELFALL

THOMAS CALDWELL



Thomas Cornelius Caldwell, son of James and Elizabeth (née Quinn) Caldwell, was born about 1827. He married Eleanor Jane, third daughter of Edward and Mary (née Harrison) Cole on 29 March 1854.

Thomas was a Barrabool Shire councillor serving from 1884 until 1890. He was appointed a member of the school board of advice for the Coast Riding of the Barrabool Shire and was a trustee of the Wesleyan Methodist church at Jan Juc (Bellbrae) in 1895.

At the jubilee celebrations of the Jan Juc (Bellbrae) school, held in August 1911, Thomas Caldwell was given three cheers as the only surviving founder of the school. At this time, he was living at Germantown (Grovedale).

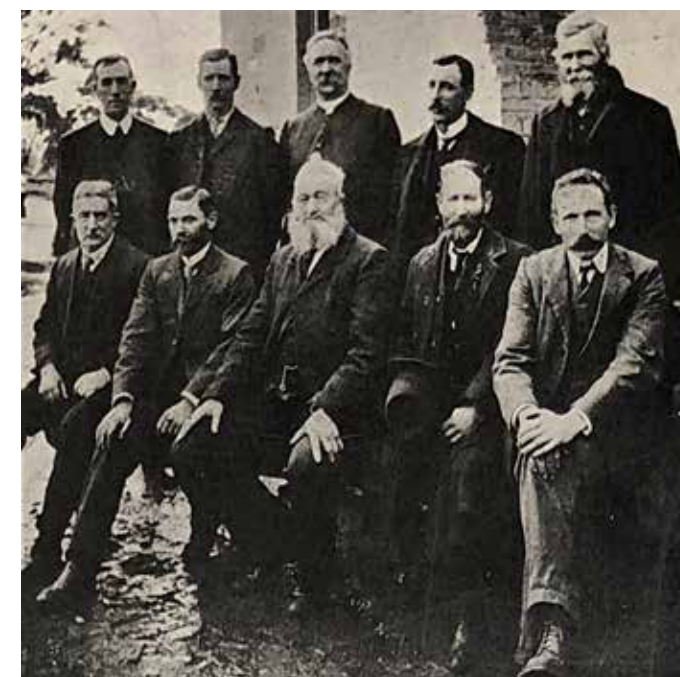
He died on 5 November 1917 at the age of 90 and was buried at Bellbrae Cemetery. He left bequests to his sister-in-law, Mrs A Bird and his nephews John Thomas Whitten and Robert

Caldwell. The interest and income arising from his estate was to provide for the maintenance of Percy Natcott. Eleanor died at Mount Duneed at the age of 73 and was buried at the Bellbrae Cemetery on 14 February, 1904.

At the time of his death Thomas Caldwell owned 2 acres and 29 perches in Francis Street, Belmont, north of Winter Street.



At the time of his death Thomas Caldwell owned 2 acres and 29 perches in Francis Street, Belmont, north of Winter Street.

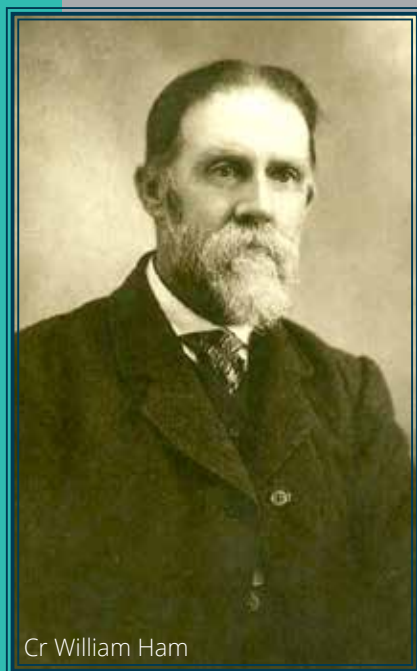


Bellbrae School Jubilee (1861-1911) celebration committee and speakers:
Back Row: Messers Henderson, M Hunter, Rev. H.J. Cocks, J.F. Farrer, MLA, Mr Bright
Front Row: Inspector Rowe, Cr. G. Imer, Mr Caldwell, Cr J.S. Hunt, Mr Cunningham

WILLIAM HAM

Contributed by Gwen Threlfall
Mt. Duneed History Group

<https://mdpa.weebly.com/blog>



Cr William Ham

contributed by Barbara Urquhart

SOUTH BARWON COUNCILLOR

William, son of Samuel and Suzannah Ham, was born on 26 April 1843 at Bideford in Devon, England. He married Sarah Zealley who came to Australia on the *Queen of the South* in 1864. Sarah came to Australia when the wife of her brother, George Zealley, died. She travelled to look after his house and children. During this time, she met William Ham and married him in 1870 when George remarried. She was born in Tintinhull in Somerset.

William and Sarah had the following children born at Geelong:

Hedley William de Robert — born on 13 November 1871, married Fanny Louisa Hunt in 1898, died on 24 June 1959 aged 87 years at Malvern East.

Myra Grace — born in 1875, married Frederick James Yarra in 1915, died in 1953 at Ballarat, buried in the Methodist section of the Highton Cemetery.

Ada Emma — born in 1877, married Francis McKim in 1905, died in 1918, aged 41 years, at Geelong, buried in the Methodist section of the Highton Cemetery.

Samuel Francis — born in 1879 at Waurin Ponds, married Elizabeth Ann McHarry in 1914, died in 1953 aged 73 years at Geelong.

Maud Zealley — born in 1881 at Geelong, married John Andrew Charles in 1912, died on 5 August 1966 at Ballarat, cremated at Ballarat New Cemetery - ashes

collected.

Ernest William — born in 1883 at Geelong, married Maria McHarry in 1911, married Flora McKenzie in 1925, died in 1963 at Benalla aged 80 years, buried in the Church of England section of the Benalla Cemetery.

William farmed land originally owned by John McPherson at Waurin Ponds. He was elected to the School Board of Advice for the Moriac riding in 1885. He was a Barrabool Shire councillor, serving from 1895 until 1916, including four terms as President. He wrote a history of the shire's first fifty years. His son, Samuel Francis was elected as a councillor in 1935, serving until 1948.

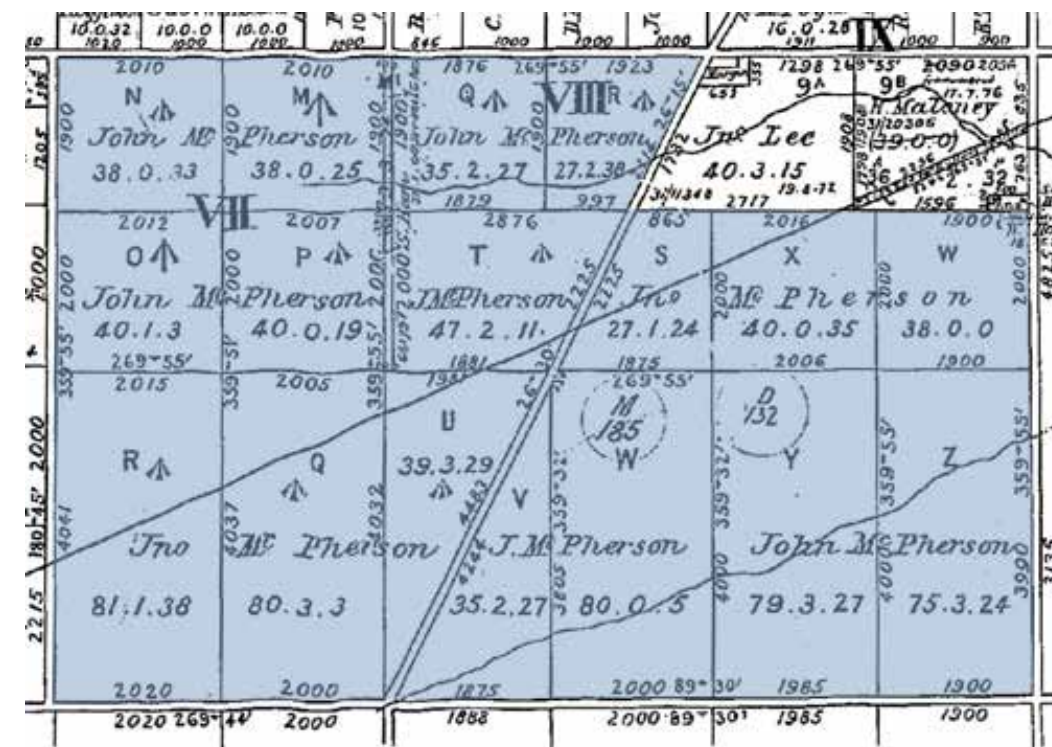
Sarah died on 2 January 1906 aged 63 years at Geelong and was buried in the Methodist section of the Highton Cemetery. She was a beneficiary under the will of Robert Zealley, late of Mount Duneed who died on 22 January 1870. She left an estate valued at £2080 to William. William died in 1932, aged 89 years, and was buried with her.

Obituary

MR. WILLIAM HAM.

The death occurred at a private hospital at Geelong on Monday of Mr. William Ham, aged 89 years. Mr. Ham was a colonist of 82 years, most of which time was spent in the Geelong district. For many years he lived at Waurin Ponds, and was a member of the Barrabool Shire Council. He was a foundation member of the Geelong and Cressy Trading Company, and was chairman of directors for many years. He was also president of the agricultural society for several years. Deceased, whose wife pre-deceased him, leaves a grown family of three sons and three daughters. Mr. H. W. Ham, of Jerilderie, is a son, and his many friends will regret to hear of his bereavement.

from Jerilderie Herald and Urana Advertiser 14 July 1932



Land farmed by William Ham in Waurin Ponds fronting McPhersons, Ghaseepoore and Reservoir Roads

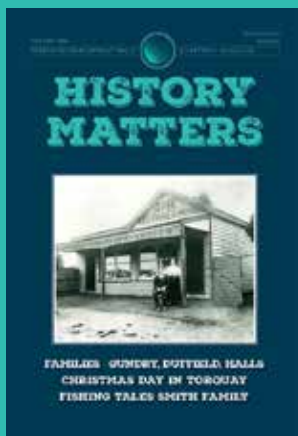


Torquay Museum Without Walls

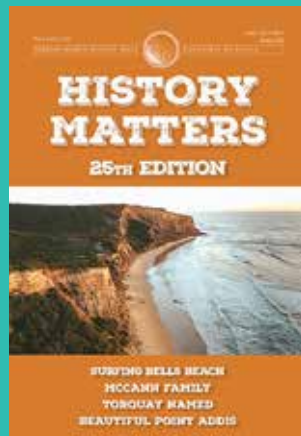
WWW.TORQUAYHISTORY.COM

Where The Past Meets The Present

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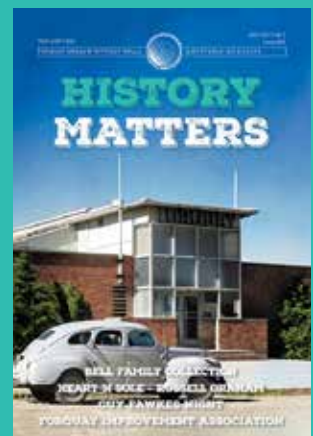
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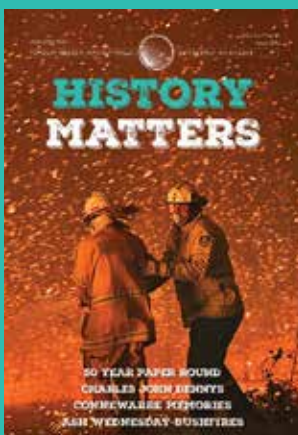
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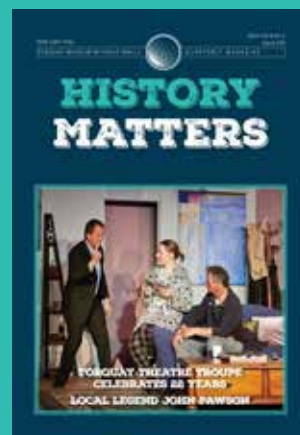
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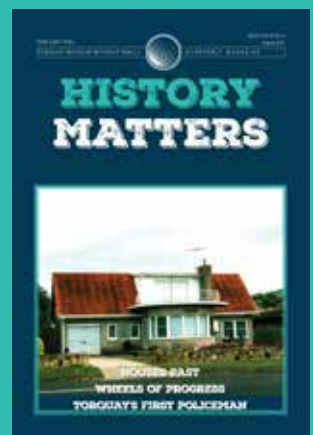
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