



The Wandong History Group Inc. Quarterly Newsletter FREE with your What 's News

# WHAT'S OLD



Issue 23 - December 2022

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## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Well its been a busy time for the group, we have celebrated History Month with two events, first the opening of the renovated St Michaels church. It was great to see so many locals come along to see what has been achieved. We are very proud of our new space and have been busy setting things up and organising where things should go. The Living Heritage Grant that we obtained for the renovation plus a substantial amount from St Patricks Parish enabled the church to be stabilised and the complete rebuilding of sacristy means that part of the church is no longer likely to collapse.

Our second history month event was the Robertson family reunion, we had family members from afar as Queensland and others making the trip from Briagolong, it was a great day for the family, many had never met most of the relatives that came along. We took the family on a short walk showing them some of the towns structures built by Robert Affleck Robertson culminating at St Michaels Church where we had a display of photographs from Robertsons Wandong days for the family to see the influence of their ancestors on the town. We also launched our latest book, From Scotland to the Antipodes—Building a dynasty which is a history of the Robertson family. Details of all of our books is on the last page of the newsletter.

With those events over we have been able to concentrate on adding information to our website, the site is now live and we look forward to feedback from the community on how they feel the site works and how helpful the information is contained on it. A grant from FRR made the website possible and with the expert help of our web-builders Paridigm we think we have a site that is easy to negotiate and looks fantastic, we are very proud of it. We also have some work to do on the container shed to make it look more attractive, unfortunately the weather has been against us but we are hoping to get it painted and prettied up soon.

The History Group in conjunction with the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group have the Christmas toy raffle running again, tickets are being sold at the IGA sausage sizzles and will be for sale at the Christmas Carols on the 18th of December when the raffle will be drawn. There are three great prizes to be won and we have to thank the IGA for their kind donation of a prize.

Remembrance day was attended by a small but enthusiastic crowd, the History Group arranges this day and ANZAC Day for locals to attend and would like to thank Peter Dore and Dennis Krake for running the service.

The History Group is currently exploring possibilities of a way to mark the anniversary of the Hume and Hovell expedition and their association with Wandong. The Community Group have for some time been negotiating with Council on replacement statues for the wooden ones removed from the Lions park. We are exploring the possibility of have statues made for the park in the image of these explorers. Wishing everybody a safe and happy Christmas from everyone at the Wandong History Group

**Karen Christensen**

## Re-Opening of St Michaels Church



## Robertson Family Reunion





# Remembrance Day



  
*From all of us to all of you  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

## HISTORY MATTERS

In this column we will try to keep abreast of the things that affect our town and its historical links.

The Wandong History Group's charter is to protect and preserve the history of our area. As we are within the Mitchell Shire, we need to be informed of happenings within the shire that may affect us.

It was distressing to hear that the Seymour Historical Society suffered a huge amount of damage during the recent flooding of Seymour. Much of their collection has been damaged and we hope that they can return to their building and get back to normal as quickly as possible. Seymour like many other river towns has been badly affected and our thoughts go to all of those that have suffered during this difficult time.

We recently had a visit from Janice Herriot (nee Thomas) and her sisters, the Thomas family ran the general store for many years and its great that the sisters are coming back to Wandong for their Christmas get together. They were keen to have a look at the church as their father was a great supporter of St Michaels. Janice also came with donations of memorabilia from the store and we are pleased to add it to our collection and would like to thank the Thomas family for the kind donation.

Anyone wanting to come to the church just for a look or for research is always welcome, just let us know and one of our members will be keen to assist.

Don't forget our website is now live, a lot of work has been put in by Lynne on adding content to the site we are excited to finally have this up and running and hopefully the information we have loaded so far will be interesting. Anyone with any feedback on the site is most welcome to contact us as this is our first venture into the cyber world and we are looking to add and improve all the time. At this stage we have added a list of all our service men and women to the site, we will gradually add links to their service records where available which should make it easier for those wishing to look up the records of their relatives. Most records are now on line but not all so if your relatives records don't appear its probably because they have not been released by the NAA. Records can be requested to be released however this is becoming costly, one has to pay for the record to be released early and in some cases there is still information that does not get released if it is of a sensitive nature. Frustrating sometimes for the researcher but done to protect families of loved ones so the rules must be respected.

## BOOK SALES

There Was a Soldier—Karen Christensen

(A history of Wandong at War) \$20

From Lightwood Flat to the Forest—Lynne Dore

(A history of our schools) \$20

Ghosts Gold and a White Elephant— Ron Pickett \$50

From Scotland to the Antipodes

Building a Dynasty \$50

### WANDONG IN PICTURES

Book (1-5) \$7 each or \$25 the set.

Wandong War Memorial

Wandong Seasoning Works

Wandong in Business,

Wandong Timber Mills and Tramlines

Wandong Buildings

**All books available at the Wandong Newsagent or contact the History Group.**

### DONATIONS

The Wandong History Group accepts donations of any Wandong/ Heathcote Junction, Clonbinane related historical artefacts. All items will be kept and displayed sharing our past and preserving it for the future generations.

### 2022/2023 COMMITTEE

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| President/Secretary: | Karen Christensen            |
| Vice President:      | David Moran                  |
| Treasurer:           | Sandra Moran                 |
| Membership Secretary | Di Vidal                     |
| Newsletter:          | Karen Christensen & Di Vidal |

### DISCLAIMER

The Wandong History Group Inc, disclaims responsibility for any statements or opinions expressed by authors of materials published in this newsletter.

### VALE—LAWRIE PICKETT

I'm deeply saddened to learn the passing of one of our most generous members Lawrie Pickett. Deepest sympathy to his wife Naida and family and his sister Aunty Kath Christensen. Our thoughts are with you all at this time.

Di Vidal - The Wandong History Group