



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

# WHAT'S OLD

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## FROM THE EDITOR

We are never too old to learn. Members of the History Group were recently taken on a tour of the Clonbinane goldfields by SXG (Southern Cross Gold) who have purchased a large piece of land in the vicinity of the old original goldmines. It was a great insight into the old mining methods, we got to see the remnants of the Golden Dyke mine, unfortunately the poppet head was lost in the 2009 fires. Sometimes we just accept things without question and in the case of the Golden Dyke it has never occurred to me to wonder about the name. The old goldminers were canny smart people as they were able to pinpoint the areas that the most gold could be won by looking at the lay of the land, the type of rock and a bit of good luck.

So the dyke in the case of the Golden Dyke means a **dike** or **dyke**, a sheet of rock that is formed in a fracture of a pre-existing rock body. Dikes can be either magmatic or sedimentary in origin. Magmatic dikes form when magma flows into a crack then solidifies as a sheet intrusion, either cutting across layers of rock or through a contiguous mass of rock.

It was explained to us that the Clonbinane field is a particularly large Dyke and it is within that formation that the gold is found. So for the old time miners they did extremely well to find as much gold as they did as even though the Clonbinane dyke is large it would still have been easy to miss the gold.

Gold from Clonbinane was bought to Wandong for processing at the cyanide plant. We have little information about this other than it existed somewhere around the east of the northbound freeway ramp. We only have one picture of a large vat about to be transported to Wandong



After the tour of the goldfields we had a quick look around the old Clonbinane town site, an area waiting to be properly investigated and mapped. There are many old gold mine shafts within Mt Disappointment as well and many of these are just open holes in the ground so one needs to be very careful if exploring these areas. And just a reminder it is illegal to remove or disturb any artefacts and heavy penalties apply.

Wishing everyone a happy autumn,  
Stay safe -Karen

## CLONBINANE - SUNDAY CREEK

There is a mining revival in the Sunday Creek district. It is usually a quiet and unfrequented spot. Now it is being searched in all directions for the precious metal.

Parties are daily arriving from the metropolis and elsewhere decked out in all the gorgeous panoply of the early Victorian digger, but whether or not their gorgeous appearance is to be accepted as a knowledge of mining is a very moot point-perhaps. If so, let us so hope and wish them success.

For the last 37 years mining has been carried in this district with relatively good results. Hanz the Swede has been credited with making thousands. No doubt he did very well indeed. He kept very secluded and led people to believe that he was keeping body and soul together and nothing more. Others did well and profited by it - selected land and settled down to live by the soil. More followed the glorious uncertainty of mining with persistency and sacrificed the fortune they already had in their anxiety to secure more. The country is dyke formation and requires experience to understand where to begin and where to knock off. The peculiarity in all dyke formation is more strongly marked at Sunday Creek than in other districts I have visited, in as much as when leaving the alluvial and getting into the quartz, a combination of minerals is found and which at times is rather difficult to separate.

The Apollo Mine, now owned by Mr R. Beeston, is on the dyke, also the Christina, the former on the eastern and the latter on the western side. The gentleman named has made many futile attempts with the Apollo in his endeavours to separate the gold from the antimony, and has at enormous outlay to himself, erect one of the finest separation machines.

In the event of him not being able to treat the ore there, it is his intention to start the Apollo and convey the ore to Costerfield for treatment. Had we a few more men with the same amount Sunday Creek would compare favourably with many of the gold districts of the colony and prove a good investment with very little outlay.

It is one of the best watered plains I know of, and prospectors have no difficulty whatever in obtaining sufficient water for all purposes from Sunday Creek and its branches. In fact, water is a drawback as well as an advantage, and it is owing to too much water that the Christina mine is now idle. Here is a good mine and where it elsewhere would be looked upon as a fortune to its owner.

Why, I have seen some of the finest specimens taken from leaders at a depth of 40 feet, it has been my lot to look upon, narrow certainly, but rich enough to warrant improvement at greater depths. This mine has been idle for two years or more—want of capital, the bursting of the land boom and sundry other causes. It has been forfeited and re-pegged several times, but as yet nothing has been done in compliance with the labour covenants. It is hard to understand why so many extensions should be granted, and if applicants for forfeiture are bona fide, why should they not be compelled to make some effort to open up the mine, for it not where does the necessity for a change arise?

Since writing the above I hear of an application for the forfeiture of the Apollo lease, and I fail to see where justice would come in by doing so. I am quite convinced the present owner would be glad to meet the applicant and give him every assistance in his power and thus save unnecessary expense. At a future time, I shall have more to say of the district, and in the meantime, I trust some of our speculators, who are seeking for good investment, will visit the place and see for themselves as to its being worth a trial.

***Trevor Vienet***

# CLONBINANE MINES



Christina Gold Mine



Golden Dyke Mine



Clonbinane Mine



Poppet Legs

## BACK TO WANDONG LUNCHEON

Sunday March 17th 2024 — 12.30pm  
MAGPIE AND STUMP HOTEL  
3313 Epping Kilmore Road Wandong

**GUEST SPEAKER-** Trevor Viénet

RSVP: March 10th - Di Vidal  
Email: dyevidal@hotmail.com or Mob: 0438 811318

### ANZAC Day

Don't forget the most important day of the year. ANZAC Day. Our service will start at 12.00pm followed by a gold coin donation sausage sizzle. This event gets bigger every year and it's a special day in the History Groups calendar. Anyone that is free to help set up and pack down after the event would be most welcome. We are a small group and this is a large event to prepare and make ready. So many hands make light work. If you like to lay a wreath please let us know and we can include you on the wreath laying list.

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### MEMORIAM

We are saddened to announce the passing of another Wandong icon in Des Ryan. Des has lived the majority of his life farming in Wandong, In later years he moved to Bannockburn Des attended all the "Back to Wandong Luncheons" annually. He was a great contributor with his knowledge of the Wandong History to many of the books written by the Wandong History Group. Our deepest sympathies to all the family. R.I.P Des from all of us at the Wandong History Group  
Vale Des.

## 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.

## 2023/2024 COMMITTEE

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

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