



BULLETIN OF THE HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

No. 1, March 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Oh my! After years of discussing meeting dates and times and trialling various options, who would have believed that we would be having to cancel meetings completely. Yet here we are.

In view of the COVID-19 crisis and the understandable inability of any community group to meet person to person until it is over, I have started this small bulletin as a means of continuing to keep in touch with all of you, our valued members. The committee will keep functioning via emails and make any decisions for the Society that are urgently needed. Secretary Neville [secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com] will keep you informed of any general information of interest, but we will all miss the barrage of events and choices we, until recently, had in our lives. If you have any tit-bit of information let Neville know.

Jan Readford will continue to send out Newsletters so please send items of interest and articles to her to include, and the historical articles we write for the *Hawkesbury Gazette* we will still collect and hopefully they will continue to be able to be published. So keep writing, please. Just send items for newsletter publication to Jan Readford [jan54@bigpond.com] and newspaper articles to myself [j.barkley-jack@hotmail.com.au] as usual.

Please remember also that we now have a growing web site to keep you in touch, thanks to the hard work of Dick Gillard. You can access it via www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org. and even purchase yourself some historical reading material from our wonderful stock with which Heather keeps the on-line Society's Book Shop supplied. Our Facebook page is also available thanks to the efforts of Peta Sharpley.

Lastly please let one of the Committee know if personally you are facing any problem, not just one relating to history, because of the new community restrictions- we would be glad to help you. Take good care of yourselves and stay well,

Jan Barkley-Jack.



Bunya trees in Wilberforce Park. Did you know that the Bunya Pine tree is native to south-eastern Queensland? It is a living fossil, part of a species which grew across the world in the Jurassic period.

FIRSTS IN THE HAWKESBURY...

One of the first persons in the Hawkesbury to own a phonogram was the Reverend Sydney Fielding, rector of St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor from 1893-1904. Unable to attend the church's Juvenile Industrial Exhibition and Floral Fete in 1898, he sent a message to his congregation recorded on a cylinder mailed to the church, to be played at the fete. Like all new technology the playing was not without a hitch, and the first attempt gave indistinct sound. Later in the afternoon when the cylinder was tried again, the townsfolk were rewarded by hearing 'Mr Fielding's characteristic humorous passages, and kind and sympathetic message'.



A SMALL RESEARCH PROJECT FOR THOSE LOOKING TO KEEP BUSY AT HOME:

There is very little information about some of the early buildings that have been transferred to the Australiana Pioneer Village at Wilberforce from their original sites over the years. Any of your members looking for a small project to undertake on their computer may like to help with this. Offers to do some historical research on the nla website TROVE NEWSPAPERS on an individual building would be welcomed. There are enough historic buildings to give around 17 people a task. **FROM GRAHAM AND CAROL EDDS, consultants completing a Conservation Management Plan for Australiana Pioneer Village. Please contact us at: gacredds@pnc.com.au**

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I would particularly like articles in the next couple of weeks that relate to our ANZACs at this time of year for publication in HHS's April Newsletter. Any other topic you may have written about would also be very acceptable. Thank you, Jan Readford.

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Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 19 October, 1901.

WORDS:

frothy blatherskite

To find the context of
this amazing phrase see

TROVE NEWSPAPERS
WEBSITE *Windsor and
Richmond Gazette,*
26 October 1901, p. 2.