

W I N T E R 2 0 1 5

the Memory Bank

Quarterly Newsletter of the Millthorpe & District Historical Society

The President Writes

Australian Inventions that Changed the World

Australians are among the most outstanding innovators on the planet, leading the world in achievements across many fields such as agriculture, domestic, sport, the arts, medicine, transport and exploration.

Every day throughout the world over a billion people rely heavily on Australian inventions. Every time they drive a car, fly, prepare a meal, use a laptop or smartphone or spend some time in hospital there is a good chance they are relying on Australian inventions or discoveries.

Despite its short history since European settlement and relatively small population, Australia has generated a remarkable number of important inventions in the last 200 years. In the areas of invention, the sciences and medical research (for those that like to do comparisons then you could compare and contrast Australia's inventive output with say the inventive output of the state of Florida in the USA or Portugal in Europe both of which have roughly the same cumulative population over that period.) Australia has achieved at a level well above what would be expected for a country of its population.

Did you know that Australians were actually the first in the world to :-

- Build a successful wheat harvesting machine,
- Make a feature length movie film, (Story of the Kelly Gang)
- Build a refrigeration system,
- Cross the Pacific Ocean in an aeroplane
- Build the self-constructing tower crane,
- Put wine in cardboard casks,
- Explore both the Arctic and Antarctic by air,
- Design and build a bridge like The Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Invent a portable pacemaker,
- Manufacture and market the one-piece bathing suit,
- Develop the wire-guided missile,
- Before Arthur Conan Doyle, Australia's own Mary Fortune was the first female author of detective fiction and one of the most prolific crime writers of the nineteenth century
- The glowing fire of Australian opals would have probably remained unknown to the world gem market if it hadn't been for Tullie C. Wollaston.
- Kay Cottee was the first woman to complete a single-handed non-stop circumnavigation of the world by sea,
- Long before the successes of Mark Webber there was Sir Jack Brabham, the first person to win a Formula One World Championship in a car that he designed himself.

Many more Australian inventions will be featured in our Trevor Pascoe Pavilion, to be opened by Dick Smith on 28th November 2015.

Peter Whiley





Then and Now: 33-35 Victoria Street

Built in 1901 and occupied by Mr F. W. Hockey, 33 - 35 Victoria Street has been home to a number of businesses through the years. Originally a grand old brick building it had a verandah running along the front over the footpath. This was ordered to be demolished by Council in the 1960s along with many others in the village. At the rear of the building two open verandahs were covered in probably at the same time. It housed during its lifetime, a chemist, dentist, hairdresser, billiard room, residence, real estate business, beautician and is currently home to a ladies' boutique and coffee shop/delicatessen. Hockey's Chemist Shop, a much larger version than the original on Park Street, was situated on the ground floor at the eastern end of the building. This is currently occupied by the Millthorpe Providore and has original shelving on the rear wall. Next door down the hill, in the same building was the Hairdressing Salon and is now a Ladies Dress shop. Behind the hairdressers, a doorway led through to a dental surgery which could also be accessed via the small door on the eastern side where it is reputed that Hockey himself pulled teeth and made wooden dentures, sometimes carving said articles while sitting on the high bluestone kerb outside the front of the building. Beyond that room and accessed via the rear of the building a large multi-level room (pictured) housed a full sized billiard table - this was removed by The Johnson family and is still in private use in Orange.

During recent restoration original ground floor floorboards while being re-laid revealed small bluestone foundations thought to be from a much smaller building built in an earlier period. Tragically the original internal staircase was removed and replaced by an open plan design. The house which had previously been painted a pale green was covered in a product known as Granosite, a cementitious concoction applied by a handspun applicator to give a rough rendered look. This has been deteriorating in some areas to the state of crumbling off. Repainting is taking place.

While excavating trenches for updating sewerage provisions recently, the current owners discovered a large brick pit thought to be a water tank with thousands of discarded medicine bottles from the early 1900s buried there. These included some from America as well as England. Also found in the diggings; an old brick/concrete path at very much lower level than the current ground level and a fragment of broken tile which was the inspiration for the new paint colour scheme of a rich, warm, deep red. Other finds include a cast iron dough cutting tool and various large cast iron hooks. The well is still in use and now stores rainwater run-off from the roof.



Our family have been there since 1993. When we moved in there was a paddock between the Old Bluestone Stables attached to the Commercial Hotel. A black horse was kept there, and running in a small paddock behind that, an old Polish man had an allotment where he used to grow veggies and the rest of the land was just grass.

Aida Pottinger



Save The Date !

With the Trevor Pascoe Pavilion now at lock-up stage and the barricades around the building site removed the race is on to have everything ready for the official opening to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Golden Memories Museum.

We are very pleased to announce that our new pavilion, showcasing Australian inventions, is to be opened by Dick Smith AO. He was so eager to be involved that he asked if it was possible for us to reschedule our initial date so that he would be in the country and able to attend. With little hesitation we agreed to this so the big day is now **Saturday, 28th November**.

For this important celebration we will host an Open Day at the museum with free entry for all, although of course we will have our donation box at the ready along with membership forms in the hope of attracting new members. The official opening is to take place at 11 a.m. so around that time all buildings will be closed but the gates will remain

open giving all our members the opportunity to be part of the proceedings. Along with Dick Smith the official party will hopefully include our local state MP and museum patron, Paul Toole, Federal member John Cobb, Blayney Mayor Scott Ferguson, Orange Mayor John Davis and a representative of the Pascoe family. All those who have generously donated to the project will receive a special invitation to the event, particularly all members of the Newcrest Mining company committee.

Special guests will also be invited to a BBQ lunch following the proceedings but of course our wonderful catering committee will swing into action as always and offer BBQ lunch & refreshments at a reasonable price to everyone on the day. We are also planning to have a small exhibition on the history of GMM in our designated temporary exhibition space in the new pavilion with a DVD of images from the past for sale.

Anniversary Dinner

No celebration is complete without the cutting of a cake so all members will be invited to the 50th Anniversary dinner on **Friday, 20th November**. This is in fact the actual day of our first opening and we are hosting a meal to be held in the new Old Exhibition shed that evening. At this time we are planning to be able to offer the meal, to be catered by an outside group, at \$40 per head. We hope to see as many members as possible on the night.



The Pascoes – A Family Saga. Commemorating a History of the Pascoes and connected families, Allen, Eddy, Grenfell, Hocking & Uren.

As part of our official opening ceremony we are pleased to announce the launch of Trevor Pascoe's family history book. Judy Pascoe and her family have made a dedicated effort to complete the history that Trevor was near finishing before his untimely death. The book is now with a publisher and the family would like to have pre-orders so that they can more accurately decide on the number to be printed. A flyer will be available soon so that you can indicate your interest and a payment system will be set up for the \$45 cost + postage if necessary. The book runs to around 500 pages with B&W as well as some colour photographs. Please contact the museum for further information. At this stage we need orders before **31st August** for the print run.

THE SAMPLER

The Furphy Water Cart from the Millthorpe Museum Collection

A **furphy** is Australian slang for a rumour, or an erroneous or improbable story, but usually claimed to be absolute fact. Furphies are usually heard first or secondhand from reputable sources and, until discounted, widely believed. The word is derived



from water carts designed and made by a company established by John Furphy: **J. Furphy & Sons** of Shepparton, Victoria. The steel and cast iron tanks were first made in the 1880s and were used on farms and by stock agents. Many Furphy water carts were used to take water to Australian Army personnel during World War I in Australia, Europe and the Middle East. The carts, with "J. Furphy & Sons" written on their tanks, became popular as gathering places where soldiers could exchange gossip, rumours and fanciful tales—much like today's water cooler discussion.

[From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)