

DUIDGEEANA

(From the Nyungar language - Duidgee, a place of plenty)

The Newsletter of the Toodyay Historical Society Inc. Issue No. 43 (Winter 2016)

Sunday 28 August 2016 EVENT

EXCURSION THROUGH PELHAM RESERVE

Member Jenny Edgecombe will be leading us on a guided walk through Pelham Reserve's fascinating history taking in the rifle range, army locations, and the old reservoir. Wildflowers should be in abundance!

Meet at Pelham Lookout at 10am.

Members of the Northam & Districts Historical Society have been invited to join us.

We will end the excursion at Donegan's Cottage for refreshments.

Please bring a plate to share.

EXCURSION TO SYRED'S COTTAGE, Bejoording, Sunday, 31 July - we had a good turn up for our winter 'spring-clean' of this wonderful heritage listed homestead. The place has great potential as a tourist attraction, but its isolated location and the need to be managed makes it a difficult proposition for the Shire. In the meantime, general maintenance is undertaken until a future use can be found for it. The following is a brief history.

Otherwise known as Bejoording Homestead, this farming complex is part of the only known example in WA of what was to be an agricultural workers' village based on the English model. The homestead, and remnants of the commonage, is all that remains of this grand scheme.

After securing the land in 1859, William Syred built a mud batt house and blacksmith's shop. Descendant Peter Syred owned the cottage in more recent years, during which various groups watched over the cottage, which has remained basically unchanged.

In 1974 the Shire of Toodyay and the local Bejoording community took over the management and restoration of Syred's Cottage as an historic site. Other buildings were moved to the location to form a farming museum complex. The stables were relocated to the site in 1977 from the Waters' family property in Coondle. At one stage the cottage was used by the Confederate Historical Society.

Right: Syred's Cottage in the 1950s-60s. (Photo: Rica Erickson, THS collection)

In 2000, the reserve was amended to enable public access

to the site. The Shire of Toodyay was recently gifted the property, after a period of leasing. The Society has often conducted busy bees at the site, the last being 2014.



JUMPERDING EXCURSION- Sunday, 26 June 2016

This well-attended excursion to Jumperding (also known as Jimperding), down Cobbler Pool Road, was led by Society archivist Jenny Edgecombe, who prepared a thoroughly researched and fascinating history of the area which includes a Cemetery.

Hosted by Viv Street, whose property surrounds the Cemetery, Jenny presented a series of great local stories over morning tea in the winter sunshine. While the excursion was to inspect remnants of the Jumperding settlement - including remaining posts of the old Jumperding School footbridge and another home-grown bridge, the Seventh Day Adventist Cemetery and a Markey cottage, there is also a gold connection.

According to the late local historian Wally Chitty, a gold nugget was found in the area by Elvia and Martha Chitty in 1895 but they lost it, so no one took their story seriously. It wasn't until the 1930s

after another gold nugget was found in the same area that a gold rush began with about 300 men panning for alluvial gold. The story is told in Wally's book *Toodyay, the Good Old Days*.

Local Kathy Chitty told us about how she dropped a crate of 30 dozen eggs into the river, whilst crossing the jumble of felled logs that was the local crossing in the days of her youth.

Left: Bob clutching one of the remnants of the old bridge from which Kath (far left) had dropped her eggs. (Photo: Joe Edgecombe, 2016)



JUNE MEETING'S 'UNFEATURED' SPEAKER had members rolling in the aisles ...see ToodyaYesterday for Milton's story.

JULY'S FEATURE SPEAKER Beth Frayne shared her recent research into the State's Public Education Endowment Trust, which owned and leased a number of lots in the area surrounded by Duke, Henry, Clinton and Fiennes Streets in Toodyay. This land, formerly part of the Convict Hiring Depot, is now the site of former Police buildings, several older private homes, Shire accommodation and a more recent subdivision. The Trust also owned the Old Newcastle Gaol Museum block from 1913 to 1961. In 1961, the Trustees agreed to the sale of the Reserve to the Shire of Toodyay, for the Museum development.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THS annual fund-raiser raffle, 1-2 July 2016, outside Toodyay IGA

We achieved a very satisfying result (raffle earnings \$517.75) on two very cold days, so our thanks go to all those members who helped and, of course, contributed. The winners were (for the record): Scratchies: 1st Prize (\$50 worth): Orange ticket D076: Lindy; 2nd Prize (\$30 worth): Blue ticket D052: Joy; 3rd Prize (\$20 worth): Orange ticket D085: Robyn.

The handmade Duidgee Dappit stuffed rabbit (donated by Beth): Green ticket D002: Cody Jones. We sold some books (\$95) and collected some renewals (much appreciated).

Right: Colin and Jenny well rugged up, outside IGA. (Photo: B. Frayne, 2016)



Toodyay Inclusive Program, 14 July - Peter's mosaics in the Memorial Hall



Under THS Committee member Peter Robinson's guidance, a great crowd of 48 kids and adult helpers produced another three beautiful mosaics: the Australian national flag, a cat and an elephant! Peter was assisted by Jo Jump and others. The July Sessions were co-ordinated locally by Madeline Ross, the Shire's new Community Development Administration Officer. Well done, Peter!

Left: The kids with their fine works, in Federation Square, beside the Memorial Hall. (Photo: Courtesy, Madeline Ross, Shire of Toodyay, 2016)

New member: A big welcome to Jenny Tola, of Toodyay.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The day the judges arrived in town - Linda Rooney

Judging Visit for Keep Australia Beautiful Western Australia (KABWA)'s Tidy Towns Awards: Toodyay was a Finalist in the Heritage and Culture Category.

Our Judges Linley Brown and Michelle Rosair arrived just prior to their 2pm start time, at the new Information Bay, warmly greeted by Committee members Linda Rooney, Beth Frayne, Greg Warburton and Roma Heath. The new information bay and entry statement were viewed and discussed prior to Peter Robinson arriving in the Community "Cheeky" Bus, resplendent in 'Top hat and Tails.'

The judges and several of the Committee were transported through the centre of town with Beth expertly pointing out features of our heritage buildings. The group arrived at the Old Police stables building and were greeted by additional Tidy Towns' members Vicki Warburton (in period costume), Faye Baxter and Bridget Leggett. All were provided with refreshments in the courtroom display room. The courtroom then became a scene for a short re-enactment of the judging and sentencing of "Thomas Shaw" starring Peter Robinson as Judge, Allen Clabaugh as Prosecuting Sergeant and Milton Baxter as the comical miscreant Thomas Shaw. All were kitted out in heritage costume and

did a splendid job. (See report below by Allen). This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation of the impressive cultural activities of the Toodyay community.

Left: Viewing Linda's excellent PowerPoint presentation in 'The Courtroom' in the Old Stables. L-R: Bridget, Roma, and Judges Michelle and Linley. (Photo: M. Eberle, 2016)

Margie Eberle, our Museum Curator, then led a tour of the new 1907 Lock-up for both men and



women (a rare sight as this is not currently open to the public), the Wicklow Shearing Shed currently being renovated and the Old Newcastle Gaol. While viewing the cells "Thomas Shaw" was found lying defiantly under his "wagga". An explanation of the wagga was offered and a viewing of the new display on early settler women completed the tour.

The group gathered at the front of the Gaol where Greg Warburton, dressed in convict attire, delivered a splendid rendition of his "Toodyay Tidy Towns" poem. The Judges were then delivered back to their car via Pelham Reserve Lookout for a view over the town. Prior to departure one of the judges commented that in her five years of judging she had never been presented with a skit or a poem.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony in September. Toodyay Tidy Towns' members will attend; let's hope we have done enough to secure the award for this category that we have not yet won.

Right: Greg presenting his TT poem, outside the Old Gaol Museum. (Photo: B. Frayne, 2016)



The Trial of Thomas Shaw Convict No. 4745 - Allen Clabaugh

It was grey and cold and dreary the morning we put Milton Baxter in jail.

It's probably not well-known that not only is Milton an experienced actor, having portrayed the role of Thomas Shaw, Convict 4745, in an earlier, highly acclaimed stage production, but he's also a creative artist, playwright, producer, and director. Milton contacted his casting director, Peter Robinson, to scrounge up a crew for the forthcoming stage production "Re-enactment Trial of a Newcastle Miscreant" to be performed at the New Old Newcastle Gaol Courtroom in early June.

Due to popular demand, Milton would reprise the role of Thomas Shaw. Peter Robinson would be Magistrate William John Clifton in the production, and Peter was instructed to cast a handsome, highly skilled, highly experienced actor as the Prosecuting Sergeant Ebenezer Nitram (that's 'Martin' spelled backwards). Peter was unable to find anyone fitting the required attributes and so rang me (Allen Clabaugh) to see if I could fill in. I said 'yes'. And please don't call me Ebenezer.

So here we were, several weeks later, at the New Old Newcastle Gaol Court Room in early June, awaiting the arrival of several members of the Tidy Towns Adjudicators, the unwitting audience for our inaugural (and final) performance. Peter Robinson was resplendent in long coat and high hat, looking very magisterial, and Milton was suitably attired in early colonial dress, looking very prisonieral. Milton was barefoot and I queried him as to his comfort or lack of. He replied that it wasn't that cold and his feet were okay, thank you.

Right: The 'trial' in progress in the Stables Courtroom: L-R Magistrate Peter Robinson, Prosecuting Sergeant Allen Clabaugh and the 'accused': Milton Baxter, observed by Robyn Taylor and convict Greg Warburton. (Photo: B. Frayne, 2016)



We were pleased and surprised to note the arrival of Greg Warburton, outfitted in prison garb complete with ball and chain. I wondered if Greg was there to provide advice to Milton's alter ego, Thomas Shaw Convict 4745, regarding life behind bars or the lack thereof. The advice wouldn't have been necessary, for Shaw had already been twice-convicted in Northallerton, Yorkshire, for housebreaking, the second conviction in 1856 earning him an all-expenses-paid trip to Australia courtesy of Her Majesty. It was now 1866 and Shaw had already been a jailbird and was well-acquainted with the regimen.

With the arrival of the Tidy Towns Adjudicators we were able to begin the trial proceedings. There was some difficulty in convincing the courtroom gallery to rise for the entrance of the Magistrate but with some pantomiming on my part we were able to proceed. Thomas Shaw, it was alleged, had broken into a house and stolen several items. And then the sordid details emerged, including a before-lover's-tryst-with-the-milkmaid banquet of stolen goods and post-act *in flagrante delicto* confrontation. A noticeable gasp arose from the gallery as this evidence was presented. Fortunately, none of the ladies fainted.

After due consideration, Magistrate Clifton (aka Peter Robinson) found the prisoner guilty as charged and remanded him (the prisoner) into custody to await transport to the Fremantle Convict Establishment. The Prosecuting Sergeant (that would be me) was directed to escort the prisoner to the Newcastle lock up. Milton and I walked back to the Newcastle lockup and I said to him, "Here we are, you headed to jail and barefoot. Your feet must be freezing."

Milton replied, with that wry grin of his, "It's okay. You get used to it." I began to wonder if he meant jail or bare feet.

Millard's Pool orchard revitalisation project picnic, 8 May

The Society joined Toodyay Friends of the River, Greening Australia and the Shire of Toodyay to



launch a Biodiversity Revegetation Project for the land alongside the Bilya Walk Track in the Glencoe Estate, Northam-Toodyay Road. Chris Ferreira from The Forever Project spoke about the Reveg Project. Robyn Taylor gave an overview of local heritage citrus orchards. Beth and Robyn commenced a pictorial record of the 30 mainly citrus trees to be rejuvenated. Robyn's expert contacts Caroline Grant and John Viska have identified the citrus rootstock as possibly 'citronelle'. An old windmill (ca 1915), still standing, was probably used to pump water up from the river.

Left: Laraine and Robyn watching Chris Ferreira carefully prune the first lemon tree. (Photo: B. Frayne, 2016)

Exhibition opening at the Newcastle Gaol Museum - Museum Curator Margie Eberle 2 May-10 October: Not Just Barefoot and Pregnant - But Much, Much More'.

This exhibition uncovers some lesser-known histories of women from Toodyay. Topics include establishing schools, forming associations (CWA), retailing foods & beverages, the migrant experience, entertaining for profit, and playing sport.



Left & right:
Members
admiring the
exhibition at
the opening.
(Photos: M.
Eberle,
2016)

FROM THE ARCHIVIST - Jenny Edgecombe

Early 20th century Toodyay families

Lately our enquiries have centred on families who lived in Toodyay during the early 20th century. The memories have disappeared fast, especially when the family only stayed for a decade or two.

We tracked down 'Oxley Farm' to a block at Coondle West, where the McDonalds lived briefly around 1906, and where one of their little children was tragically killed in a shotgun accident. Morgan W. Ford owned that block for a long period. I understand Beth has started a Morgan Ford chronology, as he seems to have been a significant figure in Toodyay.

We weren't so successful in finding out about Grace Gardiner, who died from burns sustained in a grass fire at her home in 1907. Trove and our local sources will have to be supplemented by a visit to the State Records Office.

I was delighted to meet a connection of Vic Riseley, Toodyay's most famous journalist, as I had researched him thoroughly for *The Life and Times of Wally Chitty*. It appears that the lady's great-grandmother, Amy Sophia Riseley, was Vic Riseley's aunt. Amy married Willie Rogers at Newcastle in 1892. They had four children. Following Willie's death, Amy married Frank Banfield of Northam.

We also discovered a new relative in our patron Len Leeder's family tree. An eastern states researcher asked about his forebear, James Henry Thackrah, a Ticket of Leave man who came to Toodyay in 1851, married Mary Ann Williams at Glenavon in 1856 and later became a tailor in Northam. One of their daughters was the first wife of Fred Green, who lived in Burnside Cottage and drove the first school bus in Toodyay. Len's grandmother was the daughter of Fred Green and Louisa Ann Thackrah!

Mangle Tangle Untangled

Success at last! We now know that the donor of the Donegan's Cottage mangle was Mrs. Ruth Neil.



Her husband worked as a gardener at the Residential College in Northam for many years. Ruth acquired the mangle when the college laundry was upgraded to industrial washing machines.

The mangle was moved to the Historical Society by Neville Tanner and Bruce Paterson in 2003, the day before the owners departed to live in Tasmania. The donor has since returned to WA to live, following the death of her husband. She was able to identify the mangle by a large crack in one roller (see photograph left).

The residential college provided accommodation for country high school students. Its history is fascinating. A girls' hostel was established in 1938 by the CWA western division in a rented house on the Old York Rd., named Adamson House, in honour of Mary Adamson, the regional President.

Right: The original Adamson House in Old York Rd., Northam.

In 1941, the Anglican Church opened a St. Christopher's boys' hostel (also known as 'The Hut') in Inkpen St. near the site of today's Northam Residential College.

Adamson House was taken over from the CWA by the Country High School Hostels Authority in 1960. In 1966 the current buildings were erected in Inkpen St. The girls' hostel was



moved from the original house in Old York Rd. to the new buildings, which were extended over time and later also named Adamson House.



A single Warden/Administrator was appointed for Adamson House and St Christopher's in 1983. In 1987, both hostels became co-educational. In 1990 Adamson House was closed due to falling numbers and all students were housed at St. Christopher's. In 2002 the entire college relocated back to Adamson House.

Left: Buildings from St. Christopher's, Inkpen St., Northam, 2016.

Today, the original Adamson House on Old York Rd. is a B&B. The land and buildings of the former St. Christopher's hostel were sold early this year. Moves are now under way to see if any appropriate Northam

organisations would be interested in providing a permanent home for the mangle.

FUTURE EVENTS

Next meeting: Wednesday 17 August 2016, 7pm. Feature Speaker: Robyn's trip to the Burrup Peninsula with FARA - Friends of Australian Rock Art.

August 28 Sunday excursion: Pelham Reserve tour, to be led by Jenny; 10am at Pelham Lookout.

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TOODYAYESTERDAY

The subject of gold is endlessly fascinating and alluring. Toodyay has its own gold stories, some factual and this one in particular may or may not have a connection with Toodyay. It is about our favourite character Moondyne Joe, and the fictional setting of the following story could well be here as anywhere else.

The following has been extracted from Milton's presentation at our June meeting and we want to share it with those who couldn't attend. It is written in Milton's inimical style while the theatrical manner in which it was delivered has to be imagined.

SEARCHING FOR MOONDYNE

Milton A. Baxter

Earlier this year I was searching for an article in one of my reference publications (a listing of Australian films) when, as they say, a film title jumped out at me, "MOONDYNE", it screamed. I had never heard of such a film, the two Toodyay related films I do know of are "SHAME" and "BLACK MEDICINE". So with great expectations I read on, and the preamble commenced:-

'Another Lincoln-Cass film, was ready for screening at the Royal Pictures, and Hoyts St. Georges Hall, on the first of September [wait for it] 1913.' And the film was, "MOONDYNE --- or, The Secret of the Mountain of Gold". You can probably guess my reaction. The first thing to do was to sit down and write a letter to the National Film & Sound Archive in Canberra, seeking an arrangement to buy or lease a copy of the film. Just imagine the interest we could create, a MOONDYNE FESTIVAL with a MOONDYNE film.

My proposal to the Archive was: they supply a copy of the film, and we promote and screen it, the proceeds being split 50-50, and knowing that the Archive can always use extra funding, that proposal should go over well. Once the letter was to my satisfaction, I made a special trip into town and posted it off.

Two weeks went by, and finally a reply letter arrived. I carefully lifted the seal, and read the very encouraging first passage: "We received your unusual and interesting letter, and the proposal you have submitted is very tempting, [then the second passage] the only problem is, the film no longer exists, etc etc," ----- what a letdown!

The MOONDYNE FESTIVAL came and went, and rather successfully for our Society, and all the time the idea remained with me, then I decided to try another tack. [This was an unsuccessful email enquiry of the Library of Congress (US national archives), but no luck there. So, Milton returned his attention to the Australian archive.]

Not to be deterred, I rang the National Film & Sound Archive in Canberra, courtesy of their free phone number, and spoke with a service reference officer, known to me, and explained my dilemma. Sean then suggested to me that at the very least he could do was come up with a consolation prize for us, if we invest \$45, he can provide me with photocopies of the original 21-page film script, copies of the four existing photographic stills of the actual filming in progress, and copies of several play bills, from Melbourne newspapers.

This was indeed a great compromise, so posted off a cheque straight away, and waited the mandatory couple of weeks, until the eagerly awaited packet arrived in our Post Office letter box. The temptation to open it was great, but I managed to resist until arriving home, and I was not let down this time. The large envelope revealed a wonderful swag of documents, and they were really, to my way of thinking, well worth the effort and the outlay.

A Story of a Man's Suffering and his Great Nobility.

"MOONDYNE"

The History of Australian Picture Productions.



"The Assigned Servant."



"The Capture of 'Moondyne'."

THE HATRED THAT REVEALS.

A Call to the Hearts of all True Lovers of Romance.

EQUIVALENT TO THE BEST EVER PRODUCED!

MOONDYNE

A Story so strong, so thrilling, so true, that it will entrance all beholders, and on its wave of emotion compel the absolute interest of all.

Performed by an Absolutely **STAR CAST**, INCLUDING:

Moondyne - - -	GEORGE BRYANT
Isaac Bowman - - -	ROY REDGRAVE
Te Mana Roa - - -	GODFREY CASS

Supported by Real Australian Aborigines and Expert Horsemen, and a Host of Auxiliaries.

IMPORTANT TO THE STORY!

In the year 1848, in view of many rumors conveyed by Native Runners, from the Settlers and Ticket-of-Leave men, that gold was to be discovered in large quantities in the far back country, the following Proclamation was issued -

V. R.

£5,000 REWARD.

The above Reward will be paid for the discovery of the Mine from which the Natives of the Vasse obtain their Gold. A Free Pardon will be given to the discoverer, should he be of the Bond Class. No Reward will be given, nor terms made, with Absconders from the Prisons or Road-Parties.

By Order: F. B. HAMPTON, Governor.

Official Residence, Perth, 24th June, 1848.

THE NATIVE ABORIGINES as pictured by the Author are pure mythical, at the same time the adapter traced all the best known authorities to enable him to present the Work with reasonable authenticity.

An Entirely Australian Enterprise.

LINCOLN-CASS FILMS Pty Ltd

Address: THE STUDIO, COLE STREET, ELSTERNWICK.

Managing Director	H. DEAN STEWART
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Popular Prices. Box Plan as Usual.

The cast of the film were: George Bryant as convict Joe Moondyne; Roy Redgrave played the part of Isaac Bowman (the baddie of the film), an ex-convict who became a corrupt trooper; and Godfrey Cass, who was made up as the Aboriginal chief Te Mana Roa. (I think the script writer has his Dominions mixed up there.)

Left: Newspaper playbill, from the *Williamstown Chronicle*, 4 Oct. 1913, p. 6 (Source: Trove (National Library of Australia), nla.news-page644240) [We don't want to show too much of this stuff before next year's Moondyne Festival!]

W.J. Lincoln, part owner of the Lincoln-Cass Film Company, developed his script from the novel by John Boyle O'Reilly.

O'Reilly was an Irish Fenian convict (no. 9843), who successfully escaped from Bunbury WA, in March 1869, on the American whaler "Gazelle". [THS has a copy of this novel in its library.] Lincoln's film script seems, by the standards of today, quite primitive, but probably that was what the theatre goers of 1913 period expected, and received.

I believe we need to have copies of all possible "Moondyne" information available, published or not, so our expert archivist can ascertain its standing, regarding whether it is fact or fiction, and is clearly indicated how it stands. A recent example of this policy is the purchase by the Society of a "Moondyne" novel by Mark Greenwood.