



Leongatha & District HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mechanics' Institute, McCartin St., Leongatha

Preserving our Heritage

Newsletter Volume 19 Number 3, August 2022

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The Society rooms are open Thursdays and Fridays between 12 & 4pm

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Latest News

The Magic Lantern Show We will be holding a fund-raising event in the form of a Magic Lantern Show on Saturday 13 August. Our own Professor Mugatroyd (aka John Hyett) will be presenting the show using his extensive collection of magic lantern slides and heritage projector. Magic lantern shows were a major form of entertainment before films. The show will be held in meeting room one at the Memorial Hall Leongatha commencing at 7.30 pm. Supper will follow the show. Admission \$10. Please let Lyn know if you or your friends wish attend 0400249048.

Street stall on 27 August

We plan to have a street stall in front of the Mechanics' Institute on Saturday 27 August to coincide with the closure of Bair St at the time of the Daffodil Festival. The stall will start at 9 am. We will be selling local history books, second hand books, jams and preserves, baked goods and plants. We will take orders for photographs and land title documents. Deb will be running a raffle with the prize being a \$100 voucher from A W Smith and Son. All help will be appreciated. Plans for the day will be discussed at the meeting on 10 August.

Keeping the Historical Society rooms open

In order to open the Historical Society to the public, we need help staffing the facility. Please give us an hour or two of your time in order to have the Mechanics' Institute open on Thursdays and Fridays. We are holding Learn to Catalogue sessions on Fridays. Thank you to new member Graham Wightman for his help with cataloguing.

The history of businesses in the Leongatha Central Business District

Kellie Smith is researching the uses made of each title plot in the Leongatha town centre from 1889.

This project involves researching the historical documents available for the land allotments, shops, and businesses that have existed in the Leongatha town centre since settlement in 1889.

Kellie has been mapping the distribution of businesses over time based on her comprehensive research using photographs, land titles, business directories and personal memories. Thank you to those who have supported the project so far. We are seeking more photographs of shops and businesses. If anyone has these please let the Society have digital copies or bring original photos to the Society rooms to be copied.

Here is an example of a former use of a site. Two bakers used the same building at different times



Steinfort's bakery McCartin St. in the 1930s. Unfortunately, the other buildings are not shown. The second photo is **McNamara's Bakery** in the same building slightly later. The Steinfort photo was provided by Megan Walsh.

Tuddy's Hot Bread McCartin St in what became Thorntons. Bob Tuddenham had been a baker and pastrycook since his teens in Footscray and Sorrento. He purchased his first bakery in Nyora and then moved to Meeniyah. Bob then took on the management of Home Pride Bakery when it was established in Leongatha. After 16 years he decided he wanted to bake again and established Tuddy's Hot Bread in McCartin St. His last bakery was in Foster. Bob also built the Village Bakers Restaurant behind his McCartin St bakery. His daughter Jenny managed the restaurant for three years. That restaurant was taken over by Dennis Lim and it became a Chinese/ Malaysian restaurant.

Early stores in the pioneering days of Leongatha by Lyn Skillern

In the early days of settlement, produce stores were established to provide supplies for the new communities. Three merchants set up stores in early Leongatha to assist the settlers establish farms, homes and businesses.

In the first edition of *The Great Southern Star* on 13 August 1890, there were advertisements for 15 businesses. One was for E and J Hayes who advertised that they had stocks of 'Mauritius sugars, crystal sugars, brown and white sugars in hand' plus 'Old Jamaica Rum, bottle and bulk' ... flour, oats, pollard and chaff' and much more.

Edmund Hayes and his nephew John constructed the store on the corner of Hughes and Roughead St in 1890. The bricks used were made at a brickworks located on the present bowling green site. This store is the oldest commercial building in the town. It was run as a produce store. The Hayes family came from Bendigo to Leongatha in 1890 purchasing the corner block from the Shanahans who ran a store there. During the next fifteen years different members of the family ran the store until it was sold to H Caffin in 1905. This building was unique in early Leongatha because it was made of bricks. Other stores and homes were timber and many were destroyed by fire. In 1890 there was no Catholic church and the first Catholic mass in Leongatha was held in Hayes' store.

Another store to advertise was the general merchants run by Robert Long. This store was established on the corner of Long and Jeffrey Streets in 1890. Robert sold groceries, ironmongery and drapery. He also purchased onions and potatoes from local growers. This building was used as a store until it was sold to the O'Neill family who ran it as a coffee palace. Around 1916 the coffee palace was destroyed by fire. Long St was named in Robert's honour.



Long's Store

George Roughead, another early businessman, established his produce store on part of the site of Smith's Home hardware. When Gippsland was opening up in the 1870s George and his father came to the region via Port Albert by steamer and worked on the railway between Sale and Rosedale. George came to Leongatha in late 1889 and started the store. In 1908 the family moved to a farm just south of Leongatha. Roughead St in the town and Roughead Rd south of the town were named after George.



Roughead St c1900



Roughead's Store c 1891

Early stores were located in Roughead and Long Streets and it seemed that the business area was to be near the railway. The hotels however located up the hill on the other side of the station and attracted other stores to Bair and McCartin Streets with those streets becoming and remaining the town centre. Other functions to locate in Bair and McCartin Streets were several banks, the Mechanics' Institute and the Shire Offices. The office of *The Great Southern Star* was also established in McCartin St on its current site.

Blacksmiths and saddlers were vital in the days when horses were so important for transport and farm work. Robert Bruce was the first to set up a saddlery in McCartin St and others followed. Blacksmiths provided vehicles, tools and the services. essential for horses. E T Munro purchased a blacksmith forge in McCartin St in 1895. By 1897 he employed 6 men in his carriage factory making high quality buggies and gigs. Munro even made a successful attempt on the Australian record for making the most horse shoes in an hour. Munro needed a larger premises and moved to Anderson St (the highway). His McCartin St location became a place to have bicycles repaired.

Jock Campbell set up his blacksmithing business in 1897 in Roughead St. His business also expanded rapidly with the demand for wagons and buggies. J McFarlane set up another smaller blacksmith forge in McCartin St, near the Star office. These three men were to run their respective businesses in Leongatha for many years.

Interesting items from research

The map below shows the Shires of Gippsland

The Shires of Gippsland have changed many times over the years. Below is a map from around 1892. Of note here is the size of Alberton Shire, the existence of Phillip Island Shire and Poowong and Jeetho Shire. The Shire of Poowong and Jeetho was established in 1891 and changed the name to Korumburra Shire in 1922. The Woorayl Shire was established in 1888. The original Shire of South Gippsland centred on Foster was created by severance from Alberton Shire on 16 February 1894. The Borough of Wonthaggi was not established until 1911 constituted under the *Wonthaggi Borough Act 1910*, by the Government of Victoria on 26 January 1911. This borough existed until 1994.

Phillip Island was initially incorporated as part of the Phillip Island Road District on 8 September 1871, which was based on the mainland. This district then became the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai on 24 December 1874. A severance movement was successful in creating a separate Shire of Phillip Island on 18 September 1928, with the remainder becoming the Shire of Bass.



The next map shows the counties of Gippsland 1879

The Victorian Lands Department in the nineteenth century divided the Colony into a number of counties. This was for the purpose of land sales only. Each county in turn was subdivided into a number of parishes. Each numbered crown allotment would therefore be in a parish and a county. The map below indicates that the parishes in the former Woorayl Shire would have been in the county of Buln Buln.

Charles P Brumley took up tennis while in Leongatha and competed in tournaments around the state and in Tasmania. He was a regular player at the Geelong Easter Tournament. Geelong was where Louise's family was living.

The other interesting thing about Charles P was he continued in his father's footsteps as a sheep breeder and was breeding Lincoln sheep around the Leongatha district for years, including on land at the bottom of Brumley Street where the photo below was taken.



May Brumley 1904



Charles Lewis Brumley 1882-1959

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 September at 2 pm at the Mechanics' Institute. The guest speaker will be George Misson. His subject is the history of surf lifesaving in South Gippsland.

Visit to Stratford on Wednesday 12 October - we will be travelling to Stratford to visit their historical society and museum. More information on this trip will be emailed at a later date.

Become a member and help the Society preserve our history.

Membership form. For the Year 2022-2023

The annual membership is now due. \$30 for individuals \$40 for Family

A direct deposit may be paid into the society's bank account at Bendigo Bank, Leongatha:
Leongatha & District Historical Society
BSB: 633000 a/c: 182712406

(Please include your name as reference,
and notify us by e-mail to leongathahistory@gmail.com
You can copy this form, paste it to a new document and email back to us. or post to
10 McCartin Leongatha 3953

New memberships are welcome or updating your details by completing the form below:
Membership type: Single \$30 Couple/Family \$40

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-Mail: