

# Leongatha & District HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mechanics' Institute, McCartin St., Leongatha

Preserving Our Heritage

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## Latest News

**New members are very welcome. We need help with all our tasks and activities. All you need is an interest in preserving our history**

### Furniture acquisitions

We have recently been given two pieces of furniture, a dressing table originally from Pine Lodge Inverloch and a cabinet once on board the *Magnet*. The *Magnet* was wrecked off Venus Bay in 1900. Members of the crew were rescued by locals but the captain died shortly afterwards. Pine Lodge guesthouse was built in the 1920s by Cal Wyeth. The cabinet from the *Magnet* will be in the front room soon

### The Anzac lunch April 18<sup>th</sup>.

It was decided to have this year's Anzac event as a lunch. Richard Powell of Meeniyan will be the speaker. He has written about the World War 1 soldiers from the Meeniyan area in his book, '*Room for One more*'. We will have the meal at 12.30 and then the talk by Richard. Please let the organizers know if you wish to attend.

### The mantel clock in the front room

We are very fortunate to have Deb Maloney (nee Rodwell) come along on Thursdays. Deb is a collector of clocks and has been able to make the clock on the mantel above the front room fireplace work. This Ansonia Clock was purchased for the Mechanics' Institute Reading Room (the front room) on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1912 from Marshall's Watchmakers of Leongatha for a cost of £1.5.0. It has been there for 106 years



## **We are good cooks**

On a Thursday we discuss many things usually related to the history of the area but recently the topic of discussion was how good our members are at cooking. Of course we have been aware of this for many years. We put on a great spread at our various functions an expression often used is 'we do food well'. It was therefore decided to publish some recipes in the newsletter. Oh where to start, there are Johanna's biscuits, Margaret's jam, Lyn's scones, Pat's egg sandwiches and much more. Every year we have our end of year Christmas lunch and there are always delicious salads and desserts. Last year Pearl Christoffersen made a wonderful carrot salad called Copper pennies

### **Copper Pennies Carrot salad**

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 Kilo or 2 pounds of carrots (sliced in rings and cooked until just tender)
- 1 large onion diced
- 3 tbs chopped fresh mint

#### **Bring to the boil**

- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1 cup white sugar
- ½ cup oil
- ¾ cup malt vinegar
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Pearl finds half the sauce adequate

Combine cooked carrots with onion and mint; the carrots should be drained and still quite hot. Add the sauce mixture and stir a little. Refrigerate 24 hours before serving. Will keep up to 2 weeks in refrigerator.

### **Cheese and Chive Scones Lyn**

#### Ingredients

2 cups S R Flour and 1 level tsp of baking powder  
¾ cup of milk  
1 tbs butter  
1 cup of grated tasty cheese  
1 tbs of grated parmesan cheese  
½ cup of chives or spring onions chopped or cut with scissors (or parsley chopped)

In to a bowl place the sifted flour.  
Melt the butter and stir into the flour  
Add the cheeses and chives or spring onion  
Add the milk and mix into a soft dough  
Gently roll out until 2 cm thick.  
Cut with a cutter or knife into scones  
Brush with a little milk  
Bake in a hot oven, 210 degrees C for 10 minutes or until golden brown  
Extra chives and cheese adds to the flavour

### **From The Illustrated Australian News (Melbourne) 1 Jan 1893 I found this article on the Gippsland Facebook page and thought it worth publishing in our newsletter. This is instalment 1, Dandenong to KooWee Rup**

The NEW HOLIDAY RESORT.

South Gippsland by the Great  
Southern Line. 1893

By J. M

That part of Victoria lying between Dandenong and Port Albert, the main Gippsland line and the Southern Ocean, and known as South Gippsland, has hitherto been little better than a vast tract of almost impassable country, but now that the Great Southern railway has been laid through it, the aspect of the country will be gradually changed and another wide area opened up for, population, capital and industry. The route lies south-east from Dandenong, passes for some distance near Western Port Bay, then strikes across the rugged mountains, so typical of Gippsland, to Corner Inlet, and thence due east to Palmerston, the present terminus. I left Dandenong by the Korumburra train at 10.20 a.m. No sooner was it started than my three fellow passengers simultaneously dived into their portmanteaus, each producing a book, in which he became absorbed at once. The train stopped at Lyndhurst, and discharged two young men and four milk cans. A young woman, in grey dress and black hat, took the two tickets, exchanged papers with the guard, and we were off again. The air was warm, quiet and sleepy, and the next four miles seemed just the same as the last four, till we came to Cranbourne. There was life at Cranbourne. Two cabs were at the station, one of which got a fare, commercial of course, with a supply of leather cases. There are about a dozen houses visible from the carriage, with the prospect of more behind. One modest weather-board displayed the ostentatious sign of "Coffee Palace and General Store."

## Cranbourne Station



There was quite a bustle on the platform, but it passed away, and so did we for another three miles to Clyde. Why Clyde I do not know. It is a railway platform in the heart of scrub and bracken. Nobody went out and nobody came in, and the locomotive sheered off with a screech that sent a flock of sheep scampering at top speed over a clearing in the distance.

The next stopping place was called Tooradin, but where was Tooradin? There was no sign of it there, and we learned that the township was about three miles off, on-the shores of



## Low bridge Koo Wee Rup

Western Port Bay. That must be very convenient. We soon arrived at Kooweerup. This mighty swamp of 78 square miles has earned a well deserved notoriety—first, because of the extensive drainage works that the Government is now carrying out; and second, because it is a lasting monument of the inscrutable devices of railway engineers in that they in their mysterious wisdom saw fit to bring the Great Southern railway through the middle of that deserted swamp, instead of carrying it along the coast, a mile further south, where the ground is firm, dry and good, and where the settlers are. A station was established, at Koo-wee Rup West for the advantage, I presume, of any stray sportsman who might wish to land at that end of the swamp—for no human being lives there—and the train stops and starts again as a mere matter of form. From beyond there to Kooweerup, a distance of over 4 miles, the railway had to be built on piles, causing great delay, much trouble and heavy cost, and above all there is the disagreeable knowledge, that in time it will require careful watching and constant renewal



### Clearing the Koo Wee Rup swamp

At Koo wee Rup I met Mr. Hutchinson, and under his guidance started off to see the drainage works. My guide, an old mountaineer, and the first man to camp in Marysville in '63; set forward at a good round pace, his carved blackwood stick swinging lightly through the air. We passed through a little canvas town along a muddy track, and emerged upon the banks of the main canal. On the right hand side was the public road; on the left the military road or the conveyance of troops in time of need, but it is much too soft to carry any weight, and all heavy goods and contractors' material have to be taken up on a punt along a narrow drain that has been cleared for the purpose. We had not gone very far before we overtook one, carrying a large wooden framework. The horse, up to his belly in the water, was splashing slowly through it, his jolly driver, floundering by his side, urging him forward with a strong Irish accent and a stout whip, while a man at the stern of the punt tried his best to guide the cumbersome craft with a long pole, the whole forming a fine example of patient labour. As far as the eye could reach to east and west, and all in front to the Bunyip and the Gippsland ranges lay the low, flat swamp, reeds and water, dwarf scrub and mud, with patches of dry land and long grass—desolate, forbidding and dreary enough to make one doubt if it could ever look otherwise. Every here and there we passed a few tents pitched on the slope of the embankment, and after having walked for 2½ miles we reached the works at the head of the canal; but the works were deserted, for the men—100 in number—were on strike, and gathered together in a little crowd, apparently discussing the question at issue. The distant ranges had caught some heavy rain clouds and dragged them down their dark sides and flung the leaden coloured vapour over the plains beneath them. To right and left the great flat swamp spread out full of "creeping mosses and clambering weeds," and the wavy swell of reeds' desolate creeks and pools. The home of all crawling and loath-some things, of venomous snakes, of "scorpions and spiteful peed of centipede." And, as if to give conviction to the thought, there, not two yards off, lay a dead black snake half hidden in a deep rut, in itself like another huge snake coiling and twisting, over the mud embankment. Enough! Let me get out of this and turn my face seaward. towards the sea the country improved rapidly, and when I reached the bridge where the Melbourne-road crosses, a comfortable farm came into view, with bright green garden full of vegetables and flowers, and a goodly clump of trees waving over them. Here the cutting ceases and the waters of the canal are carried by a short arm of the sea out into the broad reach of Western Port, whose white horses are leaping and rollicking in the grey light between me and French Island, 7 miles away.

## Hayes' Store

The store on the corner of Roughead St and Hughes St was built by the Hayes family in 1890-91. This is the oldest commercial building in the town. It was run as a general produce store. The Hayes family came from Bendigo to Leongatha in 1890 purchasing the corner block from the Shanahans who ran a store there. Mr and Mrs Shanahan assisted Mrs Shanahan's sister, Mrs Maher, in building Mrs Maher's Coffee Palace on the top corner of Long and Jeffrey Streets. This is the oldest house in Leongatha. Information provided on the top of accounts sent out by the Hayes family indicate the change in management of the store over time.

1890 E and J Hayes (Edmund and his nephew John Hayes)  
1893 Edmund Hayes and Company wholesale and retail shopkeepers  
1894 Patrick Hayes  
1896 William Kennedy son of Patrick (born in 1866)  
1905 H Caffin took over the store from W K Hayes

Edmond and Patrick Hayes were brothers

William Kennedy Hayes and John Hayes were sons of Patrick.

Edmund owned the hotel at Inverloch in 1896. At this time a child was born at Anderson's Inlet.

After leaving Leongatha William Kennedy Hayes went to Tyntynder near Swan Hill and he died in Nyah in 1936 aged 70.

Family of William Kennedy and his wife Mary Agnes Toohey

1892 John James Bendigo  
1895 William Kennedy Bendigo  
1896 Mary Eileen Leongatha  
1898 Patrick Darcy Leongatha  
1900 Joseph Edmond Died 1900 Leongatha  
1905 Laurance Redmond Tyntynder.

Patrick Darcy Hayes born in Leongatha in 1898 enlisted in the army on 29/7/15. He was a grocer of Nyah via Swan Hill and his Next of Kin was his father William K Hayes. He received a Distinguished Conduct Medal. The following comes from his file.

Rank from Nominal Roll Private

Unit from Nominal Roll 1st Machine Gun Battalion

Fate Returned to Australia 30 May 1919

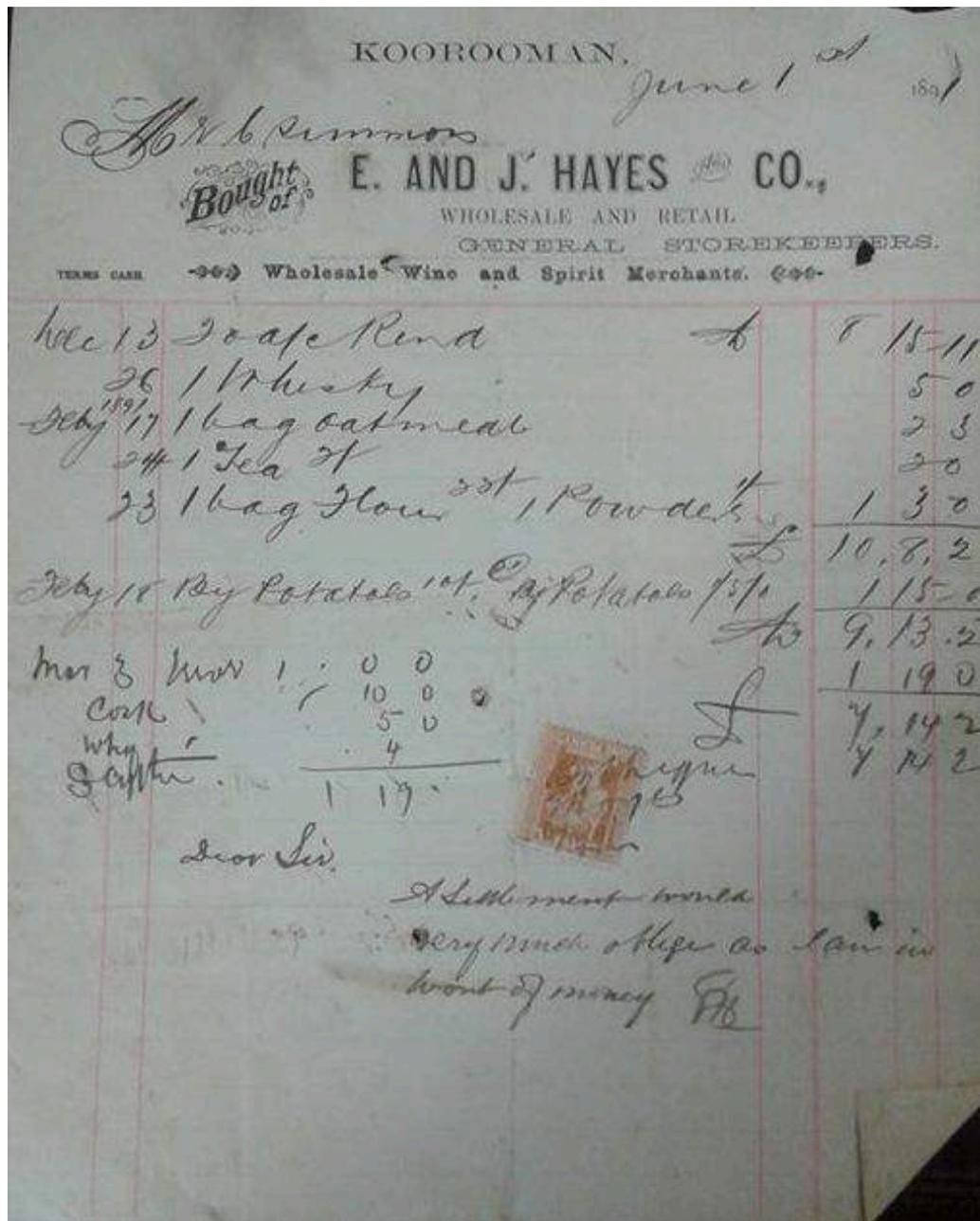
Medals Distinguished Conduct Medal

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in taking charge of a gun crew when the officer and non-commissioned officer had become casualties. When one gun was blown up he salvaged another, and established his two guns on the objective in splendid tactical positions. He remained in charge of the two guns for two days, showing courage, cheerfulness, and resource, although suffering heavy casualties.'

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 110

Date: 25 July 1918

Here is an account from E and J Hayes. Note the word Koorooman at the top. This account was sent before the decision was made to call the town Leongatha. The name Leongatha came from the surveyed parish in which it was located.



Hayes' account 1891

### The Shingler Memorial Dinner

This year we hope to have the Shingler dinner on Saturday September.15<sup>th</sup>. We have invited Dorothy Giles and her family to speak. Dorothy Giles, her family and ancestors are very significant in the history of newspapers in Gippsland and elsewhere.

### The Fallen of early 1918

The Robertson brothers who attended Leongatha State School and lived in the Moyarra area were killed in action days apart, Roy on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Alan on April 14<sup>th</sup>. George Damon was wounded in action on April 10<sup>th</sup> and died 5 days later. His parents lived in Korumburra. Frank Richardson was from Mardan and had been a pearl diver at Broome. He was engaged to Rose Gardner of Mardan. Frank was killed in action near Amiens on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Leonard Bibbs of Mirboo South was killed in action on May 3<sup>rd</sup> near Albert.