

## From the Committee

On Anzac Day President Doug McCallum laid a wreath on behalf of Creswick U3A to honour those who sacrificed more than we could ever have asked of them in order to enjoy the life we now lead. Not only did they give their future hopes and dreams, but many suffered the effects for their entire lifetime. It behoves us all to never forget these brave men and women and the debt we owe them and their families for the selfless acts of courage they performed in our defence.

### Tutors' Meeting

A **Tutors' Meeting** will be held in the Scout Hall on Thursday 27 May at 2.30pm please come along and help us plan the remainder of the year. Some light refreshments will be provided. RSVP by 20 May.

### New Residents' Meeting

The **New Residents Meetings** will be held on Saturday 10 July in the Creswick Town Hall. Held in conjunction with the Creswick Railway Workshops and The Creswick Ratepayers' Association, this is the third time we have been selected to co-host these meetings. Hepburn Shire awarded a grant for hosting the event at its April meeting. The meetings are an opportunity for new residents to meet the service clubs and other volunteer organisations in the area.

### \$250 State government rebate on offer

Are you eligible for \$250 government rebate to help pay your energy bills, but unable to apply? The Ballarat North Neighbourhood House can help.

The Victorian Government is providing a one-off \$250 payment to eligible households. Get help applying for this \$250 payment at a special event. No bookings required. It takes 10 minutes of your time and there will be 5 specialists from the independent Energy Info Hub to support your application.

- What do I need to bring?
  - Your concession card
  - A recent electricity bill (not a reminder notice)
  - Bank account details (name, BSB and account number)

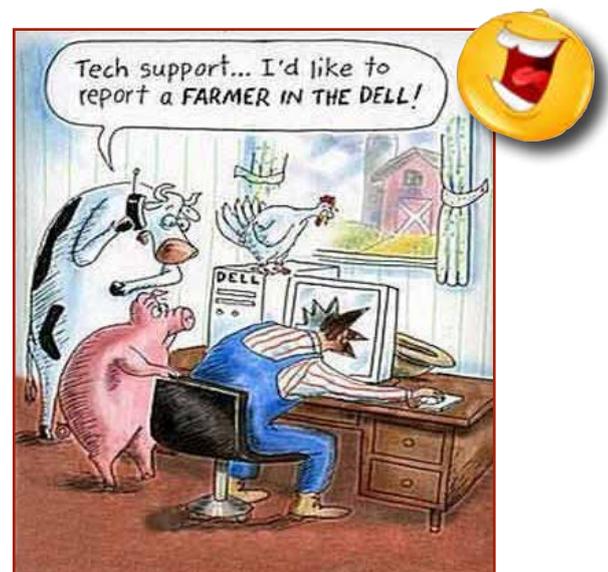
- Am I eligible? You can apply for the \$250 payment if you have one of the following:
  - A Pension Concession Card
  - JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Abstudy or Austudy
  - Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession Card

Venue is the Ballarat North Neighbourhood House, 6 Crompton Street, Soldiers Hill on Friday 4 June from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Phone 0491 753 307 for further information.

### A day at the movies

What a day we had at the Regent Multiplex seeing **42nd Street**, where we had the entire Showcase to ourselves with super comfortable seats. The movie is a delightful trip down memory lane with familiar songs, superb costumes and vibrant dance scenes. We were each given a boxed lunch on arrival and all who went thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment. It was good to see a couple of new members join us and as they are members of the dance group, Elizabeth and Andrew will be dazzled by the moves they picked up.

We are planning another movie luncheon in June when **Follies** is due to start screening. Follies is based on the 1971 Tony Award-winning musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. It was nominated for 11 Tony Awards and won 7. The critics have rated the movie 8.5 out of 10. Stay tuned for details.



# Creswick War Memorial

The Creswick War Memorial was erected to commemorate those who died in service or were killed in action in World War One and was originally called the Fallen Soldiers Memorial. At a later date the names of those who died in service or were killed in action in World War Two were inscribed on the memorial.

The memorial now commemorates the men and women who have been involved in both World Wars and other conflicts.



## Creswick

### FALLEN SOLDIERS MEMORIAL

Given fine weather it is expected that there will be a large gathering on Sunday afternoon to participate in the ceremony of unveiling the memorial erected in memory of the Creswick soldiers who fell in the great war.

Sir John Monash, Sir Alexander Peacock, and Mr D.C. McGrath, M.H.R., and the Rev F. H. Ingamells (returned chaplain) will be the principal speakers. The proceedings will begin at 3 o'clock sharp.

It is intended also to provide an honour board in the Town Hall. The mayor (Cr Thos. Cushing) will preside, and the secretary (Mr C. P. Howie) will recite the history of the movement.

*Ballarat Star (Vic), 6 September 1924.*

## Two-Up

Two-up is a traditional Australian gambling game, involving a designated "spinner" throwing two coins or pennies into the air. Players bet on whether the coins will fall with both heads (obverse) up, both tails (reverse) up, or with one coin a head and one a tail (known as "Ewan"). It is traditionally played on Anzac Day in pubs and clubs throughout Australia, in part to mark a shared experience with Diggers through the ages.

The game is traditionally played with pennies – their weight, size, and surface design make them ideal for the game. Weight and size make them stable on the "kip" and easy to spin in the air. Decimal coins are generally considered to be too small and light and they do not fly as well. The



design of pre-1939 pennies had the sovereign's head on the obverse (front) and the reverse was totally covered in writing making the result very easy and quick to see. Pennies now are marked with a white cross on the reverse (Tails) side. Pennies can often be observed being used at games on Anzac Day, as they are brought out specifically for this purpose each year. The exact origins of two-up are obscure, but it seems to have evolved from cross and pile, a gambling game involving tossing a single coin into the air and wagering on the result. Two-up was popular amongst poorer English and Irish citizens in the 18th century.

The predilection of the convicts for this game was noted as early as 1798 by New South Wales's first judge advocate, as well as the lack of skill involved and the large losses. By the 1850s, the two-coin form was being played on the goldfields of the eastern colonies, and it spread across the country following subsequent gold rushes.

Two-up was played extensively by Australia's soldiers during World War I. Gambling games, to which a blind eye was cast, became a regular part of Anzac Day celebrations for returned soldiers, although two-up was illegal at all other times.



As time passed, increasingly elaborate illegal "two-up schools" grew around Australia, to the consternation of authorities but with the backing of corrupt police. The legendary Thommo's Two-up School, which operated at various locations in Surry Hills, Sydney from the early years of the 20th century until at least 1979, was one of Australia's first major illegal gambling operations.

The popularity of two-up declined after the 1950s as more sophisticated forms of gambling like baccarat gained popularity in illegal gaming houses and poker machines (slot machines) were legalised in clubs.

## Sir Alexander James Peacock

Sir Alexander James Peacock (1861-1933), premier and member of fourteen ministries, was born on 18 June 1861 at Creswick, Victoria, eldest of five children of James Henry Peacock, draper and later tailor from Suffolk, England, and his wife Mary Jane, née Murphy, from Cork, Ireland. He was educated at Creswick State School and Creswick Grammar School, where he was a pupil-teacher from January 1877 to June 1881. Alexander went to Melbourne and worked briefly for a grocer before returning to join W.P. Jones's legal mining manager's business in Creswick. He established his own firm, handling some of the richest Victorian gold-mining companies, including the Berry group; his brother Pat also became a legal manager. Peacock remained connected with mining management for most of his life, eventually setting up other offices in Ballarat and Melbourne. He was a member of a royal commission on gold mining (1889-91) and president (1889) of the Legal Managers' Institute of Victoria.

Active in the Australian Natives' Association at its period of greatest influence, Peacock was a founder of the Creswick branch and its secretary for twenty years.

An influential pressure group, the A.N.A. was a training-ground for aspiring politicians. Peacock was a director in 1884-1904 and three times chief president (1885-87, 1893-94). He was also an active Freemason and grand master (1900-05) of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

First elected to the Legislative Assembly in March 1889 for Clunes and Allendale (Allendale from 1904), Peacock was unopposed in the four following elections and held the seat for a record forty-four years. Tall, imposing, jovial and moustached, he was remembered by Daryl Lindsay as a man who 'did all the right things as the representative of the district, had a suave word for everybody, patted the

children on the head and was extremely popular'. A rural Liberal-protectionist with radical instincts, he was a political survivor who dealt pragmatically with the factions and changing alliances within Victorian politics. An honorary minister first in the Munro ministry in 1890-92, he was then minister of public instruction and postmaster-general under William Shiels in 1892-93. In (Sir) George Turner's first ministry Peacock was chief secretary and minister of public instruction from September 1894 to December 1899, in effect deputy leader.

The Factories and Shops Act of 1896 which he introduced as chief secretary, brought him almost legendary fame, although others like Alfred Deakin, W.A. Trenwith, A. Tucker, W.C. Smith, Samuel Mauger and the Anti-Sweating League had established the basis for reform. Designed to prevent 'sweating' (unduly low wages, long hours and poor working conditions), the Act established the Victorian wages board system. A board for each industry of equal numbers of employee and employer representatives and an independent chairman was to determine minimum wage rates. Persisted with in the face of strong opposition, this achievement brought Peacock widespread popularity as a humane politician.

As education minister, however, he had to preside over severe retrenchments during the depression, and then defend his department against strong criticism, notably by Deakin and David Syme of the Age, of its backwardness. Chastened and under heavy pressure, Peacock appointed Theodore Fink to head the royal commission on technical education (1899-1901) and adopted many of his wide-ranging recommendations in amending legislation of 1901. One of the inquiry's principal witnesses, Frank Tate, was appointed first director of education; in future years as premier or minister



Peacock was to work closely with him and pride himself on the appointment.

Commended by Deakin as 'a Federalist before all else', Peacock was one of ten Victorian delegates to the Australasian Federal Convention of 1897-98, being elected on the Age ticket with Deakin, Turner, H.B. Higgins and (Sir) Isaac Isaacs. When Turner returned to office in 1900 Peacock was again appointed chief secretary and minister of labour. On 1 January 1901 he married Millie Gertrude Holden at St Andrews Church, Port Fairy. Next month, on Turner's departure to the Federal parliament, Peacock became premier, treasurer and minister of labour, with broad Labor support. As a consequence of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York he was appointed K.C.M.G. in 1902.



Peacock's attempts to reform the Legislative Council, to introduce women's suffrage and further control of factories and shops were frustrated by the council. He had to abandon Turner's proposed constitutional convention to consider reduction of the size of parliament and reform of the council. Eventually the public economy campaign of the Kyabram movement and the National Citizens Reform League brought about his defeat in the assembly by (Sir) William Irvine in June 1902 and electoral disaster in September. Unlike many others in 1903 he was conciliatory during the railways strike. Early in 1904 he passed the Liberal leadership to Donald Mackinnon. In 1903 Peacock had lost narrowly to Robert Reid in a joint sitting of parliament to fill a casual Senate vacancy; in 1913, however, he was to make no claim to succeed Deakin in the Ballarat seat.

In February 1907 when (Sir) Thomas Bent reconstructed his ministry after negotiation

with the remaining staunch Liberals, Peacock returned to office as chief secretary and minister of labour, and made important amendments to the Factories Act. But on 20 October 1908 he and Mackinnon resigned over Bent's volte face on land legislation, which led to his defeat.

Peacock did not become a minister again until W.A. Watt gave him the portfolios of public instruction and labour in his ministries of 1913-14. In June 1914, on Watt's transfer to Federal parliament, he again became premier, as well as treasurer and, briefly, minister of labour. On the outbreak of war Peacock was one of the first to call for 'a truce by the political parties'; he later supported conscription. Through his friendship with F.W. Hagelthorn, minister for agriculture and an old Creswick pupil, he launched support in September 1915 for the establishment next year of the Commonwealth Advisory Council of Science and Industry. His administration appointed the Brown Coal Advisory Committee in 1917 which recommended the establishment of the State Electricity Commission to generate electricity from Victoria's vast brown coalfields. In October 1916 he carried legislation introducing six o'clock closing of hotels. He supported Tate in resisting closure of German Lutheran schools. When drought, crop failures and escalating government expenditure brought down his National Party ministry at the election in November 1917, Peacock yielded government to (Sir) John Bowser's 'Economy Party'.



Peacock joined the Lawson Nationalist ministry in November 1920 as an effective deputy leader and minister of public instruction, labour, and forests. When Lawson retired in 1924, Peacock returned for his third, but short-lived, term (April-July) as

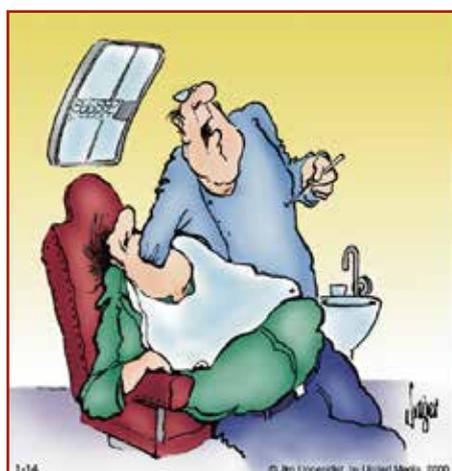
premier, to be defeated over electoral redistribution by an alliance between Labor and the Country Party. After an assortment of four governments in eight months, he emerged as treasurer, minister of public instruction and of labour (November 1924–May 1927), in coalition with John Allan and the Country Party. Useful legislation on public-service superannuation and the conditions of the teaching service was passed, as was a slight modification to the extreme electoral advantage of rural voters. After their conclusive electoral defeat, Peacock retired as leader of the Nationalists. In July 1928 he was elected Speaker, a post he relished until his death, and one in which he enjoyed the confidence of all parties.

Never regarded as an intellectual, Peacock was a popular and likeable conciliator. His arresting, raucous laugh was so much his trademark that Melbourne Punch described him as laughing himself into popular favour. In 1898 Beatrice Webb commented on the laugh ‘of appalling noisiness’ and described him as having ‘neither intellectual conviction nor intellectual prejudices, only a general good-will towards the world, ready to try any plausible remedy for actual suffering’. A journalist ‘tried to get down the swift-flowing phrases and side-splitting wisecracks ... I never knew a man to talk so fast and to laugh so much at his own jokes’. (Sir) Frederic Eggleston later suggested that Peacock had been underrated. He saw him as an heir to the liberal tradition in Victorian politics, ‘one of the most acute tacticians ever in Parliament in Australia’, adding the reservation that ‘his skill in managing the House was greater than his ability in formulating policy’. But he was always sound



in finance; moreover, he had always been unlucky, Eggleston concluded, in the periods he became premier. His political skills were particularly important in a period of continually unsettled party groupings. He never travelled overseas.

Peacock died on 7 October 1933 at Creswick and was buried there after a service at St John’s Church of England; he had been a member of Ballarat Synod. Schools were closed for the day, the funeral was broadcast and a special train provided for mourners. Childless, he was survived by Lady Peacock (1870–1948) who, as the United Australia Party candidate, won his seat at the by-election to become the first woman member of the Victorian parliament. Not enjoying the experience, she did not recontest the seat in 1935. Peacock’s estate was sworn for probate at £4121. There is a portrait of him in the Creswick Historical Museum and a bust in the library of the Victorian parliament. His brother Rev. Andrew became an archdeacon of the Church of England. Andrew Peacock, M.H.R. (b.1939), is not related.



“Hold still! I dropped my little mirror.”



“He won’t eat.”