

Notice of 2021 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Creswick and District U3A will be held at 10.00am Thursday 18 November at the RSL Hall.

Items on the Agenda include election of office bearers and ordinary members of committee. Nominations for Committee positions are now being accepted.

Agenda items include:

- Fees for year 1 January to 31 December 2022.
- Presentation of annual accounts.
- President's report
- Minutes of last AGM.
- Any business arising from minutes of last AGM.

Our committee meetings are held at the old Railway Station on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm and they generally run for about 90 minutes or less. Members are welcome.

RUBES by Leigh Rubin



Even when practiced discreetly, raised eyebrows and disapproving glances still meet with those who date to udder-feed in public

From the Committee

Planning is well under way for an upgrade of the Scout Hall to allow an increased range of activities, especially those that require a bit of extra space.

There is a staged program of improvements starting with floor covering, replacement of windows, roof guttering and insulation. We are hoping these improvements can be in place by Term 1, 2022.

Activities at the old Station are going well and it has been a bonus to have the facility available over the school holidays as things can change very quickly. The scout hall will also have this advantage.

NBN is being installed at the old station on 12 October and will be available for any group which could benefit from its use. The provider will be Aussie Broadband.



The better-equipped slave ships, of course, always carried a spare.

CRESWICK HISTORY as it was reported

Railway accident at McCallum's Creek

On the 19th August, 1909, a bridge collapsed due to flooding. The train involved in the crash was the night service from Ballarat.

Spring has been ushered in with deluge over a great part of Victoria. The rain has fallen everywhere, but in the south-west and centre of the State has been so heavy as to cause the most widespread and destructive floods known for years. Many lives have also been lost, although fortunately, flood is a form of disaster in which, unless dams burst and towns are suddenly inundated, there is no great menace to human life. A study of the railway map printed below will show at a glance over how wide an area the damage has been distributed. For more than thirty years the Railway department has not known a flood causing destruction and delay along so many routes at once.

The heaviest rains have fallen along that part of the Dividing Range which extends from Kyneton to the Pyrenees, and the rivers which are in highest flood are those which rise along this watershed, although in the remoter Western district the damage is also very great. The Wimmera, the Loddon, the

Campaspe, the Avoca, the Hopkins, the Barwon, and the Saltwater, all have their head-waters in the section of country where the heaviest rain fell; and the same downpour that swept a torrent through the houses in Bridgewater and Baringhup, washed away the railway line at Elmore, and flooded the racecourse at Flemington. The rain has been extremely heavy, yet by no means unprecedented; but at the end of a wet season the ground is able to absorb very little of the downpour, and consequently vast floods have occurred

The most thrilling event of the floods has been the sweeping away of the Laanecoorie weir, on the Loddon River. Previous news had shown the Loddon to be immensely swollen above the weir, for the township of Newstead was half submerged and mining dredges were drifting down the stream. Yesterday the weir gave way, and a terrific volume of water went down the river valley. Bridges were swept out of sight. The town of Bridgewater was almost inundated, and the inhabitants were placed in such a perilous position that boats were sent from Bendigo to assist in their rescue. A great amount of damage was done, vast numbers of stock are believed to have perished, and parts of the



countryside were isolated by water, but fortunately, no loss of life attended the rush of the waters.

There was almost a catastrophe on McCallum's Creek, a tributary of the Loddon, crossed by the railway line between Talbot and Clunes. A bridge collapsed, and a railway train, carrying passengers as well as goods, fell partly through the ruined structure.

A brief account of the accident was given in the second edition of "The Argus" yesterday and fuller sensational particulars are printed below. It is remarkable that the most serious casualty in this incident was the breaking of an arm.

A fierce tornado swept over Ballarat Thursday night, causing great destruction to property. Ballarat shows a considerable death-roll, two men and a woman having met then death.

Owing to the washing-away of the railway line by the Wimmera floods at Glenorchy, communication with Adelaide was still intercepted yesterday. No train from Melbourne could get further than Stawell, and no train from Adelaide proceeded beyond Serviceton.

In scores of places in the affected districts that railways were submerged, or were rendered unsafe by washaways. In some places passengers could be transferred from train to train by means of trolleys; in others, all hope of through communication by rail had to be abandoned. The flooded condition of the Campaspe caused the weakening of the Echuca line near Elmore, and the railway service to Echuca had to be discontinued.

The plight of the Newstead postmistress, who sent her telegrams while sitting on a table, out of reach of the water in the office, was that of many postmasters. In some cases the movement of mails to and from the post-offices was quite impossible. In other cases they were carried on boats.

Several flooded districts found it necessary to send boats to the rescue of people cut off by the water. It is hoped that the damage to crops will not turn out to be quite so great as has been feared, though all the crops on flat ground, whether the flats be actually swept by the overflowing rivers or not, are liable to be injured, seeing that even where the rivers did not reach, many pieces of flat country are reported to be practically under water owing to the long continued rain.

The Argus, Melbourne, Saturday 21 August 1909, p.17. Source Trove

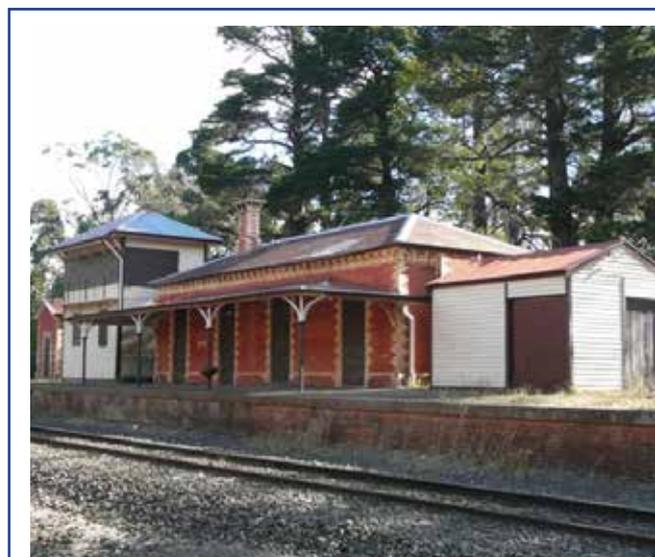
The Clunes Railway Accident

When the evening train from Ballarat, consisting of a number of trucks, heavily laden, and two passenger carriages with 30 people aboard, got about 7 miles from Clunes, the driver, who was unable to see far ahead, was almost on the bridge before he was aware that part of the structure had been washed away.

The brakes were applied, and although the train slowed down, the engine, with a couple of trucks, toppled over into the gully or creek. The driver and fireman were thrown clear but were pinned down in the water by the wreckage which almost filled the creek, a number of passengers suffered from shock, but the piling up of the trucks on the engine prevented the coaches going over.

When the driver, Wright, and the fireman, McMeran, were released they were almost drowned. They were removed to the hospital. The engine fell completely over into the bottom of the creek. Only for the smart application of the brake by the guard the accident would have resulted more disastrously.

Mary River and Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette, Saturday 21 August 1909, p.3, Floods and Storms in Victoria Source Trove.



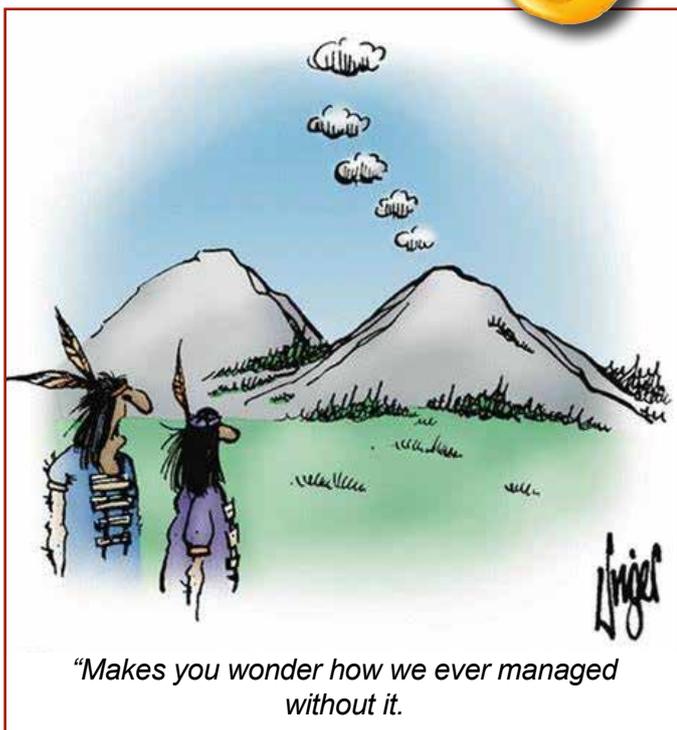
Creswick Railway Station is located on the Mildura line. It served the town of Creswick, opening in 1874. The station closed on 12 September 1993 when The Vineland was withdrawn and replaced by road coaches. It reopened on 25 July 2010 with a new platform opposite the old station, when passenger services were restored to Maryborough.

A pronunciation poem

I take it you already know
of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble, but not you,
on hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,
to learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word,
that looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead – it's said like bed not bead –
and for goodness' sake don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt.)

A moth is not the moth in mother,
nor both in bother, broth in brother.
And here is not a match for there,
nor dear and fear for bear and pear.
And then there's dose and rose and lose –
just look them up – and goose and choose,
and cork and work and card and ward,
and font and front and word and sword,
and do and go, and thwart and cart
come, come I've hardly made a start.
A dreadful language? Man alive.
I'd mastered it when I was five.



*"Makes you wonder how we ever managed
without it."*



NT holidays vaccine incentive

THE Northern Territory is throwing down the welcome mat to fully vaccinated tourists from this month.

Tourism NT is the first Australian tourism body to offer a vaccine incentive.

Its summer tourism campaign, the NT Summer Sale, returns, offering discounts to vaccinated visitors travelling to the area between October 1 and March 31 next year.

In the \$5 million co-operative campaign, Tourism NT has partnered with Helloworld Travel's Viva Holidays and Holidays of Australia, offering packages with discounts of up to \$1000.

Travellers can save on flights, accommodation, tours, attractions and vehicle hire, with a \$200 discount for every \$1000 spent on a Northern Territory booking.

The territory government wants to be seen as the premier safe travel destination in Australia and has released a comprehensive COVID management plan.

Tourism and hospitality minister Natasha Fyles said the incentives offered travellers the opportunity to enjoy a world class holiday as a reward for helping Australia move past the pandemic.

"In October, we will unveil the next round of Territory Tourism Vouchers," she said.

northernterritory.com/promotions/summer-sale

Our complex system poses ‘enormous risk’

Make older Australians pay more for their aged care instead of passing on their wealth to their children, or make younger Australians pay more in taxes or levies.

These were two of the proposals to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety’s hearing on funding, financing and prudential regulation.

Former Productivity Commissioner Michael Woods said for those who had accumulated wealth above a certain level there was little argument as to why they should be spared from drawing on their income and assets.

University of NSW economist John Piggott suggested a “hypothecated levy” could be invested in an aged care fund managed by the Future Fund.

Former Treasury secretary Ken Henry wasn’t alone in saying the current system was overwhelming, and its complexity, particularly the financial arrangements, exposed people to “enormous risk”.

“The aged care system is not sustainable in its current form and will not be accepted by the next generation of aged care recipients, predominantly the baby boomer generation, who are currently experiencing the system through their relatives,” he said.

The introduction of a compulsory social insurance scheme now, he said, would be a “doubling up” of costs for the present generation of taxpayers who would have to pay the cost of aged care for their parents and grandparents and for themselves in the future.



Former prime minister Paul Keating suggested a HECS-style funding model where Australians were extended loans to pay for their aged care and the costs were recovered from their estates when they died. If a person did not have assets at their death, the Commonwealth would pick up the loans.

“So in other words we’re not forcing anyone out of their home in old age, we’re not obliging aged persons to negatively mortgage their home, you’re not asking members of families to chip in and pay for their relatives in their accommodation or their care,” he said. “The assets of a person maintain them in later life.”

Former treasurer Peter Costello said the means-tested income and assets forms needed to be simplified.

He had attempted to fill in the forms for members of his family and suggested the royal commissioners try to do the same.

“I think there are over 100 questions and 27 pages and, you know, I think I’m reasonably financially literate,” he said. “I had a lot of trouble filling it in. I don’t know how a person going into a nursing home would ever be able to fill it in. We’re talking about people who might be 80 or 90 years of age.”

