

From the Committee

Our March committee meeting was postponed as a mark of respect to long time member Graeme Cook and to allow us to attend his funeral.

There is a combined Probus U3A trip to Buda on 8 May and details and you will find the details on page 4 of this newsletter.



Valé Graeme Cook

We are very sad to announce the passing of Graeme (Grae) Cook. A long time member and friend of all who met him. Graeme never let his struggle with ill health stop him and participated in many of our groups, an avid card player, dancer, and wine taster. Graeme was one of our chefs at the Christmas BBQ and his kiss the cook apron was legendary. Graeme was laid to rest on the 23 March and it was very pleasing to see so many U3A members there to say goodbye. The funeral parlour was packed with mourners.

I thought the debrief of Grae's life was particularly pertinent and an extract follows.

From rabbit net to internet, from the grandfather clock to TICTOK, from long necks to red wine and whiskey, from a loving son to a cherished brother, a loving husband to a proud dad, a treasured Pa, Gpa and Grae.

A true friend to all.

LOCAL HISTORY

The story of our town



Proof-like specimen strike medal (not holed) issued by the shire of Creswick marking the Coronation of Edward VII and Boer War peace in 1902.

Our former gold-mining township is 20 kms north of Ballarat, set in undulating ranges, and partly forested. It existed as a Municipality from 1859 to 1995.

It was named after the Creswick Creek pastoral run, taken up by brothers Henry, Charles and John Creswick in 1842.

Ten years later gold was discovered on Creswick Creek. Most leads ran north of the future township site, but one ran southwards, just east of the town centre. A goldfields Commissioner, Walter Brackenbury, was appointed in 1852, and his Commissioner's Camp (Bridge Street) later became the site of the Botanic Gardens.

The first school opened in 1853, and in August 1854 a township survey was carried out. Religious and civic institutions were quickly established: Anglican and Catholic churches (1857), a Wesleyan church (1861) and a court house (1859).

More than 25,000 miners are thought to have been in the Creswick area at the peak of the gold rush. The census for 1861, however, recorded a population of 4,714, which was to be the highest census figure ever.

The easy alluvial gold was quickly won, and deep lead mining became the main focus of mining after the early 1870s, particularly to the north of Creswick. Notable mines were the Madame Berry and the New Australasian.

North and east of Creswick hills, with good volcanic soil, was first used for growing wheat and oats. As grain growing moved northwards in Victoria, sheep and cattle grazing took over, with potato growing continuing in fertile pockets. South of the township the hillier country was used for timber harvesting.

In 1859 a town road board was established, becoming a borough in October 1863. In the same year a hospital was built, a gold office opened and a grammar school founded (it was relatively short-lived, closing in 1903). In 1861 a School of Mines and Technology was opened, and in 1863 the town finally gained a hospital.

In 1864 Dr. Robert Lindsay set up his practice in Creswick and in 1866 moved to a house at the corner of Raglan and Cambridge Streets. His son Norman, author and painter, depicted aspects of Creswick in three of his novels, *Saturdee*, *Red Heap* and *Halfway to Anywhere*. Another son, Percy, painted numerous scenes of Creswick, of which over 20 are in the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery Collection.

In 1874 the railway was connected and a station complex opened, and in 1876 a town hall was completed.

Creswick was the birthplace of other notable Australians: John Curtin (1885), Labor Prime Minister of Australia, 1941-45; Sir Alexander Peacock (1861), Victorian Premier, 1901-02, 1914-17 and 1924; and Thomas Laby (1880) physicist. W.G. Spence (1846) lived in Creswick during the time of the Eureka rebellion, was secretary of the Creswick Miners' Union and went on to found the Australian Workers' Union and became a Federal Parliamentarian.

In 1882 the New Australasian gold mine was the scene of a disaster when 22 miners were drowned in a flooded shaft. It was the greatest recorded loss of lives in an Australian mine.

Although local forests had been denuded for mine timber and firewood, plantings by Government foresters began in the 1880s, and in 1909 a forestry school was opened a few hundred metres east of Creswick. Between 1910 and 1980 the school trained 500 foresters, and its site is surrounded by

landscaped gardens with extensive pine plantations beyond. The forestry school influenced the laying out and planting of parks and street trees which give Creswick a high level of landscape quality.

Creswick's main public space is Calambeen Park in Cushing Street, the site of the Chinese camp (much in decline when painted by Percy Lindsay in 1894), mined by sluicing around the turn of the century. A swimming pool (1910) was constructed in a hole made by the sluicing.

Creswick was one of thousands of towns around Australia which sent soldiers to the Boer war, and it combined its commemoration of this sacrifice with an expression of its loyalty to the newly crowned Edward VII in a medal issued in 1902 (NU 20242).

The Borough of Creswick was united with Creswick Shire on 29 May 1934.

On 19 January 1995 Hepburn Shire Council was created by Order of the Governor in Council from the Shires of Creswick, Daylesford and Glenlyon, parts of the Shires of Kyneton and Talbot and Clunes.

Creswick today has an extensive stock of historic buildings, particularly cottages and houses, ranging from miners' dwellings to substantial two-storey houses built by successful professionals.

Medal and information from Museums Victoria Collections. Medal not currently on display.



"How do you know this isn't the button for the nurses' station?"

Medals in Creswick Museum

This collection belonged to Sister Tessa Thomas R.R.M. (nee Youngman).

Sister Thomas was born at Creswick 1882, and died in Brisbane in 1948. She trained at the Alfred Hospital for 3 years from 1909.

On the 28 November 1914 as a staff nurse she embarked on the "Shyarra" from Australia and served at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Egypt.

In February 1917 she was attached to the 2nd Auxiliary Hospital Southhall, one of the hospitals specializing in fitting artificial limbs.

On 2 June 1916, she was awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal 2nd class for her valuable services.



1. WW1 Active Service Return Medal
2. WW1 Return from Overseas Services Chevron, Lapel badge
3. WW1 Royal Irish Rifles badge
4. WW1 Manchester Regiment Fleur de Lis
5. Egyptian Enamel Brooch

U3A Membership Policy

When a member pays the required membership subscriptions they become a member of Creswick & District U3A and must follow the Terms and Conditions of membership. Listed below are some of these conditions. The complete list of Conditions and Policies is available on the [website](#).

1. Always act in the best interests of the U3A and never do anything to bring the U3A into disrepute.
2. Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution.
3. Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.
4. Comply with and support the decisions of the elected Committee.

Chess Group



The Chess group is reforming and changing days and venue. The new venue is the library at the Neighbourhood Centre on Mondays between 1.30 –3.00pm, commencing 24 April. All are welcome no matter what level you play at.

Tutor Peter Bruenjes looks forward to welcoming new members to this group.

Playing chess can improve cognitive skills like memory, planning, and problem-solving. A medical study involving 488 seniors by the Albert Einstein College of Medicine shows that playing chess, which stimulates brain function, measurably decreases the risk of dementia and combats its symptoms.



"I've crunched the numbers in your retirement account. It's time to figure out who will be wearing the mask and who will be driving the getaway car."

Combined Probus and U3A trip to Buda



There will be a combined Probus and U3A trip to Buda in Castlemaine Monday, 8 May.

We will leave the rear of the information centre at 9.30 am and proceed to Castlemaine where there will be a guided tour of Buda and lunch in their garden room.

Based on 45 going the price will be only \$45. If we get less it will be a couple of dollars extra.

In order to keep the price down there will be no morning or afternoon tea.

The capacity of the bus is 50 so book early. Bookings close 30 April and payment will be due on that date.

The menu will be roast chicken, salads, dessert, tea/coffee. Vegetarian option will be eggplant and ricotta lasagna bake, roast pumpkin pieces, salads Other diets can be catered for.

Afterwards we will tour the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens or if it is raining the Antique Market opposite. We are looking at a round trip via Daylesford one way and Newstead the other.

Named after Budapest by its Hungarian owner, Ernest Leviny, it was home to the creative Leviny family for 118 years and houses their significant intact collection of furniture, art works and personal belongings.

Come to Buda and enjoy walking through the historic house where you will be transported to another era, in this Museums Australia accredited museum. Wander three acres of heritage garden featuring original plantings and structures, including

the bird aviary, tennis pavilion and grape pergola, along with many original garden ornaments created by the Leviny family

St Patrick's Day at Dean

The dancing group dressed up to celebrate St Patrick's Day with the group wearing green to celebrate the occasion.

As you can see Leprechaun Geoff and Leprechaun Andrew both appeared on the day. Leprechaun Geoff evidently came directly from Oktoberfest.

