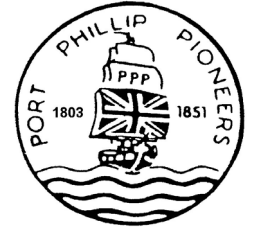


Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

A Member Society of the C.S.V. Inc.

A.C.N.: A0022862G

We look forward to your past

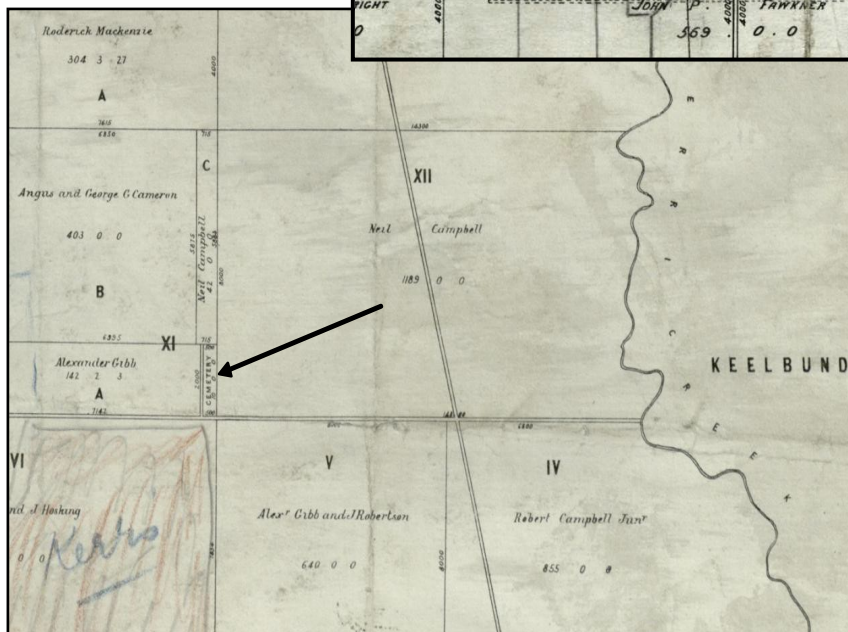
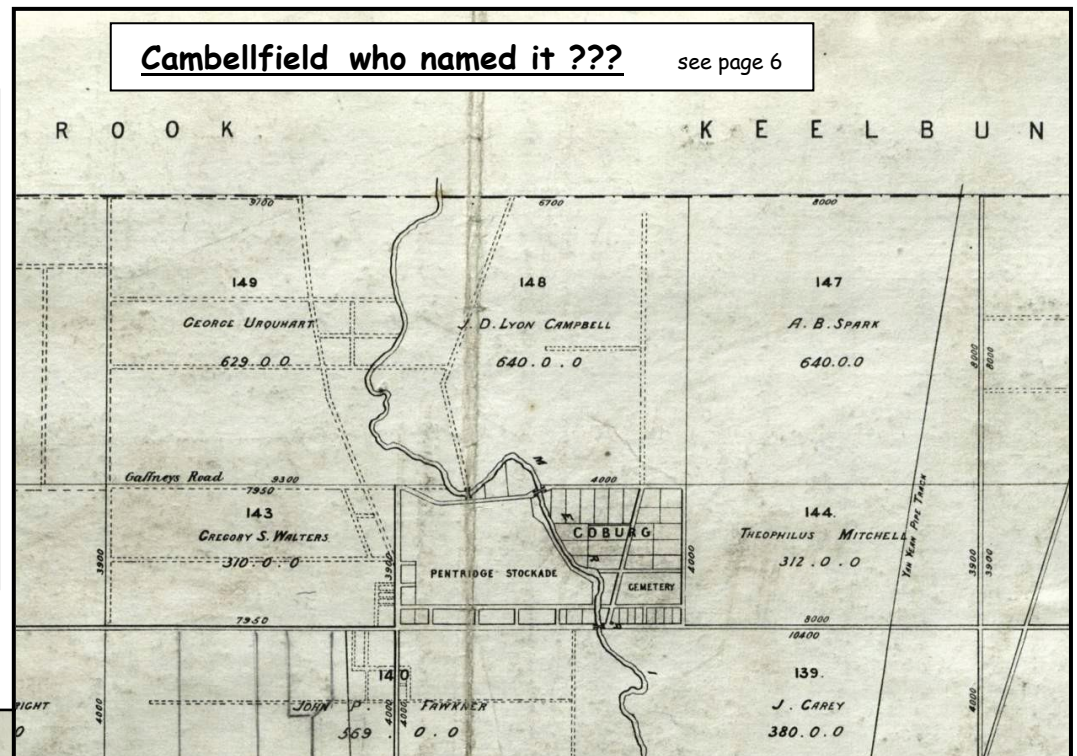


Newsletter No: 218

Vol. 44 No.2

April – May 2021

1. Victoria.
Department of Crown
Lands Survey. (1884).
Jika Jika, County of
Bourke [cartographic
material] / photo-
lithographed at the
Department of Lands
and Survey,
Melbourne, by J.
Noone 22. 2. 84.
(Haughton collection).
Melbourne:
Department of Lands
and Survey. (In Part)



2. Victoria. Department of
Crown Lands Survey. (1878).
*Will-Will-Rook, County of
Bourke [cartographic
material] / photo- lithographed
at the Department of Lands
and Survey, Melbourne, by J.
Noone 4. 10. 78. (Haughton
collection). [Melbourne: S.n.].
(In Part)*

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP

Contact Details:

Address: C/- 55 Kerferd Street, Malvern East 3145

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

Group Report.

We are welcoming you back to meetings in the hall.

As I am writing this, we still have some Covid 19 requirements in place at the church hall, such as one person every two square metres, sanitising and contact tracing.

As a result of this we will be using the big hall at St Andrews.

The library situation might be limited due to the fact we have to transport the books across from the other hall. 50yr celebrations will be held on the day, as will the AGM for 2021.

As we go through this process of returning to a physical meeting, please be patient with us all, as it can be a challenging experience under these conditions. Things can change overnight, so keep an eye on the website.

However, we have a PPPG 50yr anniversary to celebrate and a AGM to experience. Last year's new committee members have never met in the same room, only on zoom.

Please note that the doors open at 12.30 for a 1.00pm start so we can fit the whole program in on the day.

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting soon. Barb Hawkins, Newsletter Editor and President.

Wanted: Newsletter Editor.

We are looking for an interested person to take over the role of Newsletter Editor for the group. It is not a difficult task and I will be around to help if needed. Computer skills are needed and of course the internet.

If you are interested email me or give me a ring and we can chat about it. We last advertised for this position in 2007, with no luck, so I took the job. It is now time for someone else to take charge.

Please someone help!!!

Welcome to the following Members

No	Member	Desc. From	Details	Date	Ship or other means
1520	Robert GRIBBEN	a) Christian BIESKE & b) Anna BIESKE nee AWEGE c) Eleonore BIESKE	Arr. P.P.D	Dec.1849	"Emmy"
1521	Brenda DAY	a) Joseph WHIMPEY & b) Margaret WHIMPEY nee PRICE c) David MARTIN & d) Margaret MARTIN nee SANDIMAN f) George SCRIVENER & g) Caroline SCRIVENER nee SMITH	Arr. P.P.D ditto ditto	Dec. 6 1841 Nov.11 1848 Oct. 3 1848	"Ward Chapman" "Nelson" "Berkshire"

2021

Meeting Dates

May 8
July 10
September 11
November 13

Newsletter Deadlines

June 13 for June - July
August 12 for August - September
October 10 for October - November

All correspondence for newsletter items must be sent to Barb Hawkins,
email barbh27@bigpond.com

Address at General Meeting on 27 February 2021
Bill and Margaret Fleming – Early Port Phillip Pioneers.

Bill and Margaret Fleming are keen genealogists and have published two books. Bill's is called "Edinburgh to Mia Mia: The story of Robert and Jessie Fleming". Margaret's book, "Beyond Mia Mia" is a sequel to Bill's and follows the lives of their descendants.

At the meeting, Bill and Margaret spoke separately about various aspects of the family's history. Bill discussed the family in Scotland and events following their arrival in Australia, whilst Margaret gave an outline of the descendants of Robert and Janet Fleming's children. There were eleven children born, but only five survived.

Integral to the story of this Fleming family was the family of William Weir, butcher, who was from Glasgow. His family arrived in Port Phillip around 1855 and ultimately three of his children married three of Robert and Janet Fleming's children. Robert and Janet were to have 41 grandchildren, 57 great grandchildren and 116 great great grandchildren.

Margaret presented a photo, taken about 100 years ago, of her ancestor, Mary Weir, and there was no mistaking the likeness between them.

Robert Fleming, born 1804, was one of eight boys born to Thomas Fleming and Janet Cleghorn. Thomas Fleming, born 1766 was from a family who had farmed at Cromlands in the western area of Edinburgh for a couple of generations, whilst Janet Cleghorn was from a family of brewers and farmers. Having served an apprenticeship as a baker in Cramond, Thomas married Janet Cleghorn in 1791 at Corstorphine, and they had several children whilst living there.

They moved into the Old Town, Edinburgh after 1799 and their son Robert was born at home in Park St, near to where Thomas had a bakery in Cowgate. Robert grew up and was apprenticed as a flesher (butcher) and eventually worked in a flesh market with his oldest brother, John.

Robert's future wife Janet Robertson was born in Dalkeith, Scotland. Her father, Thomas Robertson, a tailor, died young and fortunately the family found work on a relative's property.

At the time Robert Fleming and Janet Robertson married, Janet was 8 months pregnant. Her wedding dress was altered afterwards so she could wear it again and surprisingly it has survived. It is now on display at the Melbourne Museum. The expected baby was named Janet (Jessy) Cleghorn Fleming. It is possible that disapproval of their marriage caused Robert and Janet to consider migrating to Australia. Robert borrowed £100 from his brother John and bought tickets to take them and Robert's youngest brother, Charles Fleming, who was a baker, to Hobart Town.

The voyage, on the *Drommore*, which departed from Leith, Edinburgh, took seven months, with the ship stopping at Cape Town, Isle de France, Swan River settlement, and finally arriving in Hobart Town on 28th

February 1831. A few months later, Robert and Janet decided to move to Launceston. Charles remained in Hobart but inexplicably died three weeks later.

In Launceston, Robert applied for a land grant, which came with the condition that he build a house on the property. It was at this Canning Street home that their son Robert was born in 1832, followed by Thomas in 1833, and William in 1834. Thomas and the daughter, Jessie, died before 1836.

After John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner had settled in the Port Phillip District, Robert decided to assess the new settlement himself. He found a job transporting sheep across to Port Phillip and overlanding them to Sunbury. Being impressed with what he saw, he and Janet sold everything in Launceston and with their 2 surviving children, moved to Port Phillip.

In 1836 the settlement was just a collection of scattered huts and tents. The Flemings set up home near the present day corner of Flinders Street and Exhibition street and in the first land sale on the 1st of June 1837, Robert bought land in Collins Street for £22. On this site he built the Edinburgh Castle Hotel where they lived and worked for three years.

Janet gave birth to another daughter they named Janet. Around this time Robert had started speculating in property and in October 1839 on the day Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived in Melbourne, he bought 132 acres in Coburg. He immediately sold half of the property, doubling his money, and purchased 555 acres in Morang on the Plenty River.

They ran sheep and cattle on the property, and probably initially lived in a slab hut, whilst they leased the hotel in Melbourne. The 1841 census indicates that there were 15 people on the Morang property: Robert and Janet, their five children and another eight people including another married couple with two children and several single men who were presumably labourers.

Robert and Janet lived on this property for several years before returning to Melbourne where their son James was born in 1846. They demolished their hotel and having purchased adjacent land built a row of shops, three of which were still standing in the 1960s.

At the end of 1848 they bought 14 acres of land on the Moonee Ponds Creek and built a home they called Mia Mia. Here they lived for the remainder of their lives. Janet died at Mia Mia in 1856 aged 48 and Robert died aged 54 in 1859. Mia Mia remained in the family's name for another 25 years.

In 1874, there was an auction of all of Robert's properties – some 21 in total and to commemorate his original land holding in the City of Melbourne there is a lane way named Fleming Place.

Contributed by Jan Hanslow, PPPG member No 1057

Henry Johnstone Rankin

Well, what a year that was! Let me introduce my story with 'In the beginning...'

When Covid-19 hit the collective consciousness and the Victorian lockdown was in its nascency, I decided to direct my angst towards a project that I could sink my teeth into, guide me along 'the unknown' path we were all walking whilst being a useful and productive way to spend my time.

There was a family folklore about Rankins Lane situated off Little Bourke Street, between Elizabeth and Queen Streets. It was said to be the namesake of my 3rd great-grandfather

Henry Rankin whom, in 1838, came with his family to the Port Phillip Settlement.



Great & 2nd Great Grand-daughters visit in 2012

Along the way there were discoveries, roadblocks and mysteries spattered with false memories that managed to pique and hold my interest. I spoke to anyone and everyone that might help a novice such as I find 'the story', There were times when the 'data' proved to be a challenge, though it was not nearly as frustrating or exciting as learning the historical context! Little was known of Henry, his joys, experiences, trials and tribulations. A *long* year later, it is with great satisfaction that I am now thrilled to have the chance to share with you what I found out about this interesting character. I do hope you enjoy the read.

Born in Falkirk, Scotland in 1806 to John and Christian Rankin, Henry Johnstone Rankin had four sisters and one brother, growing into a fine young apprentice wright. The next we know of this young lad, was that by the age of 22, things went awfully awry. Henry, with his parents, found themselves in the Edinburgh High Court of Justiciary accused of theft and resale from the house of a well known socialite and author. The crime was such that the judge considered a death penalty. Taking into account the witness statements, the good character of Henry and his mother and as the group pleaded guilty by confession, they instead attained a free ticket to Australia for life on the convict ship Layton.

Lucky for me!

Arriving in Sydney in 1829, Henry set about securing his future and regaining his character. In three short years, a letter of recommendation was made to the Colonial Secretary stating "Henry is now employed as Carpenter onboard the Bath Ruth. I am directed by His Excellency to request that Rankin may be discharged to Hyde Park barrack accordingly."

Another year passes by when an offer to move to his employers residence. This fortunate event led him into the arms of a free young woman by the name of Eliza Bird. Marriage bells were ringing in 1835 when the governor gave permission to marry. A character reference from his employer had noted his hopes that Henry and Eliza would stay on his employee. And, they did. All was well with the joyous occasion of their first child in 1836, although he sadly passed within a short time, two more were to follow in quick succession.

The year 1838 brought with it a ticket of leave and move to the Port Phillip settlement. Whilst Eliza cared for the children and made new friends, Henry purchased land on the corner of Bourke Lane and Elizabeth St building a simple wattle and daub hut. His business grew steadily however the creek running along Elizabeth Street, famous for flooding, was proving costly. Thus, in 1841 with pennies and pounds scraped and saved, the family moved further up hill along Bourke Lane. It was here Henry bought four perches of land from the brewer John Mills, building a two story brick welling and double shopfront where he, and later his children, would run the family business over the next 50 years.

In 1845 there was a frightening and destructive fire nearby Henry's property. Due to "the energy beyond all praise and active exertions of a few individuals led by Henry, a dwelling-house, brewhouse, stabling and company were saved" (Melbourne Courier, Pg.2 16 July, 1845). Although the fire was contained to Henry Condell's properties (the first Mayor of Melbourne), the heavy loss of barley and lack of insurance, led the Melbourne Fire Prevention Society to raise funds in reward for those who had rendered effectual service during the fire. Henry was soon to become one of the first paid firemen in Melbourne.

This was a busy time for Henry, not only raising a large family, and running a general trade shop with side businesses in Iron Mongering, Cabinet Making even providing Coffin building and Undertaker services; 1850 saw Henry found The Waltonian Club. There were concerns of over-fishing in the Yarra Yarra and Salt

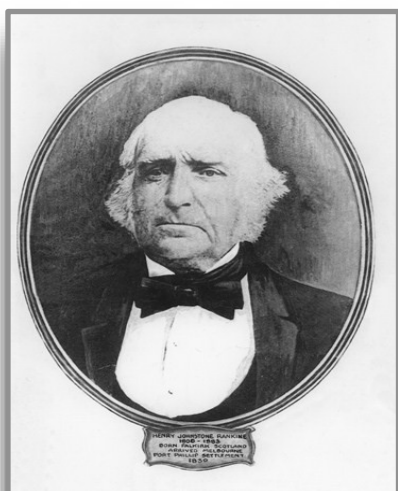
Rivers so it was decided a Protection Society be established to prevent poaching and promote the healthful and invigorating sport of British Angling (The Chronicles of Early Melbourne, Garryowen, Vol 2 P.751).

The same year saw the birth of an annual gathering, as a means of fostering a taste for the useful and salubrious exercises of the gymnasium. It was taken up with much favour, and nearly as many persons were assembled to witness them as the great (horse) race. According to the newspaper report, there must have been from five thousand persons on the course. The Stand was filled with ladies, and the carriages opposite gave brilliancy to the meeting; which, "Judging from the eager smiling faces, the event was one of very pleasurable excitement". Henry was noted to have won first prize in Quoits at 21 yards (The Chronicles of Early Melbourne, Garryowen, Vol 2 P.746).

Between the hustle of the 50's and fervour of early 70's, Henry dedicated himself to sheer hard work. Tragically 1861, he lost his 43y/o wife (dropsy) leaving him with nine children to care for. Not long after in 1867, he also suffered the loss of his 13y/o daughter, Helen (typhoid).

By way of passive reward for his steadfast nature, his portrait was commissioned for Chuck's Shield (The Argus, 7 Dec 1872, p 5, column 5). The shield only included colonists who arrived prior to 1843. The significance was noted in an 1890 advertisement for the reproduction of the shield now available for all to purchase.

(The Argus, 22 Apr 1890, p 5, column 4, para 5).



'The explorers and early colonists of Victoria' Chuck's Shield

As you may recall, I started this article noting my search had begun with Rankin's Lane. Thus, I'd like to now beg a little more of your time to reflect upon what I learnt about the significance of the little unrecognised lane.

Throughout the transient nature of early Melbourne, with shop owners around Rankins Lane

coming and going every few years, to street name changes where undesirable associations were said to deflate property prices and reputation, to the politics of ideologies and to the excitement of the gold-rush bringing opportunity and wealth and expanding boundaries. Along with a population surge, there was also a terrible turn of events with a wave of communicable diseases, a property bubble that spectacularly burst, the bank of Scotland collapse and coinciding recession, sound familiar? *There is a synchronicity in the comparison of our times.* A quote oft said by Rankine "Show kindness in others troubles and find courage in your own"

When looking back at the ebbs and flows of streets and laneways, residential living and businesses that made our city, it is stirring that Rank- ins Lane has survived. In 1856 there were but 80 named lanes in Melbourne including Rankins. Not more than forty years later there were sign- posts for 158 lanes (Weston Bate, Essential but Unplanned, Pg.12). And, although not much had changed through to 1965, with only twelve lanes being added, a little over a decade later however, developers started to move in and consolidate titles. Massive office blocks and a department store wiped out elements of urban ecology back to the 1830s. Four lanes were lost to Melbourne Central, Collins Place and three to the Hyatt Hotel and so forth. The city's celebrated Victorian streetscape character was being undermined.

By 1991 the realisation came that this escalation and lack of protections had caused a significant loss of character, diversity and heritage significance prompting the Cities Planning Branch to publish a laneway study. The outcome was a range of financial incentives, technical guidance, and policy change to encourage residential and street-life development (Revitalizing Melbourne's Laneways, September 18, 2015).

This is telling when today Rankins Lane is only known for the 'fairly intact example of an Edwardian architecture' as built by Warburton and Sons in 1895, the celebrity of bohemian artist Mirka Mora in 1978, and the popularity of modern coffee culture with Manchester Press that opened in 2011.

To date, Henry's story has not been told, and it is in it's telling that I hope to shed light on our own connections to place and to each other.

(Sale Mills/Rankin 1841; Fire in Rankin's Alley, The Argus, 1857; Sands and MDougall, 1864; Land Title , Vol 1033 Fol.206573, 1778)

Contributed by Skye Pyper, PPPG member No 1516

Cambellfield who named it ???

I thought this may be of interest to some of the members. I am Secretary of the Friends of Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery, and have done a lot of research into the area, as my husbands family buried in the cemetery, also had land in Somerton. The original arrival David in 1841 from Scotland, went to work for John Rigg at "Rocky Water Holes" (Kalkallo), his brothers following in 1849 & 1851, these brothers had the land in Somerton and at Woodstock. David had Land at Bulla, Yannathan & Parwan, four of his sons going to Queensland and leasing many square miles in the Mackay Prosperpine area. which are now coal fields or Oil.

There has been a lot of confusion over the years by the authors of Local History giving James David Lyon Campbell the honour of naming Campbellfield, as he was a prominent person in the city of Melbourne. His property on the Yarra was named Campbellfield, and the Property he had closest to Will Will Rook was Newlands in the Parish of Jika Jika.

I have another article which covers more on the area and Neil Campbell, who I feel is the only one who can be given the accolade of naming Campbellfield.

Beryl Patulla, PPPG member No 563

There were two Campbells owning land in the Parish of Will Will Rook part of which was to become Campbellfield, which originally encompassed the suburb of Fawkner.

There has been a lot of confusion by several writers of early local histories, they did not have the information as readily to hand as it is now with the internet. They acknowledged James David Lyon Campbell as the man who named Campbellfield.

The confusion has come about as there is no actual death certificate for JDL Campbell only burial information from the Church, which states he died at Campbellfield on the 31st May and Buried on the 3rd June 1844 recorded at St James Church Melbourne. Buried Melbourne Cemetery, and later headstone moved to Fawkner. this Campbellfield was on the Yarra River near Dights Falls Georgiana's Journal Edited by grandson Hugh Macrae, makes several mentions of walking from Mayfield to Campbellfield for her boys to play with the Campbell boys and have tea. Suggestions that JDL died of a Heart attack.

James David Lyon Campbell, had property closer to Pentridge (Coburg) that was named Newlands, 640 acres, which was situated on the now Murray Road Newlands Road and Elizabeth St. in Coburg, Parish of Jika Jika. (see image 1 on front page)

1839 Dec was appointed Magistrate with two others his address, Newlands Port Phillip, Macrae of Melbourne Port Phillip and Powlett of Melbourne Port Phillip

1841 was appointed together with Farquharson Macrae (brother in law of Georgiana Macrae) Joseph Hawdon as Magistrates

1841 he was appointed one of the 11 trustees of the Port Phillip Savings Bank - NSW Census he was living at Campbellfield Yarra Yarra Brick House 15 inhabitants.

1843 June appointed JP together with Macrae, Hawdon and many others for the Port Phillip District Colony of New South Wales.

1843 September is appointed Councillor for the Bourke District

1844 April a member of the Central Committee as part of the overall committee for Separation from NSW.

31 May 1844 died believed from a heart attack as he was always racing around on his horse and ingesting Mercury.

Robert Campbell Jnr, from Sydney, also purchased large parcels of land, some were adjacent to Neil Campbells land, in Will Will Rook and also in Keelbundora. in 1838, the land in Will Will Rook was not sold until 1910 by a nephew Col Francis Selwyn Campbell, 57 blocks which took in the South side of now Mahoney's Road and the Merri Ck down to a block passed Jukes Road. ¹

Robert Campbell came to Sydney and worked for his uncle Robert Campbell, a merchant, so to differentiate between the two he added Jnr to his name. He never lived in Victoria as far as I can find.

Neil Campbell is the only man who can really lay claim to the naming of Campbellfield. He provided land for the Scots Church & Graveyard in Sydney Road and Will Will Rook Cemetery Camp Road, marked on this plan which are situated in the Campbellfield area. (image 2 on front page. Cemetery at end of arrow) Neil did live on his land. 1180 acres, as per the 1841 NSW census of Port Phillip. Occupied Wood House 19 people all free. ²

1. Trove Newspapers NLA as is most of this information.

2. Research by Friends of the Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery Inc. Trove Newspapers NLA

Pioneer Profiles Vol.7.

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Please contact:

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Port Phillip Pioneers Group Annual General Meeting will be held, hopefully, if we are allowed by law, on Saturday 8, May 2021 at which time all Committee positions will be declared vacant.

All financial members are eligible to be nominated for any of the following committee positions:

President
Vice-President
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
Ordinary Committee Members

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary.

Completed nomination forms are to be delivered by May 1, 2021 to

The Honorary Secretary
c/o Port Phillip Pioneers Group
Address: 55 Kerferd St
Malvern East VIC 3145

All Members are urged to give serious consideration to nomination for a Committee position.

“Notice is hereby also given of the Committee’s intention to recommend some amendments to our Rules. A separate short paper explaining the changes and the reasons for them is being circulated with this Newsletter.”

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP NOMINATION FORM

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARER/COMMITTEE PERSON FOR YEAR 2021

We and
(Proposer’s Signature) (Seconder’s Signature)

Hereby nominateFor the office of

I accept/decline this nomination

.....
(Candidate’s Signature)

POSITIONS VACANT: President - Vice-President - Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer - Ordinary Committee Members

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC – MEETINGS

Venue:	St. Andrew's Uniting Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Rds, Gardiner. Public Transport: Right on the route of the No 72 tram and only a short walk from the Gardiner Railway Station. Melways Reference: Map 59 H7.
Meeting Starts:	1.00pm Please note time change
Guest Speaker:	1.30 pm.
Next Meeting:	Saturday: 8 May
Speaker:	<u>AGM & 50th Anniversary celebrations.</u> Speaker: Elizabeth Hore Topic: Chuck's Mosaic and where some of the pioneers now lie. <u>Please note, some 'Covid 19' conditions still apply.</u>

Upcoming Meetings:

Saturday, 10 July

Speaker: **Tony Hargreaves**

Topic: **W.F.A Rucker and the "Twelve Apostles".**

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PPPG ENewsletter

Many members now receive their newsletter by email rather than post. If you would like to also then, contact Dean Wheeler at dwheelerpppg@gmail.com.

**“All articles and information contained in this Newsletter
are accepted in good faith and the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.
takes no responsibility for the content and accuracy contained therein.”**