



A PUBLICATION OF THE PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC.

Inc. No. A0022862G

Jun-Jul 2023



The Yarra flows 242kms from its source at the Yarra Ranges and meanders its way through Greater Melbourne before emptying into Hobsons Bay in northernmost Port Phillip Bay.

The Yarra River is Melbourne's most valuable natural asset and is home to a range of beautiful indigenous plants, animals, birds and fish. It is vital to our social and economic wellbeing as it is a source of 70 per cent of Melbourne's drinking water, whilst supporting productive agriculture and providing recreational opportunities like rowing, fishing, bird watching, picnicking and walking. (source: melbournewater.com.au)

Read more about the magnificent Yarra on pages 4-6.



Above: Painted by Henry Short in 1860 from a sketch by Robert Hoddle, 1845 - Near the source of the Yarra Yarra River, Warburton Source: S.L.V.

The President's Pen

Hello everyone, may I begin by thanking you all for the very warm welcome.

So, it has come to this! Only a few short years ago, I was welcomed into the Port Phillip Pioneers and now I address you as the new President. I hope I can contribute something in the years ahead in the way my predecessor Barb has done during her many years.

I grew up listening to the incessant talk of my Father about our ancestor Thomas Halfpenny who was always affectionately called "Old Tom". Tom was a fine upstanding businessman and a leading citizen of the fledgling colony. Sheepishly, Dad had to announce one day that Old Tom was a dishonest crook who lied for many years to hide his convict background (and a few things in the foreground too). This convict status was something with which Dad struggled but it always intrigued me that no-one in the colony all those years ago seemed to care. On joining the PPPG, our ever-vigilant Examiner-of-Proofs, Anne Bevis drew to my attention that Old Tom had two wives (not at the one time!) and it occurred to me that we knew little about the women who supported the men in the colony. In February this year, as reported in the *Pioneer Echo*, you will recall our focus was on those women; there is much more to tell. History is not just about dates but about real lives.

Speaking of lives, over the summer months, I read all of the volumes of the *Profiles* and I am interested to find out whether you would be interested in the Group publishing them all in one volume; perhaps as a commemorative gift? Or perhaps for interested schools or historians? If so, would we need to be selective or publish "warts and all"? Imagine school children being baffled by the absence of electricity, running water, vaccines and iPads? Our newly constructed website is attracting interest and although we cater primarily for our members, I am sure there are schools who would be interested in what we do.

On other things, we have donated to assist the survival of *TROVE* and we are looking at whether we can transcribe the older taped meeting presentations for our website. Should we also look at our logo to see whether it could be updated such as, for example, by moving the Union Jack from the sails to the position of being a flag on the mast?

Let's all think about ways to keep the history alive and interesting; after all, we look forward to your past.

Paul Cronin



Left: Paul Cronin, Barb Hawkins and Stuart Hamilton (Sec.)

A certificate of Appreciation and flowers were presented by the new President Paul Cronin to the retiring President Barb Hawkins for her outstanding contribution to the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

Barb held many positions over the years including;

- ◆ Committee member 2003-2023
- ◆ President 2005-2012 and 2019-2023
- ◆ Vice-President 2012-2019
- ◆ Newsletter Editor 2007-2021

Barb was part of the Mailout Team, produced our Powerpoint presentation, represented us at Family Expos and St James Cathedral Pioneer Services and Melbourne days, edited our *Reflections of 50 Years*, and spent many years photographing and digitising more than 60,000 images, producing Lester Stephen's Record of reference to Port Phillip Pioneers, a remarkable PPPG resource.

So, from all past and present Members, we say thank you Barb and wish you all the best.

The A.G.M. was a great success despite Zoom frustratingly not working. The meeting resulted in a few changes in the Executive and General Committee positions with Paul Cronin replacing Barb Hawkins as President, Elaine Race replacing Paul as Vice President and Susanne Wheelahan and Nick Wakeling elected as Committee Members. All other positions were filled by existing position holders. So a big thank you to all those who volunteered.

Di Wheeler, Editor

Genealogy is like a magic mirror. Look into it, and pretty soon, interesting faces appear

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS



PPP G No	Member Name	Descended From	Details	Date	Ship or other means
1555	Susanne WHEELAHAN Additional claim	a) Barbara MUIR/MOOR[E] b) Robert HARVEY	Arr. P.P.D. Married P.P.D.	27 Aug 1841 16 Aug 1847	<i>William Metcalfe</i>
1557	Sylvia MORGAN	a) Richard HEALES b) Thomas HEALES c) Rebeckah HEALES	Arr. P.P.D. “ “	26 Feb 1842 15 Jan 1849 “	<i>Himalaya</i> <i>Duchess of</i> <i>Northumberland</i>
1558	Michelle DENNIS	a) Charles HUTTON b) Eliza McSWEENEY c) Alfred PIKE d) Augusta PIKE e) Richard WHITE f) Emma SMITH	Arr. P.P.D. Married P.P.D. Arr. P.P.D. “ “ “	14 Feb 1842 24 Feb 1848 28 Oct 1849 “ 5 Jul 1848 “	<i>Andromache</i> <i>Tasman</i> “ <i>Mahomed Shah</i> “
1559	Marney BUTLER-JONES	a) Moritz SIMONDS b) Catherine PYKE c) Walter SIMONDS	Arr. P.P.D. Married P.P.D. Born P.P.D.	30 Jun 1841 30 Apr 1845 8 May 1850	<i>Caroline</i> <i>Pennyroyal Ck</i> “
1560	Cynthia PINNIGER	a) Helen STEWART	Arr. P.P.D.	12 Jun 1839	<i>Agnes</i>
1561	Kim HARWOOD	a) William HARWOOD b) Leah HARWOOD c) William HARWOOD Jnr	Arr. P.P.D. “ “	Nov 1841 “ “	<i>Wallace</i> “ “
1562	Ann BUTLER	a) Moritz SIMONDS b) Catherine PYKE c) Walter SIMONDS	Arr. P.P.D. Mar. P.P.D. Born P.P.D.	30 Jun 1841 30 Apr 1845 8 May 1850	<i>Caroline</i> <i>Pennyroyal Ck</i> “
1563	Noelene MATTHEWS	a) William MATTHEWS b) Margaret MATTHEWS c) Hugh MATTHEWS	Arr. P.P.D. Arr. P.P.D. Arr. P.P.D.	28 Apr 1839 “ 23 Mar 1845	<i>John Barry</i> “ <i>Christina</i>
1564	Richard MATTHEWS	a) William MATTHEWS b) Margaret MATTHEWS c) Andrew MATTHEWS	Arr. P.P.D. “ “	28 Apr 1839 “ “	John Barry “ “



If you are a GSV member, you may be interested in the following talk Fri 28 Jul at 10.30—12.30pm. Register for the Victoria and Tasmania Discussion Circle Zoom meeting here.

<https://www.gsv.org.au/victoria-and-tasmania-discussion-circle>

Guest Speaker: Dr Colleen Wood. Between 1844 and 1849, nine shiploads of ‘exiles’ landed at Geelong and Melbourne to begin new lives in the Port Phillip District. These 1,727 mostly young men and boys were English prisoners from Pentonville, Millbank and Parkhurst Prisons, London. They had been given pardons granting them freedom in the colonies on the condition that they could never return to the UK. The scheme was initiated by the British Home Secretary Lord Stanley. The exiles were the subject of Dr Colleen Wood’s PhD thesis: ‘Great Britain’s exiles to Port Phillip, 1844-1849: Lord Stanley’s experiment.’

PPPG eNewsletter

Please contact

Dean Wheeler at: dwheelerpppg@gmail.com

To receive your PPPG Newsletter by email.

PIONEER PROFILES VOL. 8

Don’t forget to submit your Pioneer Profiles for

Volume 8 to Beverley Jacobson at:

info@portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

(see www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au for formatting and guidelines)

Address at the Annual General Meeting on 13 May 2023

LIFE ON THE YARRA RIVER/BIRRARUNG

Speaker: Dr. Judith Buckrich

Judith Buckrich has had a long involvement with the arts and literature and has written many books. Her presentation focused on the Yarra River which runs for 240 kms from its source near Mt Baw Baw in the Yarra ranges, to its mouth at Port Phillip Bay.

As photography was non-existent at the time of the Port Phillip settlement, early depictions of Melbourne are to be found in illustrations and paintings, the first being the 1835 map of the Port Phillip District, made by surveyor, John Helder Wedge. (see front cover)

The mouth of the Yarra River finished as a delta and extended around the northern end of Port Phillip Bay. It often flooded, affecting the areas which became Prahran, Collingwood, Richmond, South Yarra, St Kilda, Elwood and South Melbourne. On the west side of the river there was the Blue Lake/West Melbourne Swamp. Before European settlement it had been a beautiful, unpolluted salt water lake with prolific wild life and plants providing food for the local Wurundjeri people. After white settlement it became a garbage dump.



Aboriginal camp, 1858; S.L.V. Richard Daintree & Antoine Fauchery

Level with Queen Street in Melbourne, rocks which spread across the river created a small waterfall and separated fresh water coming downstream, from salt water coming up from the Bay. The rocks were also a means of crossing the river on foot. Later a ferry traversed the river above the falls, and below the falls there was a turning basin for small craft.

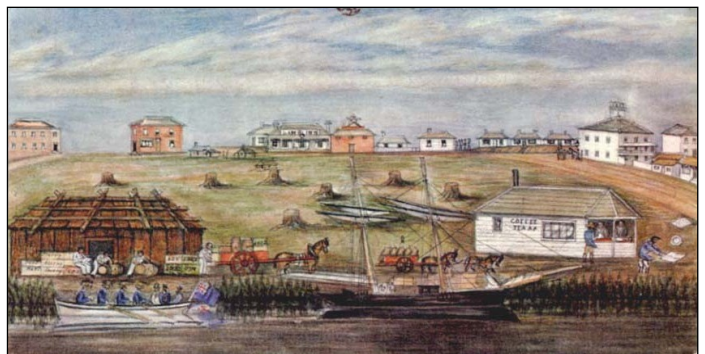
Surveyor, Robert Russell, lived on the south side of the Yarra River for many years, and he painted the



Robert Russell– Melbourne from the Falls 1838

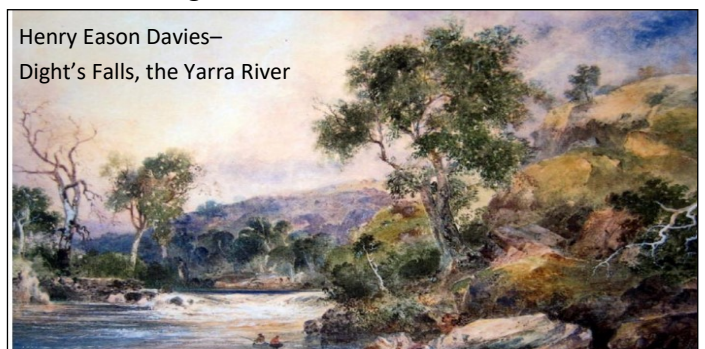
scene from his front door. The falls are clearly visible in his pictures and over time his paintings show the progression of the town of Melbourne on the north side of the river.

Wilbraham Liardet painted a picture in 1838 of the first punt crossing the river, but by 1840 there was a rough wooden trestle bridge. A hotelier, Liardet wrote a history of Melbourne which included his own illustrations. His distinctive water colours of places and people are a wonderful record of the times.



Wilbraham Liardet- 'Landing at Melbourne' Source: Wikimedia

Henry Eason Davies' beautiful paintings of the Yarra River in South Yarra and Richmond indicate that outside of the town centre, the area remained rural for a long time.



Henry Eason Davies–
Dight's Falls, the Yarra River

The goldrush in Victoria brought an influx of immigrants, and early photos show the jostle of sailing ships tied up at Queen's Wharf in Melbourne. Until the creation of the Coode Canal in 1886 and the bypassing of a narrow bend in the River, only small craft could reach Melbourne. Bigger ships docked at Hobson's Bay where goods were transferred onto lighters and then conveyed up stream. Passengers could travel the same way, for a fee, or they could walk to Melbourne.



Source: SLV— Photograph by Antoine Fauchery and Richard Daintree, ca.1858

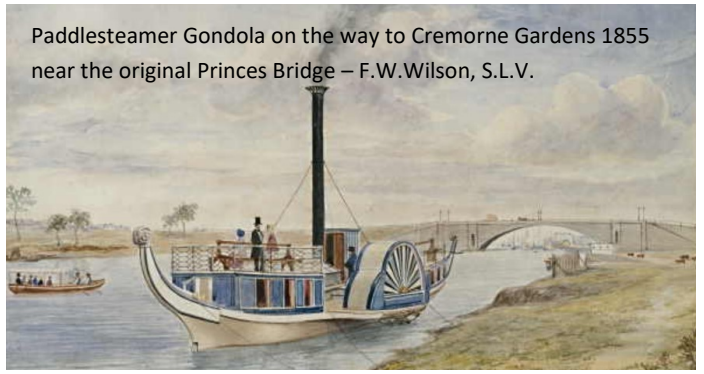
Ships were often abandoned as crews rushed to the gold fields and a 'canvas town' of tents sprang up on the southern bank of the Yarra. There were many homeless people, some living along the river, and some on the beach.

At Warrandyte where the goldrush began, the Yarra underwent changes. At Pound Bend, the River makes a big turn and loops back on itself. In the 1870s a tunnel was drilled through a rock wall at the narrow end of this loop, allowing a diversion of the river through the tunnel. This enabled gold panning in the loop itself.

The trestle bridge in Melbourne was replaced in 1850 by a single arched stone bridge. It is seen in many early photos and paintings. The present bridge was built in the 1880s. The Cremorne railway bridge crossed the Yarra River at Cremorne, a small suburb in the vicinity of Richmond, having the Yarra river as its southern boundary. In the 1870s there was a Fun Park at the Cremorne Gardens and people were conveyed up the river by paddle steamer to enjoy it. Rowing became a popular sport once all the logs and branches had been removed from the River.

Polluting industries requiring water such as tanning, wool washing, and abattoirs proliferated along the Yarra from Footscray up to the falls in Melbourne and beyond. These industries gave Melbourne a putrid smell giving the city the nickname 'Smellbourne'.

Paddlesteamer Gondola on the way to Cremorne Gardens 1855 near the original Princes Bridge – F.W.Wilson, S.L.V.



Many artists and photographers came to Melbourne, some being revolutionaries like artist, Nicholas Chevalier. He did wonderful water colour paintings in Australia and New Zealand. Louis Buvelot was also an admirable artist and photographer. Their paintings like those of Eugene Von Guerard initially looked 'European' but gradually they adopted the colours and atmosphere of the Australian landscape. They had significant influence on the Heidelberg School of painters.

The Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, built in the late 1840s upstream from Dights Falls, was a grim place for the inmates, albeit in a beautiful location. Early drawings and paintings show the buildings and its surrounds.



1863 wood engraving of Yarra Bend Asylum for the Insane by Frederick Grosse

Even as Melbourne changed around them, many Wurundjeri people remained in the area. Antoine Fauchery took outstanding photographs c1858 of aborigines wearing possum skin cloaks. (below)



Aboriginal tribesmen, 1858; photo by Antoine Fauchery –S.L.V.



John Cotton c1845—Natives bathing on the Yarra
Source: SLV Pictures Collection

John Cotton was one of the few artists to paint the indigenous people in their surroundings.

In 1863 The Coranderrk Aboriginal Station was established at the confluence of the Yarra River with Coranderrk/Badger Creek. The station was closed in 1924.

It is possible to go and see where the Yarra River enters Port Phillip Bay, but the source of the River amongst the magnificent Eucalyptus Regnans forest is closed off to visitors. We must instead be content to look at the early paintings and photographs.

Contributed by Jan Hanslow PPPG member No 1057



Telling Port Phillip Ancestor Stories

One of the main functions of the PPPG is to preserve and transmit stories of our ancestors who were in the Port Phillip District of NSW between 1803 and 1851. An audio (or video) short story is now one way you can do this. Your ancestor's most interesting facts, recorded as a spoken teaser of just a couple of minutes, will be posted in the Members Only area, for our members to listen to.

How do I do this?

- Record an audio file using the Voice Memos App on your phone.
- Include only one or two interesting verifiable facts about your Port Phillip Pioneer, and please no fiction.
- Make sure you are in a very quiet room when recording.
- Keep it to two minutes or less.
- Speak slowly and clearly.
- Make it entertaining and easy to listen to.
- Email it to:

info@www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

By emailing this file to

info@www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

you are agreeing to have your audio file published on the portphillippioneersgroup.org.au website. In the future these files may be posted on the public website. If you need help about using the Voice Memos App, ask a friend or relation, or about the content, ask a committee member.

An example can be found on the website at Member News—3 Ways to Tell Ancestor Stories, kindly provided by Beverley Jacobson Member No. 1403

PPPG PUZZLE #2

(from the PPPG Puzzler Di Wheeler)

B	C	D	C	Y	A	R	R	A	A	G	H	B	J
U	S	O	L	H	N	F	G	L	N	D	K	L	N
D	T	C	O	X	G	P	P	U	N	Y	C	R	L
X	A	D	E	K	A	A	R	U	O	R	E	C	P
C	N	G	D	D	S	A	Z	R	D	T	L	P	W
E	D	M	C	L	R	C	Z	E	T	C	P	F	Q
F	R	R	I	R	X	T	O	O	T	T	T	H	V
A	E	G	I	C	I	X	C	T	U	T	C	A	X
H	W	B	U	F	P	Y	H	D	T	A	E	A	M
D	S	E	I	B	R	U	T	N	A	A	R	M	M
E	N	T	E	R	P	R	I	Z	E	D	G	Y	H
V	D	J	A	S	R	U	S	R	O	P	N	E	K
W	H	B	D	E	M	U	B	O	T	T	O	M	Z
T	M	X	L	L	P	O	M	K	A	L	L	R	T

- Aboriginal name for Melbourne
- Aboriginal word for 'ever flowing'
- oldest suburb in Melbourne
- Newspaper, Port Phillip
- Yarra
- Oldest farmhouse in Victoria est. 1836
- PPPG meeting place
- John Pascoe Fawkner's ship
- Melbourne's first doctor
- oldest building in Melbourne, built in 1755 in Yorkshire, England

Answers to PPPG Crossword No1

Across: 1.TROVE 2.SICK 3.OAR 4.YEAR 5.EDWARD CURR 6.BREW 7.GILBERT 8.BOSUN 9.RUSSELL 10.Moxie 11.KILMORE

Down: 1.TROBE 2.OUR 3.ESQ 4.GARRYOWEN 5.CHUCK 6.BEARBRASS 7.WILLIS 8.RITE 9.UXOR 10.SHIP 11.COL 12.ODE

Matthews Family of Modewarre

Hello everyone, on behalf of Richard Matthews and I, it's with pride that we thank you for our admission to the Port Phillip Pioneers Group, recognising our respective ancestors. Hugh and Andrew Matthews.

A little of our history:

Chosen as suitable immigrants to NSW, the first of the family, my Great Grandfather, Hugh **MATTHEWS** and new wife Elizabeth, sailed to Australia aboard *The Mandarin* in June 1838 from County Down, Ireland, arriving in Sydney in the October. Some five months later in November 1838 my 2nd Great grandparents, William & Margaret Matthews (1796-1839) and their 6 remaining children also travelled to Sydney from Belfast aboard the *Garrow*.

On their arrival, James Matthews, the eldest son, successfully found work with a Mr. McFarlane. Hugh and his wife Elizabeth had been in NSW for some 5 months by then working and we believe another son, William Jnr, may have joined one of his brothers in work. However, as there had been numerous emigrant ships into Sydney before the *Garrow* arrived in the March of 1839, families with many mouths to feed were not much in demand.

Their father, William Matthews, perhaps holding out for a better outcome, given slim pickings, chose to board the *John Barry*, which was the second free settler vessel into Melbourne, where workers were needed. William was accompanied by his wife Margaret and remaining children, Jane, Sarah-Ann and Andrew.

Subsequently, no family historian, or Victorian State Librarian is yet to uncover any trace of either William or Margaret, apart from a citation in the ship's surgeon's journal on arrival here on April 28, wherein Dr Patterson stated William Matthews was in "sick quarters Melbourne".

Both Richard and I believed that William and Margaret may have been in the stated 'temporary hospital got up for the purpose' where Dr Patterson cared for 22 immigrants for some two months after the ship's arrival. There is a temporary hospital* shown on a map dated 1839 hanging in St James Cathedral in King Street, which shows that it was situated around Batman Park on the Yarra River.

Only 7 weeks after the *John Barry* arrived here, the 17yo daughter, Jane Matthews, married at the original, timber St James church, but neither William, nor Margaret witnessed the marriage. Later school records show Jane's husband John Budd listed as Guardian to Margaret, Jane's youngest sister. So it appears that William & Margaret were either still convalescing or had most likely passed.

Two weeks ago, on April 28th this year, cousin descendants of each of William & Margaret's sons held a special commemorative service for them at the Old Melbourne Cemetery, possibly their one and only funeral service. Unfortunately, to date there has been no luck in contacting descendants of their daughters Jane Budd/Searle or Margaret Fisher/Hammond (both nee Matthews).

It is only conjecture that our ancestors rest amongst the remains of the 9000 souls still there, but a fact that two of the group actually felt goosebumps and hairs on their arms stand on end at a particular spot on the day is interesting.

We have scant history about each of the other family members after their arrival in Victoria, or indeed what happened to the two youngest children before their older brothers arrived.

By 1844 and 1845 the three eldest boys had left Sydney and settled around the Modewarre area, all purchasing land to farm.

We do know that the eldest son, James Matthews, built a nine-room hotel on the Point Henry Road and was able to capitalise on those travelling to and from the Gold Fields during the rush.

Religion appears to have played a major part in our family's contribution to their new communities. My Great Grandfather Hugh was one of the founding guardians of Holy Trinity at Barrabool, and his brother James also donated land for another of the area's churches, and was an original Trustee of St James, Leopold.

Richard's 2nd great grandfather, Andrew after establishing farms in both Modewarre and Morwell, by 1879 went on to become a successful pioneer of the Lockhart District of NSW. Andrew held the first church service of the area in his living room in Lockhart and contributed to building the first Church of England there. When the 100 year old time capsule from the Lockhart Catholic Church was opened it also revealed that Andrew had generously contributed 50 pounds/guineas for the building of that church too.

After taking an Ancestry DNA test, not having known that I had any living ancestors prior to 3 years ago when Richard first contacted me, I now know of many cousins, have unlocked family history and look forward to learning more, hopefully through this Pioneers Group. We especially look forward to the family coming together for the 185th Matthews Family Anniversary reunion to be held in Modewarre on 1st October this year, when many will meet for the first time.

Thank You for your Interest!

*Apparently this was a military hospital so more research required.

Contributed by Noeline Matthews PPPG member No. 1563



AUSTRALIA'S DIGITAL MEMORY IS SAVED

In an announcement on 3 April, 2023, the Arts Minister Tony Burke and Finance Minister Katy Gallagher announced that future funding for **TROVE** is secure and that the National Library of Australia will receive \$33m over the next four years, then \$9.2m per annum ongoing and indexed from July 2027, securing Trove's future.

So, thank you and congratulations to all those supporters who helped make this happen.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Next Meeting:	Saturday 8 July 2023
Speaker:	Speaker: Elaine Race Topic: George Coppin - the father of Australian Theatre?
Hall Entry:	\$2.00
Doors Open:	1.30 pm. Sign in. Time to browse notice board, borrow library books, and chat.
Meeting Starts:	2.00 pm.
Guest Speaker:	2.30 pm.
Afternoon Tea:	3.30 pm. Refreshments.
Venue:	Wesley Hall, 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. or Online via Zoom digital platform
Upcoming Meetings:	9 September 2023 - Liz Rushen: Garryowen - The Voice of Early Melbourne 11 Nov 2023 - Gary Presland: Earliest Contacts between Europeans and the Indigenous Inhabitants of the Port Phillip District

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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE : At least one month prior
to the next meeting**

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.