



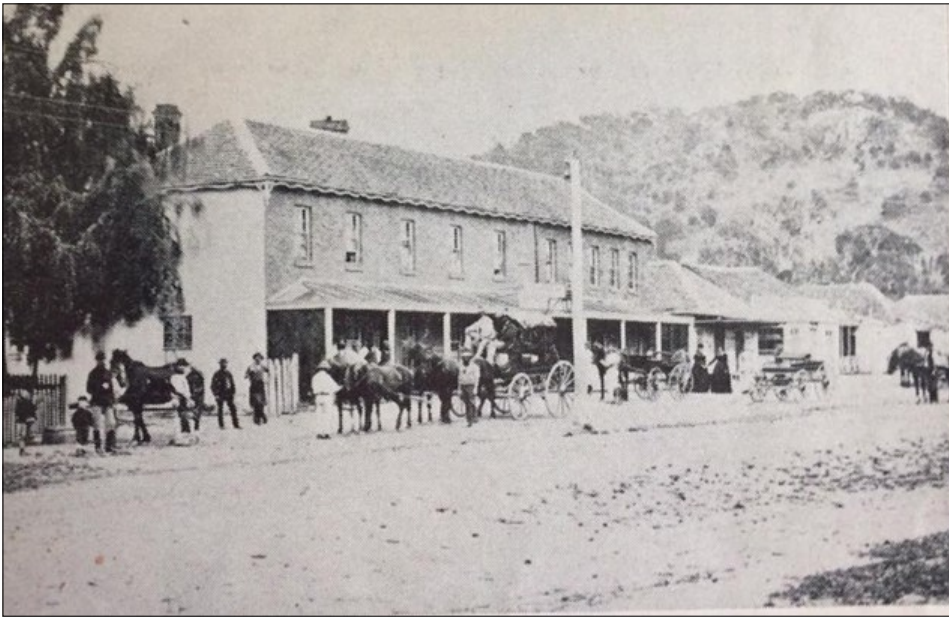
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PIONEER ECHO

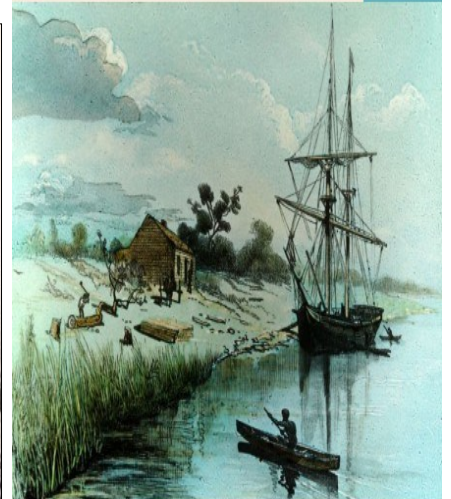
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PAST

Newsletter No: 240

Port Phillip Pioneers Group



Salutation Inn, Winding Creek, Longwood



Above: Fawkner's *Enterprize* by.
Woodhouse and Schell, 1925: SLV

Left: *Salutation Inn*;
Source: Longwood Victoria Facebook
page

Below left: *Robert Burns Hotel*
Source: Old Longwood History Board



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Andrew Hamilton's 'Robert Burns Hotel' and Store c1867

Originally built as the 'Salutation Inn' by Hugh Middlemiss about 1845, it was purchased by Andrew Hamilton in the 1860's following Middlemiss' death.

Hamilton renovated and extended it, renaming it the 'Robert Burns Hotel and Store'.

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC.

Inc. No. A0022862G / ABN: 79 213 729 409

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

PRESIDENT'S PEN

When next we meet, Melbourne's Winter will have officially ended, and it would be great to see as many members as possible attending in person. If you cannot be physically present, the Zoom link details are to be found on our website. The meeting will be at the usual place, Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Uniting Church, 253A Burke Road on the corner of Malvern Road, Gardiner at 2 pm on Saturday 13 September 2025.

Our next speaker is Dr Laura Jovic and her topic is The Letters of Capt. Richard Hanmer and Sarah Bunbury. Laura is a Research Associate at Museums Victoria where she is a consultant curator and historian with expertise in fashion and textiles. Her research and writings investigated the significance of dress in Australian colonial society.

With that interest as her background, Laura wrote about the letters written by Richard Hanmer and Sarah Bunbury who arrived in the Port Phillip District in early 1841. Over the decade until 1852 when she returned to England, Sarah Bunbury wrote of her daily life and her friendships whilst Richard Hanmer wrote about his life challenges as he spent time away at his station near Mt William in the Grampians. Whilst Sarah returned to England, Richard remained in the colony where he died unexpectedly in Melbourne in 1857 at the age of 43.

These stories are not just interesting, they add to our understanding of what life was like in the burgeoning colony and in particular, the role that women fulfilled in supporting their partners.

Attendance at this talk is very much encouraged.

Paul Cronin

President

NEW MEMBERS

There were no new Members approved for the August-September meeting, however, we would like to welcome a new Associate Member, Lynda Brown.

P.P.P.G. Website news

Back issues of *Pioneer Echo* now available .

We have added back issues of *Pioneer Echo* (starting from issue No. 200 August—September 2017) to our website to give members better access to what we consider a useful resource for your research, as well as being of continuing interest.

You can access them by going to our website at pppg.org.au, logging in and going to either the Publications page directly or via the Member News page. Choose the link under the Pioneer Echo section on the Publications page.

These are PDF copies and are not indexed beyond the list of contents where shown, but individual articles on various topics from back issues continue to be available through the Member Resources page.

Address at the General Meeting on 13 July 2025

Land Management from Deep Time to 1851

By Professor Richard Broome AM

Richard, who retired in 2012, is the author/co-author of some twenty books and many articles on Australian and Indigenous History. He was appointed a Fellow of the Academy of the Humanities in 2006; of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) in 2016; of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies in 2022, and invested as a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2020.

At the meeting, Richard began with an explanation of Aboriginal custodianship from Deep Time to 1851 and the colonial sources from which evidence is drawn, including aboriginal voices in the colonial records, ongoing traditional practices, colonial observers at the time and ethnographers (researchers who study and describe the culture of a particular group or society by observing behaviours, beliefs and cultural norms).

He explained the legal, practical and moral attachment of Aboriginals 'on country' and how these differed from the early Port Phillip Pioneers who believed the government of the day had given permission to claim vacant land that the indigenous people weren't using believing it to be waste land (*terra nullius*) whilst also believing the hunter/gatherer aboriginals had no religious attachment to the land.

Richard spoke of the common story of colonisation, the supplanting of societies through migration and the problems it created with new settlers bringing plants, animals, and pathogens from their homelands that were foreign to Australia, and the detrimental impact they had on the aboriginal people and country.

During this time there was a dynamic struggle for land. The aboriginals were 'one with country,' having an holistic view and communal links with the land despite being nomadic. Richard explained how aboriginal names were linked to an animal or a plant which invoked a responsibility by that individual to look after and nurture that species.

Richard also explained how aboriginal people were agents of change, that pre 1788 Australia was never a wilderness because the aboriginal people shaped the land by the use of fire management. They had 'cool' burns which resulted in large grassland areas for kangaroos to feed on, making it easier for hunting and enabling the eucalyptus trees to grow taller.

By the use and management of water aboriginals were able to create food security. They caught fish with ingenious fishing tools, ducks by causing them to fly into strategically placed nets and eels in man-made channels.

They used stone technology as a key implement in cutting wood, skins and fibres and created mortars and pestles.

Richard also spoke of the aspiration of the Europeans and the New World of plenty and how in early colonial times land was mismanaged by unsustainable industry, including the impact of the gold rush and the effects of the digging and sluicing on the native flora, fauna and land, and also how the sheep industry, whilst a huge source of income for the fledgling country, destroyed the natural grasses and food source (native yams) and left the land in a poor condition. He explained how the settlers initially had no link to the land as leases were only short-term, that most settlers had never been landowners, and how that all changed in the 1860's when settlers purchased land from the government for more permanent ownership which led to them to becoming new custodians of the land.

In summary, Richard went on to say that through management and sustainability, aboriginals were custodians of the land in Deep Time, and how their oneness with country made their lifestyle sustainable and that culture, land use and nature were all linked to their lifestyle unlike the early Europeans who came to settle in the New World.

Contributed by: Dianne Wheeler PPPG Member No. 1505

A report in *The Argus* on 8 March 1853 gives a glowing review of Hugh and Jane **Middlemiss** and their management of the *Salutation Inn*:

Of the Salutation Inn, Longwood, and of Mr. and Mrs. Middlemiss, its excellent host and hostess ... has the old fashioned quiet, cozy, comfort of the English inn during the coaching days ... I experienced the utmost attention and civility ... and it will be long ere I forget the jolly radiant physiognomy of Middlemiss, or the motherly deportment of his wife.

In February 1854 Hugh **Middlemiss** received payment of four shillings for repairs to the Police stables at Longwood and in December 1856 he was accepted as a contractor for the 'supply of rations to prisoners confined in locks-ups ... at Longwood ...'. According to *The Argus* on 21 February 1857 Hugh **Middlemiss** was holding a 'Ball and Concert' in commemoration of his new Hotel, at Longwood '... where a sumptuous luncheon will be provided.... Tickets five shillings each.' He opened the new palatial hotel on the Sydney Road (near the Winding Creek bridge and the toll gate) and named it the *Longwood Hotel*.

In 1858 Hugh **Middlemiss** was listed as the Postmaster at Longwood, and on 10 January 1859 a notice in the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* at page 2 advised that the Returning Officer will hold an election for one Member of the Legislative Assembly '... at **Middlemiss's** Inn, Longwood ...'.

An article in the *Bendigo Advertiser* on 3 January 1860, described a destructive fire on 29 December 1859 on the premises of Mr. **Middlemiss** totalling a loss of near £1000. The building alone was insured but this is a small part of the loss, 7 horses, fifteen tons of hay, forty sacks of oats, a chaise cart, a chaff-cutting machine, seven or eight sets of harness, innumerable other articles were destroyed. It shows that Hugh and Jane's business was very substantial and successful given the stock and equipment destroyed by the fire.

The *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* on 8 August 1860, at page 2, announced Hugh's tragic death on 31 July 1860 aged 46 as follows:

'FATAL ACCIDENT.-We regret to learn ... Mr. Middlemiss, licensed victualler at Longwood, while driving a restive horse in the bush, near his residence, was thrown from his gig ... expired on Tuesday. The news of this melancholy fate has caused the whole district to be overcast with gloom, as he was much respected. Mr. Middlemiss was one of our earliest colonists, having arrived in Port Phillip, in 1840 when quite a young man. He earned on his trade of blacksmith ... and was much respected by travellers on the Sydney road for his punctual attention to business and generally obliging disposition. He had amassed a large fortune, by various industrial pursuits, and leaves his family handsomely provided for. His hospitality was proverbial, and his extreme liberality to those in distress has been for years the theme of general admiration. Few men in his position of life have been so numerously and deeply regretted as Hugh Middlemiss, the poor man's friend.'

Hugh died a wealthy man, his estate estimated to be worth less than £15,000, and included *Killeen*, a sheep station near Longwood of approximately 43,000 acres and carrying between 6000 and 7000 sheep, including 640 acres of freehold with a magnificent homestead and garden grounds. His Will does not mention any issue.

In 1862 Jane **Middlemiss** renewed the Publican's Licence for the *Longwood Hotel* at Longwood in her own name. Jane **Middlemiss** died on 9 February 1879 and was buried at old Longwood with her husband.

Contributed by Dean Wheeler Member No. 1444



Hugh and Jane **Middlemiss'** headstone at Old Longwood cemetery, Victoria

Source: findagrave.com

Erected by
JANE FLEMING
(illegible) of her beloved husband
HUGH MIDDLEMISS
Who departed this life
July 31st 1860
Aged 46 years

(illegible) by his friends

Also
JANE FLEMING relict of
The late HUGH MIDDLEMISS
Who died 9th February 1879
Aged 76 years

William BEATON, stonemason

OBITUARY. Mr. W. Beaton, Senr.

One of our oldest residents passed away on Friday last in the person of Mr. W. **Beaton**, senr. The following sketch of his life has been handed us:-

The deceased, who was 89 years of age was one who had passed through many vicissitudes, and his life's history, if recorded in detail, would be found to be full of strange incidents and dramatic experiences. As those who know him as host of the old '*Pilgrim Inn*' in the fifties, he is spoken of as fine type of the class of pioneers ... Stalwart and strong, with a reputation of being able to hold his own in a rough about with anyone who travelled the road, he had already been through a rough schooling in the bush, on the road, on mining camp, and on the high seas, he was then a respected and useful citizen ... and he kept his house clear of ill repute: and by his championing of just causes won respect and esteem also. The *Pilgrim's Inn* was one of the best conducted hotels on the Sydney road, and the enterprise of Mr. **Beaton** is evidenced even today in the ruins of what was a well equipped house of accommodation, even though the large coach stables and portion of the hotel buildings have long since been demolished. Mr. **Beaton** was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, and just after his marriage, at the age of 21 years, he emigrated to Australia ... in 1841. The voyage out provided experiences never to be forgotten. The ship, *The India*, caught fire at sea and was totally destroyed, the passengers having to take to the boats. Mr. **Beaton** succeeded in getting his wife and sister (who afterwards became the wife of Mr. M. **Garrett**, senr.) into a small boat, but as it would not safely hold another person, he himself swam two miles before they were picked up by a passing whaling vessel. They were taken to Rio de Janeiro, from whence they were afterwards brought on to their destination in the ship *Green Lees* [sic]. The late Mr. and Mrs. **Ferguson**, father and mother of Mr. Jas. Ferguson, of Binney Street, were shipmates on the fated *India*. On arrival in Melbourne Mr. **Beaton** first found employment to go up country on a cattle station, a year or two later finding his way to Old Longwood where he built the first hotel, *the Salutation Inn*, for Mr. Hugh **Middlemiss**, the structure being of wattle and daub and slate. He was a stone mason by trade, and he afterwards put up

the stone buildings at *Killeen* homestead for Mr. Chas. **Ryan**. He tried his luck as a miner and worked on the diggings at Castlemaine, Jamieson, and other places.

When the Ovens diggings were in full swing he secured a team of bullocks and

a wagon and for some years was engaged in carrying between Melbourne and Beechworth. These were the days when the freights were £100 a ton. It was about 1854 when he came to Euroa, and when he opened *Pilgrim's Inn* he soon became prosperous, combining farming with hotel keeping. In his bullock-driving days he was associated with Messrs. Watkins, Herring, Jas. Hogg, Windsor, and others. Men were then often better known by nick names than by their own, and so, for instance, Herring was known as "Apple Jack," and Windsor as "Cockatoo George" (the latter lived with Mr. **Beaton** up to the time of his death). Mr. **Beaton** was one of the first trustees for the Euroa cemetery, and with Messrs. Garrett, Rose, DeBoos, Wignell formed the first school board committee. With the onward roll of time the deceased gentleman gradually lost his grip of business, and whilst his good nature led him into unfortunate speculations he was left to spend his declining years in somewhat reduced circumstances ... only two sons, William and Hugh, survive him.

Euroa Advertiser (Vic: 1884-1920), Friday 29 May 1908, pg 2

William, Mary and Isabella Beaton finally arrived at Melbourne on 22 October 1841 on the *Grindlay* not the "*Green Lees*" as described in the article.

William and Mary **Beaton** had 6 children after their arrival in Australia; Jane **Beaton** (1842-1861), Elizabeth Evance **nee Beaton** (1844-1882), Helen Sullivan **nee Beaton** (1846-1870), William **Beaton** (1849-1931), Robert Thomson Beaton (1854-1882) and Hugh Middlemiss Beaton (1858-1950).

Additional information contributed by Dianne Wheeler Member No. 1505



Headstone dedicated to William, Mary, Robert and Jane Beaton at the Euroa Public cemetery.

Source: findagrave.com

LOSS OF THE INDIA.

‘We stop the press to announce the melancholy intelligence of the loss by fire of the ship *India*, Captain Hugh Campbell, with emigrants, from Greenock to this port, on the 20th July last. The *India* sailed on the 4th June last with 198 souls on board, crew included, and was totally destroyed by fire on the 20th July, under the following circumstances: the third mate and one of the boys were ... drawing off spirits, when the candle they used accidentally fell on some spilled rum, which immediately caught fire, and the flames spread with such rapidity that all efforts at extinguishing the tremendous blaze were unavailing, and the ship soon became one mass of flame.

Another ship, a French whaler, was fortunately in sight, about nine miles to windward, but nearly an hour elapsed ere those on board of her became aware of the state of the *India*. On observing her condition she immediately bore down, and on nearing, lowered all her boats, and used every exertion to rescue the unfortunate sufferers. The *India*'s boats were also got out, but on the first boat making the attempt to take some of the people off the burning ship, a tremendous rush was made to get into her — she was immediately overloaded and capsized, and in that the greatest loss of life occurred ... he steered for Rio de Janeiro, the easiest made harbour, where he discharged them in safety ... the barque *Grindley* of Liverpool, is the ship employed to carry them all to this port,

To satisfy those who expected friends out in the *India*, the names of the drowned are subjoined, though all the survivors are decidedly of opinion that not one of them had relations in Australia:— Rev. William McKay, Robert Burns, John Hut, William Nott, Frederick Mitchell, John Stewart, William Stewart, James Lowe, Samuel Cameron, John Coke, Duncan Grant, William Clelland, Andrew Tait, John Stewart, Andrew Dingwall, Robert McGregor, Robert Patterson, and Charles Clements, boatswain of the ship, the only one of the crew lost.’

Source: *The Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser* Monday 18 October 1841, page 2

PPPG PUZZLE # 7

(from the PPPG Puzzler Di Wheeler)

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

- Coachbuilding partner of Hugh Middlemiss
- Inn on the Winding Creek
- The Middlemiss family arrived at Melbourne aboard this ship
- Wife of Hugh Middlemiss
- First Mayor of Melbourne 1842-44
- Hugh's father died aboard this ship
- What was Hugh Middlemiss fined for in 1845?
- Hugh Middlemiss died from falling out of this
- Hugh is buried at the ____ Longwood Cemetery
- Hugh, owner of the Salutation Inn
- The name of the Longwood tollman
- Sheep station owned by Hugh Middlemiss at his death
- Winding Creek later became known as this
- The cost of a ticket to the opening of the new *Longwood Hotel* was five _____
- Early occupation of Hugh Middlemiss

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday: 13 September 2025

Speaker: Laura Jovic

Topic: The Letters of Capt. Richard Hanmer and Sarah Bunbury - The letters provide an insight into the social and domestic lives of those who settled pre-gold rush. Sarah wrote of her daily life and her friendships, particularly with Georgiana McCrae .

Saturday: 8 November 2025

Speaker: Margaret Anderson

Topic: Melbourne: Foundations of a City

MEETING VENUE

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.

Venue: Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Unit-ing Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Roads, Gardiner.

Melways Reference: Map 59 H7.

Or Online via Zoom digital platform

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