



Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

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

A.C.N.: A0022862G

We look forward to your past



Newsletter No: 214

Vol. 43 No. 3

June - July 2020



Marian Ellis Rowan (30 July 1848 – 4 October 1922), known as Ellis Rowan, was a well-known Australian artist and botanical illustrator. She also did a series of illustrations on birds, butterflies and insects.

Image: *Nymphaea immutabilis* S.W.L.Jacobs subsp. *immutabilis*, family Nymphaeaceae / Ellis Rowan.
source nla.gov.au

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PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

Group Report.

Hello members and friends.

I hope you continue to be safe and well. The pandemic that continues across the world has changed the way we live our lives, and changes for us as a group are noted below.

I am pleased to announce we have had people come forward to join the committee to replace those retiring from their positions. A big thank you to those people and you will hear about them soon.

As you will notice the 'new members' have not been printed here as we have not had a meeting to accept them. This will happen in July.

Looking forward to things getting back to normal as soon as possible.

Barb Hawkins, Newsletter Editor and President.

AGM 11 July 2020

For the first time in history we are meeting in a new way.

It has come to pass that the current Pandemic still threatens the way we live our life and the safety of our members and friends. As a result of this we cannot be responsible for exposing anyone to anything that might compromise their health.

Here is what needs to happen for the AGM to work.

Our rules require that we have ten percent of the membership represented at the meeting to make a quorum. So, with a financial membership just now of 270, we need 27 members.

We would be grateful if as many members as possible do one of these two things:

EITHER

1. Join the meeting online via Zoom (there are separate instructions for how to do this – it's easy if you have a computer, tablet or smart phone

OR

2. If you cannot or do not want to use Zoom, please fill in, and email or post, the proxy form sent out with the AGM papers (proxies count for the quorum). You can either nominate another member to hold your proxy who you know will be present via Zoom, or otherwise make the form out to 'Secretary'.

To join the Zoom meeting you have to register your email with the secretary at info@portphillippioneersgroup.org.au by the 4th of July and you will be invited to participate on the day.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS

In the normal course of events, those Members whose membership subscriptions are due for renewal on 1 July 2020 would have received a form enclosed with this Newsletter. However, because it was not possible to hold the AGM in May, we will have to wait until the fees for 2020/2021 have been set at the upcoming Zoom AGM on 11 July. The renewal forms will be sent out separately soon after that. Thank you for your understanding.

2020

Meeting Dates

July 11
September 12
November 14

Newsletter Deadlines

August 10 August - September
October 12 October - November

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

Ellis Rowan

Marian Ellis Rowan (1848-1922), artist, naturalist and explorer, was born on 30 July 1848 in Melbourne, first child of Charles Ryan of Kilfera station, Port Phillip District, and his wife Marian, née Cotton. She was known as Ellis to distinguish her from her mother and to pay tribute to paternal Irish grandmother Ellis Hartley, the illegitimate child of King George IV and the Countess of Brandon.

Her grandfather John Cotton had written and illustrated two books on English birds. (Sir) Charles Snodgrass and Cecil Godfrey Ryan were brothers. Ellis attended Miss Murphy's refined school for young ladies at Brighton, Victoria, but had no formal training in art. In 1869, however, she visited English relatives who advised her to continue painting wildflowers in her own style. It was this which brought her lasting fame.

On 23 October 1873 at St Stephen's Church, Richmond, Melbourne, Ellis married Frederic Charles Rowan (1844-1892), a British army officer who had fought in the Taranaki wars, joining the New Zealand forces in 1866. She returned with him to Taranaki, where Rowan was a sub-inspector in the armed constabulary. There her son Eric (1875-1897) was born. Encouraged by her husband, Ellis Rowan continued to paint and exhibit her work.

In 1877 they returned to Victoria where Frederic Rowan took up a business career, promoting a system of light railways based on one initiated by his father, engineer-in-chief to the Danish Railway Operating Co. in 1862-67. In 1882 Rowan became Australasian general manager of the Australasian Electric Light Power and Storage Co. Ltd of London, and also, later, managing director of the Australian Electric Co. of Victoria. In 1886 he was appointed consul-general for Denmark.

Ellis Rowan was a small, strong-willed yet fascinating woman, an enigmatic character who forged her way through life, captivating others while pursuing her ultimate goal—the finding and painting of wildflowers, birds, insects and butterflies of many countries, often for the first time. Many were classified and named by the government botanist Sir Ferdinand Mueller.

In 1879-93 Ellis Rowan exhibited her work in international exhibitions in Australia, India, England, Europe and the United States of America and in that time was awarded 10 gold medals, 15 silver and 4 bronze. In 1888 at Melbourne's Centennial International Exhibition she was awarded the highest honours, which brought a measure of envy from a few artists who considered flower painting an inferior art.

After the death of Frederic Rowan from pneumonia in 1892, Ellis was rarely in Australia; she travelled to New Zealand, London and the U.S.A., exhibiting her work as she went. Her London stay of two years brought swift fame—Queen Victoria accepted three of her paintings—and she wrote *Flower Hunter in Queensland*

and *New Zealand* (1898), an account of adventures based on letters to her husband and friends. While in

Lounsbury. Ellis returned to Australia in 1905-06 where she pursued her search to find and record every species of wildflower on the continent. The South Australian government purchased 100 of her paintings and Queensland 125.

In 1916-18 she twice visited Papua and New Guinea, finding and illustrating many hitherto unclassified flowers and, on her second trip, searching for endangered birds of paradise. Travelling only with local guides and living in primitive conditions in unmapped territory, she succeeded in painting forty-seven of the fifty-two known species, setting the birds free afterwards. Aged 70, broken in health from malaria and fatigue she returned to Australia, and in 1920 held an exhibition of 1000 paintings in Sydney, the largest collection exhibited to that time in Australia. Next year, in response to pressure from women's organizations, the Hughes government agreed to purchase the collection for the nation, but debate in Federal parliament over the price brought conflicting opinions. Ellis's health deteriorated; and no decision had been reached by the time of her death at Macedon on 4 October 1922. She was buried with Anglican rites in Macedon cemetery.

In 1923 the Bruce-Page government, offered £5000 for 947 paintings. A number of disgruntled artists demurred at the purchase of 'vulgar art'. Probably of greater botanical than artistic value, the Rowan collection is held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, as is also a portrait of her by John Longstaff.



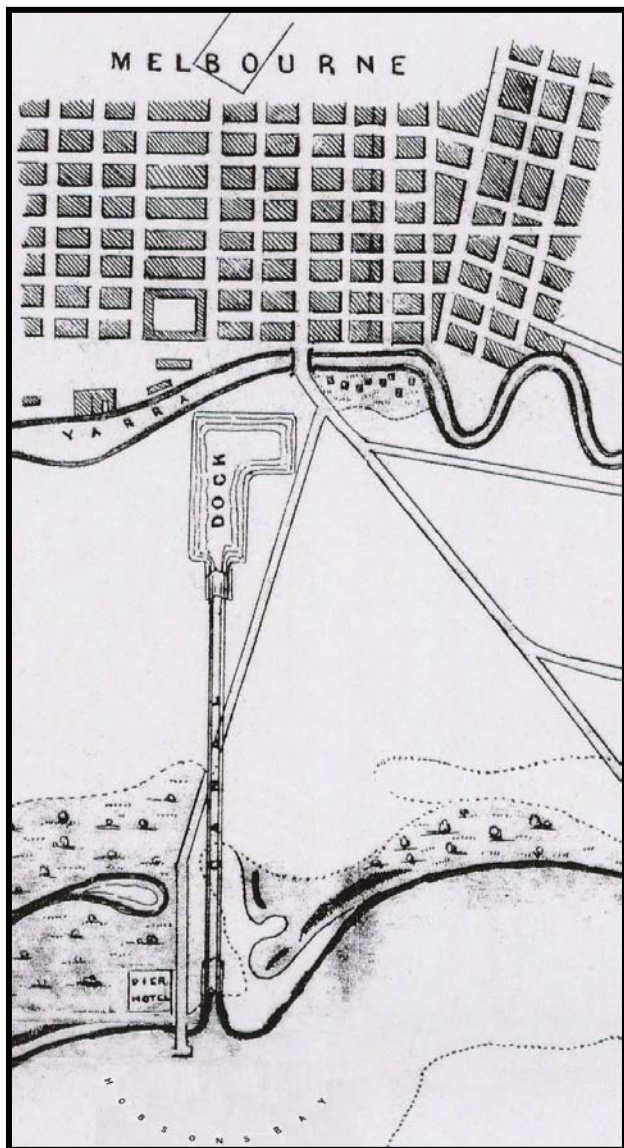
Portrait of Ellis Rowan (1873)
by John Botterill (1817-1881)

Source: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/rowan-marian-ellis>

MELBOURNE'S PLANNED SHIP CANAL

During the 1840s a number of plans were developed to improve Melbourne's port facilities, including a survey of the River Yarra by Messrs. Hatsell Mellersh Garrard and John Augustus Manton in 1848.

In late 1850 the Ham Brothers, sons of the Rev. John Ham, published an article in the "*Illustrated Australian Magazine*" in which they outlined the difficulties and considered alternative solutions for improving the situation. Ships, they explained, wanting to dock at Melbourne had to make their way up the River Yarra which had a silt barrier at its mouth and a barrier of rocks at its junction with the Saltwater River. This only gave a depth of nine feet of water at high tide and meant that only small coastal ships could reach Melbourne. Larger ships had to anchor in Hobson's Bay and tranship their cargoes onto lighters for the journey up the Yarra, considerably increasing their costs.



The remedies that were suggested were firstly, a deepened channel along the Yarra, estimated by engineer David Lennox to cost about £100,000;

secondly, constructing a pier on the beach near Sandridge with a road or railway from there to Melbourne; or thirdly to excavate a ship canal from the beach to Melbourne, a distance of just over 2 miles.

The estimated cost of a pier was about £2,000 with the road to Melbourne costing about £2,000 more plus a further £100 to £200 for a bridge across the Yarra at the Falls. They believed that any pier should be built on stout posts and not be a solid structure as that would likely cause a buildup of silt. They thought a ship canal would cost about £30,000 plus the cost of a pier.

The publication of this article aroused considerable interest in Melbourne and resulted in a petition being prepared which requested that the Mayor of Melbourne, William Nicholson, convene a Public Meeting to consider the construction of a ship canal from the beach to Melbourne. The Mayor responded by calling a meeting to be held at the Mechanic's Institute Hall at 3.00pm on Monday, 6 January 1851.

Immediately prior to the meeting commencing Alderman Augustus Frederick Adolphus Greeves drew the attendee's attention to the wording of their petition which would have restricted any discussion to be solely about the construction of a ship canal by a private company. With the agreement of those present who had signed the petition it was decided to open up the discussion to other possible options.

On taking the chair the Mayor reported that he had made enquiries of Colonial Architect, Henry Ginn as to what work had already been done. This included a complete survey of the River Yarra and the provision of a steam dredge, punts, diving bell, air pumps, etc. costing £6,000 of which £2,000 had been already paid with the balance expected to be allocated by the new Victorian Government following Separation from New South Wales on 1 July 1851. Mr. Ginn had also been requested to prepare a report and estimates on the other proposed schemes.

William Hull, J.P. then spoke of having visited the canals of Holland which he thought to be similar to any canal that might be built across the swampy ground between Melbourne and the beach. In Holland the banks of the canals had to be very wide to prevent flooding and he estimated the cost of similar work here would come to about £50,000 to £60,000 per mile. Such an amount would be ruinous to a private company.

Alderman Greeves then spoke of the considerable time and expense that could be saved if ships were able unload and load their cargoes at proper docking facilities at Melbourne.

Henry Langlands pointed out the favourable conditions that existed here in that most of the land required for the various schemes was still owned by the government and would not have to be purchased at great expense as it had been in Britain. Also, the land surrounding any

works here would be likely to increase in value.

John Pascoe Fawkner then spoke in favour of a ship canal, saying that the increased value of the land surrounding a canal might not only pay for its construction but might doubly or trebly pay for it. He also suggested the building of a hardwood tramroad for use while a canal is being constructed.

William Westgarth, M.L.C. then gave some examples of how recently arrived ships had experienced lengthy delays and excessive costs while anchored in Hobson's Bay.

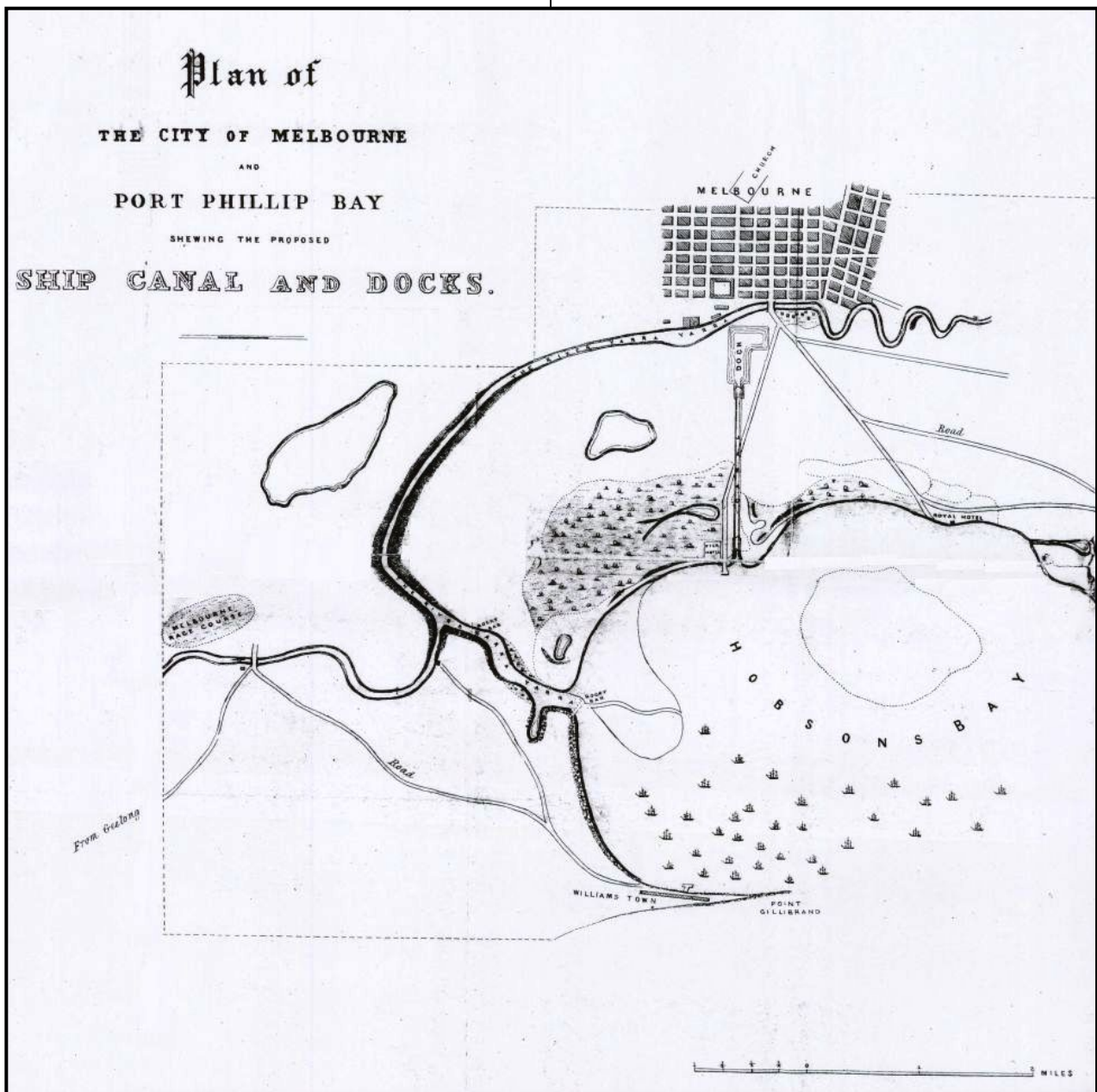
William Williamson spoke in favour of the cutting of a canal, saying that the excavated earth could be used to fill up the swamp and the resulting land be sold at a profit.

Councillor George Annand spoke of his opposition to the construction of a tramway as he thought it could result in profiteering similar to that experienced with lighters. He was in support of either a ship canal or the deepening of the Yarra.

Discussion then focussed on whether the works should be undertaken by the government or by a private company. It was eventually resolved in support of a 'public trust' being tasked with the construction of a ship canal.

The ship canal from Melbourne to the beach never got built. In September 1854 a steam railway line was opened between Melbourne and the beach at Sandridge. In 1886 the Coode Canal was opened. This cut across a loop in the Yarra, shortening the distance from Melbourne to the mouth of the Yarra and allowed for the passage of larger ships.

**Contributed by Alexander Romanov-Hughes -
PPPG Member No. 52**



THE CHRISTIAN ISRAELITE CHURCH

Following Alexander Romanov – Hughes's excellent article on John Roe and the Christian Israelite Church, as my Great Grandfather Henry Tulk was involved in the Church in Melbourne and Geelong, I have collected additional information on the Church over many years. Music was very important to the Church, including Brass Bands. On the occasion of John Wroe's public baptism in the River Aire in 1824. It was well publicised in the Bradford area and over 30,000 people attended. hymns accompanied by a select band of music was to mark the event .

John Wroe travelled to America four times as well as to France and Germany. He visited Australia five times over the years where he had a considerable following and died here in 1863 as a result of injuries sustained from a fall on the ship. He is buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

In 1854 Wroe announced that he had a command from the Lord to build a Temple in Wrenthorpe England on a hundred acre site (this was to become Melbourne House as Wroe liked the design of the old Melbourne Town Hall). Subscriptions were invited from the followers and money flooded in from all over the world, in excess of 9,000 English pounds. The interior was decorated with beautiful woodwork, much of which was imported from Australia. The Church had a grand opening of the house in 1857 John Wroe lived there for five years. Following Wroe's death an American, Daniel Milton claimed himself to be Wroe's rightful successor, and for many years claimed possession of Melbourne House.

A plaque was erected on the Old Whim Public House as a Tribute to Prophet Wroe 1782 – 1863 "Founded the Christian Israelite Church and declared that "Ashton –under-Lyne would be the New Jerusalem. Four gatehouses were built of which this building was one. Later banished for indecent behaviour he went to Australia where the Christian Israelite Church still survives today." The first mention of Australia in John Wroe's Journals was on the first of October 1834 where he stated that " Tho ye are few in number ye will be scattered –one here and one there, one in a town and one in a city, one in America and one in Botany Bay, and share the glad tidings of the Kingdom," The Christian Israelite Church does not

have ordained clergy, instead they have appointed Local and Travelling Preachers.

Christian Israelite Sanctuary, 193 Fitzroy St
Fitzroy. 1861

Architect unknown
Classical –Pedimented

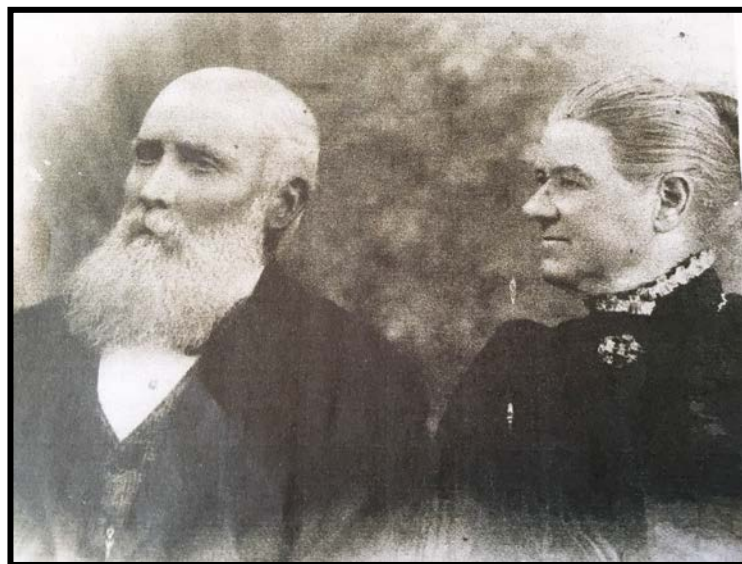
A rare example of a Christian Israelite Sanctuary, and an early and intact specimen of the Nonconformist classical church type. The building has Heritage listing and is still the World Headquarters of the Church. Many of its members were involved in woodworking, timber, coach building; cab driving and motor body building and car sales. (Some may remember Gould's motors in Northcote) The Church still holds a service once a month, but at present is closed for ongoing maintenance.

The Church in Melbourne developed from the congregation of the Rev John Allen which met in a tin building on the same site .On New Year's Day 1852 there was a triple wedding .My Great Grandfather Henry Tulk married Harriett Kearney, his brother Frederick married Harriett's sister Esther and his younger sister Sarah Ann married William Perry.

The Christian Israelite Church in Australia was also the first in Australia to have a designated female preacher. Hannah Giddy (nee Staggs) was born in Kent UK in 1828. Her parents were Christian Israelites and held services in their home. In 1854 she was sent to Australia " to wherever she could find rest for the soles of her feet " She married John Giddy in 1845 in Scots Church Sydney. They had eleven children, six boys and five girls. Hannah's work in N.S.W. was directly responsible for the commencement of the Kempsey Christian Israelites.

When a person joins the Christian Israelites Church they sign in a "Signing Book" to their belief in the Old and New Testaments and the mission of John Wroe. Every member had to sign at some stage with the date they joined. Signing Books only came in 1854. There was 13 Tulks signed into Melbourne. One Tulk in the Geelong Group, the Founder John Wroe also signed in at Geelong. I have copies of the Signing Book entries which were kindly given to me by the Late Jean Parrott a member of Port Phillip Pioneers, who had relatives connected to the Church.

Over in America a Group called The House of David was formed by Benjamin and Mary Purnell in 1903 after settling in Benton Harbour Michigan. Benjamin had sent a “Star “(message) over to the Christian Israelites in Australia which was accepted there .Benjamin and Mary then embarked on an evangelizing tour of Australia .When they returned to Benton Harbour the next year 47 converts from the Christian Israelite Church including most of the leadership and over twenty musicians and instrument makers followed from Melbourne on the German mail steamer “Rhein”. They had all realised their personal property, their proceeds going to the Purnell’s for Benton Harbour where a large holiday camp was established. Over 500 people farewelled the converts. Included in the number were Samuel and Eliza Tulk and their four daughters. Samuel was a nephew of Henry Tulk. There were originally 86 people to go to America, but the second group never went. The Church is still very active in NSW with a number of Churches in Sydney and country towns.



Henry and Harriett Tulk

**Contributed by Lewis C Tulk
PPPG Member No. 1341**

Archaeological dig uncovers huge pre-Gold Rush trove in Melbourne CBD

An archaeological dig in the heart of Melbourne’s CBD has uncovered a trove of 50,000 artefacts dating back to an 1840s school that taught young women. A major archaeological excavation began in March on the sandstone foundations of a building that once stood on the corner of King and La Trobe streets. The work was undertaken as part of a heritage requirement for the construction of a 65-storey building at the now vacant site that will include 594 apartments.

The corner site also includes remnants of shops and warehouses that served as grain stores, a green grocer and stables dating back to the 1860s and 1870s. Heritage Victoria principal archaeologist Jeremy Smith said the sandstone foundations of the cottage indicated it would have been among the oldest buildings in Melbourne. “Sandstone is a real marker for us that we’re dealing with something that’s very old,” he said. “We’re looking at one of the first buildings built in Melbourne.”

The massive array of artefacts includes jewellery, brushes, needles, pins and pencils. Archaeologists also found coins, rings, dominoes, marbles and clay pipes. “It’s very much a deteriorated ruin.” The archaeological assessment was required before the development could proceed.

The excavation of the six-room cottage began on March 26 after Heritage Victoria identified it as having “high archaeological potential”. Mr Smith said a network of vermin tunnels underneath the cottage’s floorboards

offered surprising historical value. Fragments of earthenware, metal and glass can provide hints about how people lived their lives.

“Rats are little archaeologists too. They bring things back to their nests,” he said. Bones scattered across the site gave fresh insight into the women’s diets and what foods were available at the time. The excavation was carried out by heritage consultancy TerraCulture.

A woman called Mrs Bruford lived in the building and operated the school, but archaeologists know little about her. An 1846 clipping from a colonial newspaper showed Mrs Bruford advertising the opening of her new school “for a limited number of ladies”. She promised to teach English grammar, geography, history, French, Italian and music herself. “She can therefore promise, that in these branches of education, the utmost endeavours shall be used to promote the improvement of her pupils,” the advertisement said. But she also promised to “endeavour to procure the best masters” to teach drawing and dancing if required.

Planning Minister Richard Wynne said the discovery highlighted the value of Heritage Victoria’s work to identify key sites and ensure Melbourne’s history was preserved. “This site is a unique window into life in early Melbourne. These artefacts and buildings will teach us things we can’t learn from other historical sources,” he said. “This find has uncovered a fascinating piece of our history and allows all Victorians to learn more about our city and state.”

<https://www.theage.com.au/melbourne-news/archaeological-dig>
by Benjamin Preiss May 24, 2020

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC – MEETINGS

Venue:	Online
Entry:	
Doors Open:	
Meeting Starts:	2.00 pm.
Guest Speaker:	
Afternoon Tea:	
Next Meeting:	Saturday: 11 July 2020 - AGM 2.00pm
	This meeting is to be held via the ZOOM digital platform. Please register your email with the Secretary at info@portphillippioneersgroup.org.au by 4th July if you would like to participate.

Upcoming Meetings. Venue to be advised:

Saturday, 12 September

Speaker: Speaker: Andrew Dodd
Topic: Warrigal Creek Massacre

Saturday, 14 November

Speaker: Liz Rushen. Historian & Author
Topic: John Marshall: Shipowner, Lloyd's reformer and emigration agent

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PPPG ENewsletter

*If there are any members who would prefer to receive their PPPG Newsletter via email rather than by post, please contact Susan Grant at grantsv@bigpond.net.au.
Unless we hear from you, we will continue to send your newsletter via Australia Post.*

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