



Oct - Nov 2025  
Volume 48, No 5

# PIONEER ECHO

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PAST

Newsletter No: 241

Did you celebrate Melbourne Day?



**Melbourne Day** celebrates more than just the day the city was founded. It represents the point at which the proud community of Melbourne began and it is a day to celebrate all that makes Melbourne one of the world's most liveable cities.



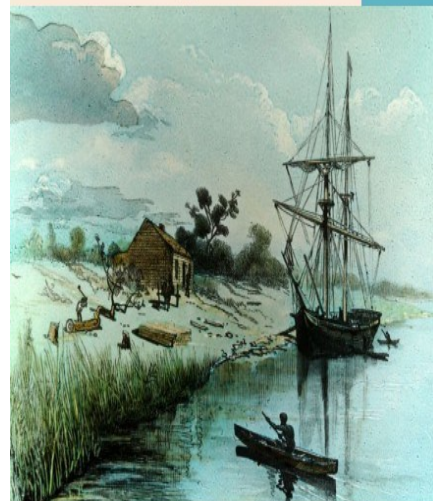
- Saturday 30th August 2025 marked 190 years since the city of Melbourne was founded - the day the first European settlers landed on the north bank of the Yarra River from the schooner *Enterprize* in 1835.

- Incorporation of the Town of Melbourne - On 22 October

1841 the settlement of Melbourne was divided into four wards

- Melbourne becomes a city - The Town of Melbourne was raised to the status of a City by Letters Patent of Queen Victoria dated 25 June 1847 just five years after its incorporation.

## Port Phillip Pioneers Group



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

Left and below left: Marvellous Melbourne and Melbourne Foundation Day

Source: [onlymelbourne.com.au](http://onlymelbourne.com.au)



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Report..... 2
- New Members..... 2
- Talk by Laura Jovic.. ... 3 & 4
- Henry Morris & Judith Murphy..... 6 & 7
- Website News..... 7
- Library News ..... 7
- PPPG Puzzle # 7 answers.... 7
- Calendar of Events..... 8

**PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC.**

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

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Over 100,000 people were present to watch the AFL Grand Final on the last Saturday in September at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Like Melbourne, what a long way that stadium has come; it is now an iconic part of Melbourne.

Much of Melbourne's design may be attributable to the original surveyor Robert Russell who was only 28 years of age when he arrived from Sydney. In 1837, Russell drew up the future city's plans in the form of rectangles. He also had a very keen eye for sport; indeed, he rode a horse in the first races and played in the first cricket match both events occurring in 1838.

That leads me to our next meeting which is at 2 pm on Saturday 8 November 2025 where our guest speaker Margaret Anderson will talk about **Melbourne: Foundations of a City**. Margaret examines the expansion of Melbourne in the pre-goldrush period and considers the nature of the city it became in 1847. Margaret is a public historian and currently Director of the Old Treasury Building. This is a wonderful story.

For further details of the meeting including for those who cannot attend in person but will do so by Zoom, see our website.

Paul Cronin

President

## NEW MEMBERS

| PPPG No | MEMBER NAME                | DESCENDED FROM                          | DETAILS             | DATE             | SHIP OR OTHER MEANS   |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1581    | Christopher William Norton | Thomas HANNAFORD<br>Elizabeth HANNAFORD | Arr. In P.P.D.<br>“ | 15 Apr 1844<br>“ | <i>Sea Queen</i><br>“ |



### From the Editor

As this is the final issue of the *Pioneer Echo* for 2025, the Committee and volunteers wish all its Members a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.



Vale  
**THOMAS CHAPMAN**

19<sup>th</sup> August 2025  
PPPG Member No. 1387



Address at the General Meeting on 13 September 2025

## THE LETTERS OF CAPT. RICHARD HANMER AND SARAH BUNBURY

By Laura Jocie

**Dr Laura Jocie** is a curator and historian with a specialisation in dress and textiles. At her address to the P.P.P. Group Laura spoke of the letters of Captain Richard Hanmer **Bunbury** (1813 - 1857), known as Hanmer, and his wife Sarah (Sally) **Bunbury** and how they provided 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**.

The Bunbury letters discuss a broad range of contemporary topics. The Series 2 letters discuss the following topics; the voyage to Australia in 1841, impressions of Melbourne, Charles Joseph **La Trobe**, purchases of land and stock, explorations in Victoria, conflict with Aboriginal people, financial matters, flora and fauna, property at Mount William, Sir George **Gipps**, farming, appointment as Superintendent of Water Police at Williamstown in 1842, servants, crime, prices, bushrangers, closure of banks, kangaroos, proposed separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales, explorations in the Grampians, horse races, balls, plans for returning to England, migration of labourers from Van Diemen's Land, and the Great Exhibition of 1851, just to name a few.

Summary points of all the Bunbury letters can be found on the State Library Victoria website at <https://findingaids.slv.vic.gov.au> and another informative source is [fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au](https://fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au)

Hanmer served in the Royal Navy where he lost one hand in battle. He married Sarah (Sally) Susanna **Sconce** (1816– 1897) on 19 December 1838. Hanmer, Susannah and their son Harry **Bunbury** emigrated to Port Phillip on the *Argyle* arriving in March 1841 where he was appointed a magistrate that same year, the Superintendent of Water Police at Williamstown in 1842 and Harbour Master at Williamstown in 1844. He owned a station at Mount William named *Barton Hall* after his home in England.



The family lived first in Brunswick Street, New Town (now Fitzroy), then at *Stanney* on the Darebin Creek. In September 1842 they moved to Williamstown.

After a trip to England in 1857, Hanmer returned to Victoria and died in Melbourne the same year.

After Hanmer's death, Sally and the children left Victoria to live in England.. She died with an estate valued at around £35,174. source: SLV

Above: Sarah Bunbury

*New Town - from our house - April 1841 - towards Melbourne*

State Library of New South Wales

Right: Sarah Bunbury

*Back of our House Darebin Creek W. Melbourne*

State Library of Victoria



## THE LETTERS OF CAPT. RICHARD HANMER AND SARAH BUNBURY

Laura also spoke of the unbound book of folded paper leaves containing a range of sewing, embroidery and knitting examples produced by Irish immigrant Anne Trotter in 1840 at the Free School in County Louth, Ireland. Some of the examples can be seen below and readers can find more information and examples at the Museums Victoria website. She cited Anne Trotter's book as an example of the sewing skills that female immigrants brought with them across the seas and how these skills were utilised by women of all classes to make new clothes or alter older clothing and how some women were given cloth to take on their journey to pass the time constructively. (Images below from Laura's presentation)



Above: Examples of Anne Trotter's workmanship as seen in her sewing, knitting and embroidery sampler book

Source: [museums victoria.com.au](http://museums victoria.com.au)

Item HT 36147 Needlework Specimen Book - Anne Trotter, Collon, County Louth, Ireland, 1840



Laura also spoke about ladies dress fashion and used the examples above to show the changes over time.

Above: Henty Costume Collection, Villa Elba, 2023

Photos: Robert Baker

## Henry MORRIS and Judith MURPHY

Henry **Morris**, a 23 year old farm labourer from Kilkenny Ireland, arrived in Melbourne on 23 July 1841 on the *George Fyffe*. Also on board was Judy **Murphy**, a 21 year old house servant, travelling with her 19 year old sister Mary **Murphy**. All three were Catholics and could read and write.

Henry **Morris** married Judith **Murphy** in 1845 in Melbourne.

In May 1845 John **Wheeler**, a protestant from Kilkenny, purchased the Public House called the *Kilmore Inn* and arranged for Henry **Morris** to act as Licensee. Initially **Morris** was refused the licence because he had no experience in running such an enterprise but he was eventually awarded the licence. Competition in Kilmore began when John **Mitton** opened the *Currency Lad* (previously an unlicensed boarding house) in opposition to the *Kilmore Inn* and by January 1846, Henry **Morris** was advertising for custom. (see advertisement above right)

By 1847 Henry **Morris** was listed as Kilmore's postmaster. Kilmore's first Post Office (the fourth in Port Phillip) was opened in February 1843. He resigned the post in 1851.

The following article appeared in the *Port Phillip Gazette and Settler's Journal* 12 May 1847 page 2;

*"It appears District Constable Milligan was conveying two prisoners from Kilmore to Melbourne when he was dragged off his horse by the prisoners while coming down the Big Hill ... the men taking the opportunity of making themselves scarce while the constable was dismounted. He had apprehended them on suspicion of having taken away a cash box, containing £20 from Mr Morris of Kilmore. In 1847 Henry **Morris** placed this caution advertisement in the paper alerting people to stolen cheques. (right)*

In May 1848 Mr **Morris** was still listed as the Licenced Victualler at *Kilmore Inn* when the 'enterprising proprietor Mr J. **Wheeler** laid the foundation of the faithfully built, two-storey, brick, stuccoed building, with slate roof and extensive underground bluestone cellars to be called the *Kilmore Hotel*. In 1849/50 John **Wheeler** built the new *Kilmore Hotel* (below right) and Henry **Morris** was the Licensee. On the 8<sup>th</sup> June 1850 John **Wheeler**, aged 30, Publican, died at Kilmore and was the first person buried at the Kilmore General cemetery.

Henry **Morris** sent a messenger to John **Wheeler**'s next-of-kin in Australia, Robert Cooke of the Upper Murry, to advise him of John's death. Cooke was granted administration of his cousin's estate claiming to be his only relative, but John had family back in Ireland. In 1851 John's brothers Arthur and Henry **Wheeler** arrived in Melbourne on the *Anna* with their wives, sisters Catherine and Cecilia **Helsham**. In 1852 Henry **Wheeler** took action in the Supreme Court against Robert

**Currency Lad, Kilmore.**  
**J.** MITTON respectfully intimates to travellers and the neighbouring inhabitants that they may always find the best of entertainment, with civility, cleanliness, and at lower prices. One trial will prove that you will call again.  
 Currency Lad, Kilmore.

---

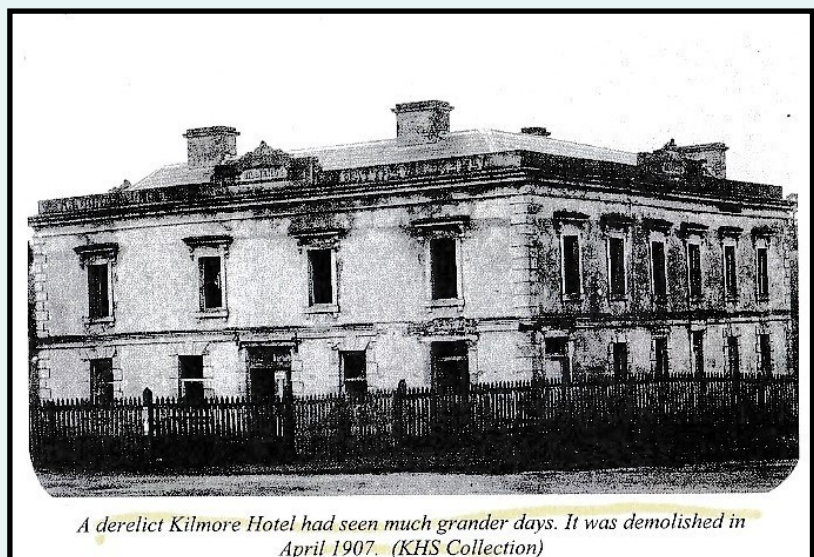
**Kilmore Inn, Sydney Road.**  
**H**ENRY MORRIS begs to intimate to travellers upon the above line of road, that he has reduced his prices to Melbourne rates, and trusts that from his superior accommodation and good stabling, he will receive a continuance of their kind patronage.

---

The Melbourne Courier Mon 12 Jan  
 1846 Page 3

**Caution.**  
**M**ERCHANTS, Shopkeepers, and others, are hereby cautioned from negotiating the following cheques and orders, they being stolen from the undersigned :—  
 Cheque dated 8th May, 1847, drawn by E. K. Horne, on the Union Bank of Australia, in favor of S. Hickey, for £2.  
 Ditto drawn by ———, on the Union Bank, for £1 15.  
 Order dated May, 1847, drawn by Captain Mackenzie, on Bells and Buchanan, Melbourne, in favor of H. Lewis, for £6 14s. 6d  
 Ditto drawn by A. Elliot, on Mr. Graham, Melbourne, for £2.  
 H. MORRIS,  
 Kilmore.  
 May 13th, 1847.

**FIRST BURIAL 1850**  
**JOHN B WHEELER**  
 b 1821 Kilkenny Ireland  
 d 8 June 1850 Kilmore  
 Arrived Port Phillip on  
 Coromandel 10 Jul 1840  
 Kilmore Inn 1845-50  
 Kilmore Historical Society Inc  
 & Wheeler Family 2021



## Henry MORRIS and Judith MURPHY

Cooke and Henry **Morris** to recover the estate of his brother John **Wheeler**. As a result of this action Henry **Morris** had to pay Henry **Wheeler** £9000 for the purchase of the *Kilmore Hotel*.

In 1851 Henry **Morris** was again granted a license to operate the *Kilmore Inn* and between 1851 and 1853 Henry **Morris** publican purchased 11 lots of land in Kilmore. In 1856 the first Kilmore council meeting was held at **Morris' Kilmore Inn**, and Henry **Morris** was elected to the first council.

According to his headstone, Henry **Morris** died 24 January 1859 aged 42 and was buried at Kilmore Public Cemetery.

Judith **Morris** bought land at Kilmore from Henry **Wheeler** on 1 March 1859. In 1859-60 she built a two-story building at 1 Powlett street, Kilmore which she sold to the Colonial Bank in 1867 for £1150. There is a blue plaque on the outside of the building commemorating its history. (See building and plaque below right)

On the 10 March 1860 Judith **Morris** purchased approximately 18 perches of land on the corner of Foote and Sydney Streets, Kilmore, including the *Old Kilmore Inn* for £100 from Arthur and Henry **Wheeler**. In 1862, she was ordered to remove the front portion of the wooden building (the old *Kilmore Inn*) obstructing the Sydney Road through Kilmore.

In 1865 Judith **Morris** was the largest land holder and renter in Kilmore. She donated land to the Government for the Post Office and Court House and the Mechanic's Institute's Hall. (source: Kilmore Historical Society)

In 1875 Judith **Morris** instigated the largest land sale in Kilmore which realised £2117. Mrs **Morris** submitted the *Kilmore Hotel* to public auction in Melbourne and failing to give the auctioneer definite instructions as to a reserve, she arrived too late on the sale day, but just in time to see her property knocked down to the first bid of £500, the purchaser immediately selling it privately to another person present for £1000.

Judith and Henry **Morris** had five children. William, Mary and Thomas died as infants and John Francis **Morris** (c.1850 – 1889) and William P. **Morris** (1854-1915) were their only surviving issue.

Judith **Morris** died at her residence *Vauclaus*, Richmond in 1885 aged 65, and was buried in the Catholic section of the Kilmore General Cemetery with her husband Henry, their three infant children William, Mary and Thomas, and their son John Francis **Morris**.

Morris Road in Kilmore is named after Henry and Judith **Morris**, early pioneers, hoteliers and prominent landholders at Kilmore.

N.B. The only Henry **Morris** I could find in my research that was born in Kilkenny, Ireland was baptised on 18 March 1807 at St Mary's Catholic Church, Kilkenny to William Morris and Bridget Cormack. If this is the above Henry **Morris** then he would have been 52 years old when he died in 1859 not 42. Obituaries and tombstones are not always accurate sources of information so it is possible that this is our Henry **Morris**.



**MORRIS** headstone at Kilmore General Cemetery, Victoria: Henry, William, Mary, Thomas, Judith and John Francis



Contributed by Dianne Wheeler Member No. 1505

Source: *Wheeler to Wheeler ...* by Dean H. Wheeler, 2024

## LIBRARY NEWS

### New Books

#### *From Far Away.*

#### *Searching for our Port Phillip Pioneers*

A new book by Tom Davison, PPPG Member 1168 that follows his pioneers and their ancestors from c1700 to c1900, from early times in England and Ireland to life in the Port Phillip District.

#### Check out our library at the next meeting

Members who regularly come to our meetings will know that we hold an interesting collection of books relating to the Port Phillip District. These are available for borrowing, and are now more easily browsable with many displayed in the glass-fronted cabinet at the back of the hall. An index to them is available in the member section of our website (Member Resources > Methods & Sources > Catalogue of PPPG Library holdings)

Stuart Hamilton recently borrowed *First Years at Port Phillip* by RD Boys a former Chief Librarian of what was then (the 1920s) called the Public Library of Victoria. He found it interesting for several reasons. It is largely made up of extracts from key historical documents, often held at the Library, going in fact back to 1768, and including many more obscure events including in relation to the unsuccessful attempted settlements of 1803-1833. Early anti-NSW

rumblings are a recurring theme, as is early explorer, settler and government incompetence both in Sydney and Melbourne. At times it gives a bracing window into the attitudes of not just early settlers but of a well-educated man of 100 years ago to indigenous Australians. Worth borrowing for all these reasons!

Members might like to share their reaction to other books they borrow from our collection. Please send your book review to The Editor at: [pppgdiw@gmail.com](mailto:pppgdiw@gmail.com)

## 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](http://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.

## PPPG PUZZLE # 7 answers

(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 Q R B J D H O L M  
M C S E L A L H X V P B Q 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  
Q A U C T H F R Q 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 Q 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 I  
C A E R J W E Y H Y E A E R R J I M G Y Q 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  
Q 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 Q 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 - **Richardson**
- Inn on the Winding Creek—**Salutation**
- Middlemiss family arrived at Melbourne aboard this ship - **David Clarke**
- Wife of Hugh Middlemiss - **Jane Fleming**
- First Mayor of Melbourne 1842-44 - **Henry Condell**
- Hugh's father died aboard this ship - **Mary Michelson**
- What was Hugh Middlemiss fined for in 1845? - **unregistered dogs**
- Hugh Middlemiss died from falling out of this - **gig**
- Hugh is buried at the \_\_\_ Longwood Cemetery - **old**
- Hugh, owner of the Salutation Inn - **Middlemiss**
- The name of the Longwood Tollman - **Billy**
- Sheep station owned by Hugh Middlemiss at his death - **Killeen**
- Winding Creek later became known as this - **Longwood**
- The cost of a ticket to the opening of the new *Longwood Hotel* was five \_\_\_\_\_ - **shillings**
- Early occupation of Hugh Middlemiss - **cartwright**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Saturday:** 8 November 2025

**Speaker:** Margaret Anderson

**Topic:** Melbourne: Foundations of a City

After several false starts, the settlement that would be Melbourne grew rapidly. In this presentation Margaret Anderson examines the expansion of Melbourne in the pre-goldrush period and considers the nature of the city it became in 1847.

Margaret Anderson is currently Director of the Old Treasury Building, after a long career as a museum director and public historian.

**Saturday:** 14 March 2026

**Speaker:** Dr. Andrea Baker

**Topic:** Music in Early Melbourne

## 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 Uniting Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Roads, Gardiner.

Melways Reference: Map 59 H7.

Or Online via Zoom digital platform

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

|                    |                     |            |                            |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| PRESIDENT          | PAUL CRONIN         |            | croninpj@outlook.com       |
| VICE PRESIDENT     | BEVERLEY JACOBSON   |            | jacobsonbeverley@gmail.com |
| HONORARY SECRETARY | STUART HAMILTON     | 0414300505 | stuarth138@gmail.com       |
| HONORARY TREASURER | DEAN WHEELER        | 0411526002 | dwheelerpppg@gmail.com     |
| COMMITTEE MEMBER   | ANNE BEVIS          | 0423028639 | bevishome11@gmail.com      |
| COMMITTEE MEMBER   | BRONWYN QUINT       |            | bquint1@bigpond.com        |
| COMMITTEE MEMBER   | NICK WAKELING       |            | nick.wakeling@gmail.com    |
| COMMITTEE MEMBER   | SUSANNE WHEELAHAN   |            | seagull@bigpond.net.au     |
| COMMITTEE MEMBER   | MARNEY BUTLER-JONES | 0419119611 | marneyejones@gmail.com     |
| EXAMINER OF PROOFS | MARNEY BUTLER-JONES | 0419119611 | marneyejones@gmail.com     |
| WEBMASTER          | STUART HAMILTON     | 0414300505 | stuarth138@gmail.com       |

### Representatives from other States/Countries:

USA Mr. Ken McNaughton, 3778 College Ave, Ellicott City, MD 21043 [kjmcn@comcast.net](mailto:kjmcn@comcast.net)

Visit our website:  
**[www.pppg.org.au](http://www.pppg.org.au)**

CONTACT DETAILS:  
21 Apex Ave, Hampton East, 3188

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Dianne Wheeler  
**[pppgdiw@gmail.com](mailto:pppgdiw@gmail.com)**

Newsletter Deadline : **8 January 2026**

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. For formatting and guidelines for articles see **[www.pppg.org.au](http://www.pppg.org.au)**