



Aug—Sep 2026
Volume 49, No 4

PIONEER ECHO

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PAST

Newsletter No: 245

Wentworth House

22 Le Cateau Street, Pascoe Vale South



An article in the *Herald/Sun* 23 May 2026 stated:

“Originally built for Scottish migrant surgeon Dr. Farquar McCrae in 1841-42 as part of his La Rose estate. Heritage documents state that the abode now known as Wentworth House, is one of Victoria’s oldest surviving houses. The original outhouse and stables remain... Indicative asking price is \$9.9m-\$10.89m



The house, originally named *La Rose*, was built in three stages. The first stage was a simple Colonial Georgian house built of volcanic rock with three rooms and a kitchen attached at the rear. Larger additions were made in the 1850s and 1870s, when bluestone wings and staff quarters were added. It was extensively renovated in recent years.

Contributed by Val Farley PPPG Member No.551

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC.

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

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

Port Phillip Pioneers Group



Above: Fawcner’s *Enterprise* by Woodhouse and Schell, 1925: SLV

Left: Wentworth House

<https://oldestatesforsale.wordpress.com>

Above left - source: realestate.com.au

Below left- Rear view of bluestone house and outbuilding

source: realestatesource.com.au

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Our first Government House was on or near the southeast corner of Lonsdale and William Streets. Lloyd Williams in his book *History Trails in Melbourne* (1957 ed) noted that the Governor did not reside there; it was just a place where “chief officers and public servants” worked. It was a grey granite building beneath a roof of slate. The front had a grassed space with a curving driveway and the building was well back from the street level. Out the front of the building was a white flag mast adorned with the Union Jack and the grounds were patrolled by red-coated uniformed soldiers. All of that is now gone as the present Supreme Court building covers the entire block. Back on 15 July 1851, the day on which Victoria became a separate colony, a colourful celebratory ceremony was held on the steps of the portico and the then-Colony Superintendent **LA TROBE** was installed as the first Lieutenant-Governor. **LA TROBE** wore his new dark-blue uniform with silver trimmings, the judges stood out in their ermine robes and the military wore scarlet coats and gold braid. The public crowd were present with “ladies in gay frocks and men in formal dress”.

All of that was the culmination of a lot of agitation and hard work and is the subject of our speaker's address at the September meeting. The speaker is Adam Wakeling and the topic is about the agitation for self-government. Adam is a Melbourne-based writer and historian who holds a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Government. He writes about political, legal and military history, the history of ideas, and the history of democracy, national identity, and political institutions. He is also the author of *A House of Commons for a Den of Thieves*.

This will be an important and interesting topic so please come along if you can or watch on Zoom.

Paul Cronin

President

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

PPPG No	MEMBER NAME	DESCENDED FROM	DETAILS	DATE	SHIP OR OTHER MEANS
1587	Heather JENKINS	Richard JENKINS Jane JENKINS (KINDER) Thomas JENKINS	Arr. in P.P.D. “ “	8 Nov 1848 “ “	<i>Andromache</i> “ “
1588	Wayne GARDNER	George SHEASBY Jane LEPPER Mary Ann SHEASBY	Marr. P.P.D. “ Born P.P.D.	4 Dec 1843 “ 1 Oct 1844	
1589	Jodee BETHERAS	Robert ARCHMAN	Arriv. P.P.D.	1 Jan 1848	<i>Marion</i>
1590	Glenys GARDNER	James WOODMAN Emily WOODMAN Amelia WOODMAN Charles PAGE	Arriv. P.P.D. “ “ Mar. P.P.D.	18 July 1840 “ “ 15 Jun 1848	<i>Theresa</i> “ “
1591	Susanne HAYLOCK	James COLVIN Margaret BALE	Marr. St James, Melb	10 Mar 1848	
6017 6018 6019	Associate Members	Clark Potter Irene Kearsey Rachel Zeliff			

Address at the General Meeting on 11 July 2026

Resources for Researching Port Phillip Pioneers

by Bronwyn Quint

Our July 2026 meeting featured a presentation from PPPG Committee member Bronwyn Quint on resources for researching Port Phillip Pioneers. After outlining a brief history of the Port Philip District, Bronwyn gave an in-depth presentation on the various resources available to researchers. These are detailed below and can also be found here

<https://www.pppg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Port-Phillip-Resources-3.pdf> on our website.

Births, Deaths and Marriages

- Victoria

<https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/search-your-family-history#quick-search>

- NSW

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search>

Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV)

<https://prov.vic.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/family-history>

- Parish Records
- Land Records
- Some Early BDMs

New South Wales State Archives – Museum of History NSW

<https://mhnsw.au/collections/>

State Archives Collection includes:

- Early Wills and Probate
- Census Records
- Immigration and Shipping
- More!!

Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV)

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/>

State Library of Victoria (SLV)

<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover/family-history>

State Library of NSW

<https://sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/using-library/researching-your-family-history>

National Library of Australia (NLA)

<https://www.library.gov.au/research/family-history>

Ryerson Index <https://www.ryersonindex.org/>

Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP)

National Library Link

<https://www.library.gov.au/research/access-collection/australian-joint-copying-project-ajcp>

can also search the Australia Joint Copying Project (AJCP) on Trove. Need to preface search with: nuc:"ANL:AJCP"AND

Local History Societies

Search around the area you are interested in for the Local Historical Society. The RHSV has a list of local Historical Societies, this may not be complete as not all societies are affiliated with the RHSV.

Local Libraries/schools/clubs

Search around the area you are interested in. Clubs and societies were part of the local community as well as church groups and schools.

University Libraries and Archives

- Melbourne University – <https://library.unimelb.edu.au/>
- Monash University – <https://www.monash.edu/library>

Cemeteries

- Friends of Cheltenham & Regional Cemeteries – <https://www.fpcrc.org/index.php>
- Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust – <https://www.smct.org.au/>
- Greater Metropolitan cemetery trust – <https://gmct.com.au/>
- Geelong Cemeteries Trust – <https://gct.net.au/>
- Find a Grave – <https://www.findagrave.com/>
- Billion Graves – <https://billiongraves.com/>

Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc. - <https://www.pppg.org.au/>

Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV) <https://www.gsv.org.au/>

Helen Doxford Harris <https://helendoxfordharris.com.au>

-has a number of Victorian Historical Indexes that can be searched

Port Phillip District <https://portphillipdistrict.info/>

-Some cemetery records, census records, church records, directories, electoral rolls and more!

CoraWeb - <https://coraweb.com.au/> - (Links to lots of web sites)

Cyndi's List – <https://cyndislist.com.au/> - (Links to lots of web sites)

The Melbourne Club – <https://melbourneclub.com.au/>

Melbourne Cricket Club – <https://www.mcc.org.au/>

REDMOND BARRY, JAMES MOORE AND WILLIAM FOSTER STAWELL

A touch of Irish luck for Port Phillip

Little did the young settlement at Port Phillip appreciate how events in Ireland would help it flourish and establish a talented Bar (community of barristers) and Bench (judges).

Three relatively young men, all graduates of Trinity College, Dublin and all members of the Irish and/or English Bar, had travelled as friends together in Europe in the late 1830s. These were Redmond **BARRY**, James **MOORE** and William Foster **STAWELL**.

The first of our intrepid immigrants was Redmond **BARRY** (1813 – 1880), later a Knight. **BARRY** was born 7 June 1813 at Ballyclough, County Cork. As the third son of Major-General Henry Green Barry and his wife Phoebe, nee Drought, he was raised Anglican and educated at boarding school to become a soldier. However, his attempts to gain a commission failed and he eventually graduated from Trinity and pursued law as well as his many other interests including politics, science and physical activities.

On his father's death in 1838, and with work being limited in the overcrowded Irish Bar, **BARRY** made the decision to seek a better future in the young Colony of New South Wales. He sailed from London on 27 April 1839 aboard the barque *Calcutta* and arrived in Sydney on 1 September 1839.

Unfortunately, on the way over **BARRY** was at one point '... confined to his cabin by the captain because of an unconcealed love affair with a married woman passenger.' This affair became known to the Bishop and other influential people and ruined his prospects in Sydney.

Accordingly, **BARRY** decided to try his chances in Melbourne, and arrived in Port Phillip from Sydney on the barque *Parkfield* on 12 November 1839. It was an excellent decision because as a barrister with his intelligence and drive he was bound to do well in the new settlement.

BARRY became the unofficial standing counsel for First Nations people in Melbourne and in early 1843 was appointed to a junior judicial post. After Separation in 1851 he was appointed Victoria's first solicitor-general, and in 1852, he was elevated to the Supreme Court of Victoria as the first puisne judge. Aside from being an exceptional judge, **BARRY** was involved in many activities including the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute (now the Athenaeum), the Separation movement, the Melbourne Club, the Melbourne Hospital, the Philharmonic Society, the Philosophical Institute, the Royal Society of Victoria and had a commission in the Victorian Volunteers (Militia). **BARRY** was also a founder of the University of Melbourne and the father of the State Library.

While not certain by any means, it is quite possible that **BARRY** wrote to his friend James **MOORE** (1807 – 1895) a fellow Trinity graduate (M.A. 1832). **MOORE**, born 1807 in Dublin, was the son of George Moore, Q.C., LL.D. of Kilbride, County Wicklow, and Elizabeth, daughter of James Armstrong. **MOORE** had been admitted into the English Bar in 1840 but did not practise. Instead, he migrated to Melbourne with another friend Charles James **GRIFFITH** (1808 – 1863) arriving at Port Phillip aboard the barque *Thomas Harrison* on 31 October 1840. **GRIFFITH**, also a Trinity graduate (M.A. 1832), was born August 1808 at Kildare, Ireland and was the fifth son of Richard Griffith and his second wife Mary Henrietta, daughter of Walter Hussey Burgh.

After their arrival, **MOORE** and **GRIFFITH** were interested in pastoral opportunities, with them both taking up the *Glenmore* run near Melton. In 1848 **MOORE** sold his share to **GRIFFITH**. **MOORE** was very positive about the opportunities in Port Phillip and wrote letters to Ireland encouraging acquaintances to migrate. One was William Foster **STAWELL** (1815 – 1889), later a Knight. William

STAWELL was born in County Cork, Ireland on 27 June 1815, ‘... was educated at Trinity College, Dublin; with honours in classics (B.A., 1837), he read law at King’s Inns, Dublin, and Lincoln’s Inn, London, and was called to the Bar in England and Ireland in 1839.’ William was the second son of Jonas Stawell, barrister and classical scholar, and Anna, daughter of William Foster, D.D., bishop of Cork, Kilmore and Clogher.

On 8 August 1842 **STAWELL**, aboard the barque *Sarah*, sailed from Plymouth for Port Phillip. The *Sarah* had been chartered by **STAWELL**’s distant relation Lieutenant William Pomeroy **GREENE**, R.N. Cabin passengers on board were nine members of the **GREENE** family, including William’s wife Anne nee Griffith, sons Molesworth Richard (b. 1827), Rawdon, George (b. 1838) and daughter Mary Frances Elizabeth (b. 1830). Mary later married William **STAWELL** on 2 January 1856 at *Woodlands*. Also on board were a Mr and Mrs **WALKER**, Messrs **SINGLETON**, **WREY** and **ELLIS**, and Miss **ORMSBY**.

The *Sarah* reached Port Phillip on 2 December 1842, and **STAWELL** was admitted to the Port Phillip District Bar in early 1843. **STAWELL** also acquired property and briefly tried squatting with his cousin John Leslie Fitzgerald Vesey **FOSTER** (1818-1900), or ‘Alphabetical’ **FOSTER** as he was known.

STAWELL was a great advocate for Separation from NSW, helped form the Anti-Transportation League in 1850 and in 1851 was appointed to the committee of the Victorian branch of the Australasian League. He was also a keen sportsman and won a Grand National horse race at Pomeroy **GREENE**’S *Woodlands*.

In 1851 Lieutenant-Governor Charles **LA TROBE** appointed **STAWELL** a nominee Crown member of the first Legislative Council and attorney-general. ‘As both a senior member of the executive and government leader in the Legislative Council, **STAWELL** did much of the work in setting up an administration, the public service, and the government machinery of the colony.’

In 1857, following the resignation of Sir William à **BECKETT**, **STAWELL** was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria. It created a rift between him and **BARRY** who had expected to be promoted to the position, but most legal historians believe that **STAWELL** was the right choice. ‘... **STAWELL** played an important role in establishing the Supreme Court as an honoured and respected tribunal, administering law with distinction and justice with impartiality.’

STAWELL’s cousin J. L. F. V. **FOSTER**, also a Trinity College, Dublin graduate (B.A., 1839) had travelled overland from Sydney to Port Phillip in 1841. Aside from his partnership with **STAWELL** at Rathescar, he acquired land on the Maribyrnong River near Melbourne. **FOSTER** was one of the Port Phillip representatives in the New South Wales Legislative Council in 1846-48 and 1849-50. In 1850 he sold his land rights and returned to Ireland where he married Emily, daughter of Rev. J. J. Fletcher D.D., of Dunran, County Wicklow. He published a book about the Colony of Victoria in 1851 and in 1852 successfully applied for the colonial secretaryship. In 1853 he returned to Victoria to take up the position. **FOSTER** had recommended to **LA TROBE** that the miner’s licence be replaced with an export tax on gold, but his advice was not taken. When the new Governor Sir Charles **HOTHAM** arrived and more rigorously enforced the licence, the Eureka Stockade rebellion ensued. **FOSTER** was made the scapegoat and forced to resign. **FOSTER** remained in the Legislative Council until elected in 1856 for the seat of Williamstown in the Legislative Assembly. He was treasurer under the short lived John O’S^HANNASSY ministry. **FOSTER** also served on the Council of Melbourne University and as a director of local bank and insurance companies. He returned to England in 1857.

Contributed by Dean Wheeler PPPG Member No. 1444

LIBRARY NEWS

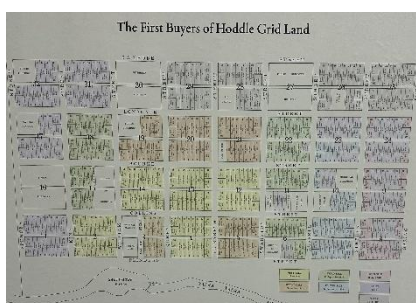
Contributed by Dean & Dianne Wheeler

On Wednesday 17 June 2026, we attended the 'Hoddle Grid – The Great Land Grab' Exhibition at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria at 239 à Beckett St, Melbourne which was curated by Dr Liz Rushen AM and designed by Dimity Mapstone.

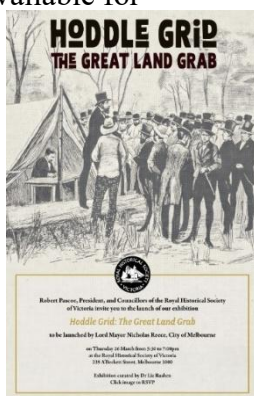
Robert Hoddle auctioned the first allotments of land in Melbourne on the 1 June 1837.

The exhibition consisted of some 29 information boards which profiled some of the original purchasers and their history accompanied by a colour-coded map of the Hoddle Grid showing land sales from 1837 to 1851.

A copy of the catalogue is now available for borrowing in the PPPG library.



Author's own photos.



Margaret Fleming OAM

The PPPG is pleased to announce that Margaret Fleming Member No.679 was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division in The King's Birthday 2026 Honours List on 8 June 2026.

Margaret received the award for her service to community history in Victoria.

She has spent decades researching and contributing to various groups, including the RHSV, the GSV, the PPPG, Brunswick Community History Group, Cobram Cemetery Trust and Yarroweyah Memorial Hall. Margaret has authored and co-authored several publications.

On behalf of the PPPG we wish to congratulate Margaret on this well-deserved award.

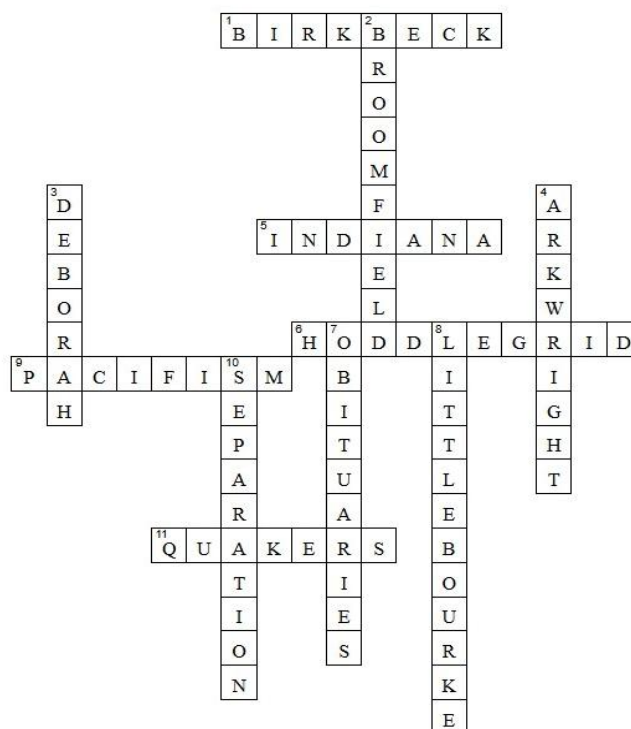
MARVELLOUS MELBOURNE

Join the 191st Birthday Celebrations on Melbourne Day, 30 August 2026

At Enterprize Park, on the north bank of the Yarra River at the bottom of William St, where the first Europeans landed on 30 August 1835 to start the first permanent settlement of Melbourne.



Puzzle No. 8 Answers



Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc.

Could you be Wendish?

The vast majority of Wends (or Sorbs) emigrated as free settlers to South Australia and Victoria from Lusatia in what is now Germany between 1848 and 1860.

Find out more on the WHSA website.

<https://www.wendishheritage.org.au/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday: 12 September 2026

Speaker: Adam Wakeling

Topic: The agitation for self-government in the Port Phillip District in the 1840s and the creation of the Victorian Parliament

Saturday: 14 November 2026

Speaker: Susan Ryan

Topic: The **HOOD** Clan – a family of 20 Port Phillip Pioneers

Saturday: 13 March 2027

Speaker: Prof. Neville Yeomans

Tonic: Early Melbourne Healthcare Practices

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.

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Newsletter Deadline: **10 October 2026**

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