



## Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 236 Altona 3018

# NEWSLETTER

## M E M O R I E S F R O M 1 9 3 9

### MARRIED AT MIDNIGHT

#### Laverton, Victoria



Lance Ivan Newbound courtesy NAA

On a Saturday in early September 1939, sergeant-pilot-Lance Ivan Newbound escorted his fiancé of four years to an evening social event taking place at the Laverton Flying School. A *dance* as it was called.

Lance had been notified he was to fly to Darwin the following day, meaning he was going to be away for some while and he wanted to see his mates one more time before leaving.

Despite having plans in place to marry Patricia Muriel Baldock in December, the gathering convinced the happy couple this was something they needed to take care of before Lance flew out the next morning. They agreed and preparations taking an hour to finalise were soon under way. Lance and Muriel were married at midnight with the bride wearing her dance frock of white-flowered organdie and none of the bridesmaids she had always planned on having.



Patricia Muriel Newbound (nee Baldock) courtesy TROVE

Lance was both born and raised in Newport from 1914. He joined the RAAF in September 1934 at Laverton following 15 months in the Citizens Air Force. Before the RAAF he was a carpenter working for a local Newport building company and studying architecture, however these were soon replaced with learning to fly. During his airforce career Lance piloted at least six different aircraft including the Wirraway.

Throughout WWII Lance had postings in Dutch New Guinea, Philippines and the west coast of America. In peace times he was posted to various airforce bases around Australia before returning to Laverton where he served out the last couple of years of his commission. After discharge in 1952, Lance, wife Muriel and their two daughters settled in Malvern where Muriel had originally come from.

The rather unusual circumstances of the impromptu marriage of Lance and Muriel Newbound late at night in the Laverton Flying School, was reported at the time by an article in the Australian Women's Weekly published on 23 September 1939, the cover of which is shown here courtesy of TROVE.

Research Ann Cassar - member ALHS - Resources-TROVE - Australian Women's Weekly, published 23 Sep 1939, page 3  
NAA - service record Lance Ivan Newbound - VIC BDM - births deaths & marriages



## Presidents Report

Altona Laverton Historical Society President Owen Hyde ,has been attending the Homestead in Altona on the Tuesday's that it is open to the public,Covid restrictions permitting.He comments as follows:

### Living Room:

We rearranged the postcard stock closer to the entrance to the living room as few postcards have been sold at this point

Elaine attacked the wood and painted wood surfaces, including the piano, and amongst the assortment of cleaning materials we had on hand "O.Cedar Polish" seemed the most effective, polishing up all the woodwork and the metal surrounds of the fireplace beautifully. I made an attempt on the back of the front door at which point the bottom of the spray bottle leaked, drenching my pants in O.Cedar Polish, leaving me to travel to Southern Cross station smelling like I'd been polished. We need more O.Cedar spray! I cooked and bottled 30 jars of jam, for this Sunday and for sale on Tuesdays (Market Day-see photo showing the plants on display).



### Historical Costumes & Reenactment.

A young chap, James, sent by our colleagues at Trug.,called in to leave his brochure. Many of you would know James as he lives on the Esplanade, across from the Homestead and over the years has dropped in and played the piano for visitors. He has finally finished his RMIT, B.A., and is now enthused about historical costumes and historical reenactments.He networks with most states and territories with like minded groups.

He was wondering if there are opportunities for such activities at the Homestead, I asked him to send more details of the groups ideas.I emphasised our work at the ALHS is essentially centred on historical research and historical accuracy. He is also a performer.



### Finnish Society:

Also, the same James and another member of the Altona Finnish society are collating the story of Finnish migration to Australia. *The Altona chapter is the only physical Finnish Society left in the country. I asked that we be kept in the loop on their work.*

### Newport Rail-yard.

Ann, Graeme and myself joined members' of the Men's Shed to check out the Newport Rail-yard site which is under threat of redevelopment.

Ralph and Virginia of Truganina are heavily involved in supporting the move to have the rail yards retained at that site.

Ann, our press photographer on the day, took several images (report follows on page 4).



## Truganina Explosives Reserve

### Digitising Archives

The project of cataloguing and digitising the archives held by Truganina Explosives Reserve continues with ALHS members Graeme Reilly and Ann Cassar spending the greater part of their Tuesdays on scanning and data input at the reserve, ably supported by the behind-the-scenes work of fellow member Jim Hevey.



L-R Jim Hevey & Graeme Reilly *Image courtesy Ralph & Virginia Coghill.*

The aim is that the reserve will have a searchable database available on a computer kindly donated by Hobsons Bay Men's Shed, hopefully by the end of the year. This will assist people wanting to learn more about the reserve and those carrying out some serious research.

The archives cover history of the reserve from inception in the late 1800s, up to and including all the effort put in by many over the last 20 years ensuring the reserve was retained and renovations carried out making the complex attractive, productive and safe, although you still do need to watch out for the odd snake or two. The collection also includes information on the local indigenous population, flora and fauna and two people greatly responsible for this were Robert Andrew from Altona and the late Cliff Gibson from Williamstown.

This digitising work is being done on Tuesday's as part of the weekly working bee by members of Hobsons Bay Men's Shed who continue with renovating the buildings and rebuilding the gardens, when the weekly attendance averages about 16 volunteers. Participation is always rewarded with a scrumptious morning tea, plenty of laughs and often a variety of fresh vegies out of the garden to select from to take home. ALHS members are welcome to come along on Tuesdays to see all the activity for themselves, although some advance notice would be wise as Ann and Graeme can sometimes be a little flexible with their hours at the reserve.



### Preserving Objects at the Reserve

Member of ALHS and radio buff, Graham Kerss, did some work on the radio unit which now stands in what was used as the master bedroom in the manager's homestead. While it was deemed not worth doing any work on the inner workings of the radio, Graeme spent a couple of mornings refurbishing the cabinet by cleaning and restoring the woodwork as well as replacing missing knobs, making the whole unit look so much more appealing.

Graham Kerss with the radio he restored in May

*Image Courtesy Ralph & Virginia Coghill*



## Newport Railway Workshops

It is anticipated this project will only last the Men's Shed volunteers until Christmas so they have been looking for the next one to take on in 2022. With this in mind the group made a visit to Newport Railway Workshops on Monday, 28 June 2021 to look over the two storey administration building that sits with its magnificent clock tower in between two wings of workshops. The building is in desperate need of a makeover to turn it into a usable space for volunteers currently working on heritage trains in the workshops, and possibly other community groups looking for a home. ALHS members, Owen Hyde, Graeme Reilly and Ann Cassar joined the group in their visit.



Newport Railway Workshops  
*Image by Ann Cassar*

### *History of the workshops*

The workshops were built in 1884-88 as part of an extensive railway expansion, when Victoria was the industrial centre of Australia. This was the largest industrial development for the young colony of Victoria. They are now the best surviving 19th century railway workshops in the world and one of Australia's most outstanding items of industrial heritage, retaining original structures and equipment on a large scale.

The workshops are made up of two single storey buildings located each side of the two storey administration building, referred to as the east and west wings. The administration building includes the magnificent clock tower needed at the time because watches were so expensive few could afford them and

the men employed there needed to know the time for when they should be working.

### *Possible Workshops Project*

The Hobsons Bay Men's Shed group are considering renovating the large room on the ground floor, known as the ballroom and currently leased by Steamrail Victoria, to demonstrate why the whole building should be preserved for the future.

The workshops are located at 89 Champion Road, Williamstown, although the administration building with its wonderful clock tower cannot be seen from this road, but if you see the old water tower you will know you are in the right area.

### Resources

Victorian Heritage

Hobsons Bay City Council

Researched and written by Ann Cassar, July 2021



## Spotswood Heritage Street Names-An Update

In our Newsletter Number 60 of December 2020, we commented on the naming of what is currently known as Hudsons Road and its relationship to the Hudson Brothers company of Sydney who established a factory to manufacture rail carriages and wagons in Spotswood as part of their planned expansion plans in Victoria.

*Further information has now come to hand which confirms that the Hudson Brothers Company had purchased 100 acres of the Land previously originally owned by John Spotswood in 1847 from Thomas Bent a Land Sales Agent acting on behalf of the John Spotswood Estate, following his death.*

*(Note in this article John Spotswood is referred to by his registered birth name of Spotswood-not Spottiswood or Spottiswoode that is shown on some of the illustrations)*

The site originally was 119 acres which ran from the Yarra River in the East through to Melbourne Road in the West, the Melbourne to Williamstown rail line passes through the property.



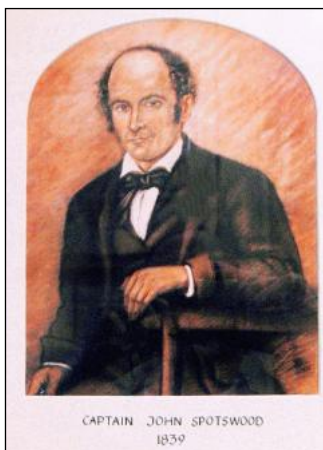
Some blocks had been sold off before the Hudson Bros. purchase.

The Port Phillip Gazette dated March 1st 1848 shows that title deeds were issued to him in the name of John Stewart Spotswood.

A facsimile of the sale entry is reproduced below.

**80 John Stewart Spotswood, 119  
acres, ditto lot 12**

There has been continuing confusion regarding the correct spelling of the Family name which is of Scottish origin beginning with the name Spottiswoode in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.



*John Stewart Spotswood (Who was known in Victoria, as Captain John Spotswood because of his maritime activities on the Yarra and around Port Phillip Bay) was born in Mumbai, India in 1809, the son of (Army) Captain John Spotswood at that time a member of the British Army protecting the interests of the East India Company, and his name is recorded in the Mumbai birth register as "Spotswood".*

## Heritage Streets-Spotswood

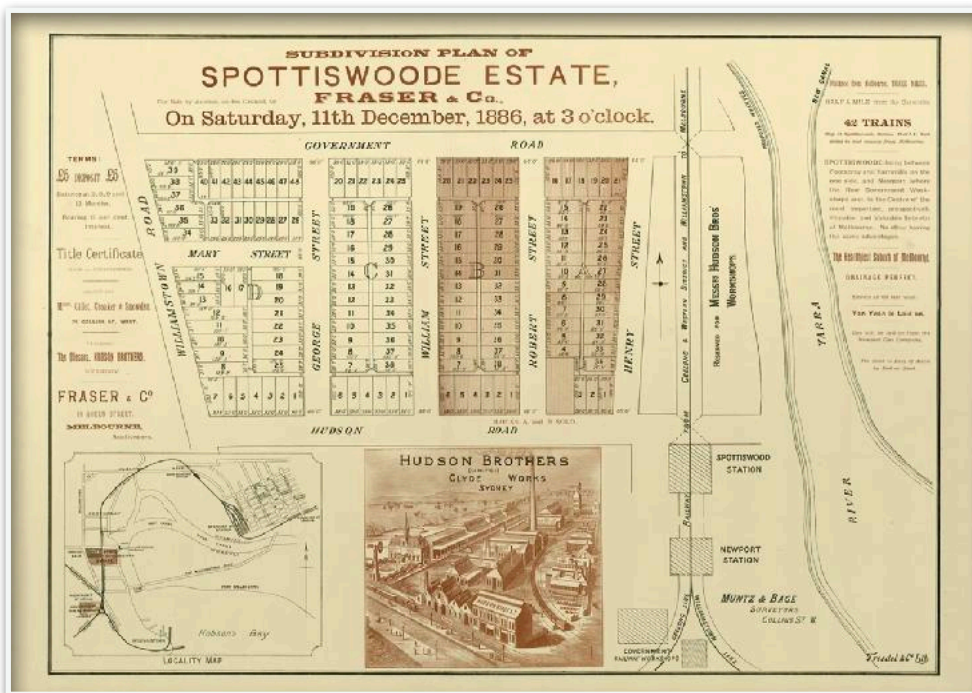
### 1883-The Hudson Brothers Influence



The Hudson Brothers George (pictured left), Henry, William and Robert (pictured right) started a business in 1882 at Redfern as Engineers and Timber merchants.

Eventually the Engineering business transferred to Clyde with Henry and Robert managing this business, with George staying with the timber business at Redfern.

The Hudson Bros. company, in 1883 eventually bought the land in Victoria that was then owned by the Estate of John Stewart Spotswood ,with the intention of the Company manufacturing and supplying railway carriages to Victorian Railways..



### 1886

A subdivision plan advertising the proposed sale of land on the subdivision was to proceed on Saturday 11 December 1886 is reproduced above and it is interesting to note that the vendors were the Hudson Brothers and that the originally planned street names of Hudson Road, Henry Street, Robert Street, William Street, George Street and Mary Street all relate to family member names.

**Hudson Road (The Family Name) is now known as Hudsons Road**

**Henry Street (Henry. Hudson) is now Bolton Street**

**Robert Street (Robert Hudson) retains its original name**

**William Street (William Hudson) is now Forrest Street**

**George Street (George Hudson) retains its original name**

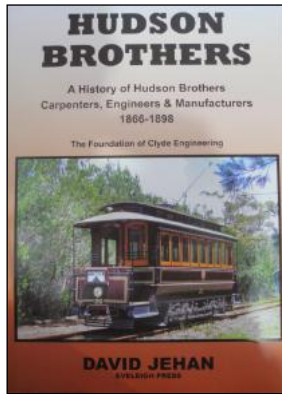
**Mary Street ( Mary Hudson wife of Henry) is now named Little Mary Street**

What is now Melbourne Road is shown as Williamstown Road and Government Road is now The Avenue.

The blocks of land shown as A & B are shown as Sold, and it would seem likely that Hudson Bros. intended to use this area of land to provide dwellings for their intended work force at their factory. The Reserved area shown on the subdivision plan for their workshop factory is that now occupied by a number of tenants including O-I (Glassworks), Scienceworks and the old pumping station buildings. You will note that the subdivision plan shows the name of a road as **Hudson Road**, this is currently sign posted by the Council as **Hudsons Road**, and it would seem that in various time periods between 1900 and 2021 the Road has been known either as Hudson or Hudsons Road. This is shown by referencing news articles, Street and Sands and McDougall Directories since 1900.

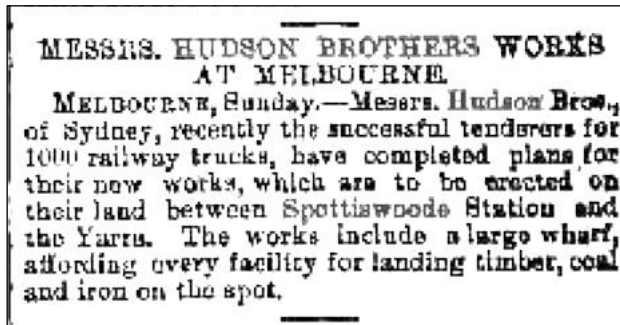


An excellent History Book has been produced about the Hudson Bros.,this has the title *Hudson Brothers-A History of Hudson Brothers-Carpenters,Engineers & Manufacturers 1886-1898* by Author-David Jehan, Eveleigh Press 2019.

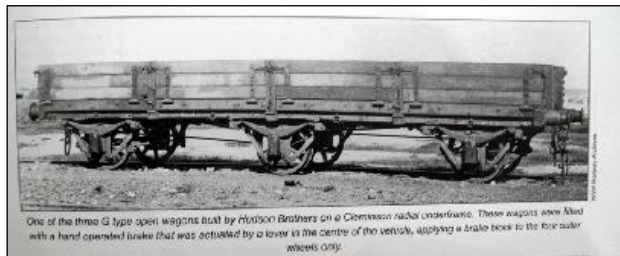


It contains the comments—

*Robert Hudson continued to manage all the activities of the company outside Sydney & also with a paragraph with the words-**Spottiswoode, Vic**-Hudson Brothers purchased land in Melbourne between Spottiswoode Station (now Spotswood) and the Yarra.Plans were to build a workshop and in 1886 an order for open wagons was received.It is unclear how successful the venture was.*



1886-A news clipping from the Daily Telegraph,Sydney,December 7,1886 announced that Hudson Brothers, recent successful tenderers for 1000 railway trucks, had completed plans for their new works to be erected on their land between Spottiswoode station and the Yarra.



However things did not go as planned for the business, of the Hudson Brothers company in Sydney as they were unable to secure new contracts for carriages, rolling strikes began and the company was forced in to receivership in 1898.

Above is an image of a typical G Type open wagon being built by the company in Sydney circa 1886 and this is possibly the type of wagon planned for manufacture in Victoria.

## TYQUIN FARM

Almost 100 years ago Thomas James Tyquin ran a farm on the Laverton Plains south of Queen Street, in the area now better known as Altona Meadows. Thomas was born in Werribee in 1897 into the large extended Tyquin family originally from Taradale. Many of them were involved in farming in the area, with growing hay and raising sheep being just two of their activities.

Thomas and his wife Honora enjoyed entertaining in their home and an amusing article was published the Werribee Shire Banner in 1931 we thought you may enjoy reading:

Werribee Shire Banner, Thursday 26 Nov 1931, page 4

## LOST ON LAVERTON PLAINS

Strange as it may seem, nevertheless true, a party from Altona, who had been to the dance at Tyquin's farm, were hopelessly lost on the flats, south of the railway line. Leaving Mr Tyquin's about 12o'clock they made for the Geelong road, but meeting with boulders, bog holes etc, they apparently turned in all directions. Often they were bogged and then all, ladies included, had to get out and push the vehicle. They crossed a creek, at least one man did by hanging to the wires. The railway line was crossed on one occasion but they retraced their tracks as the road was so bad. Lights were seen in the distance;

one man said they were the lights at Galvin Station. The "old head" said they were Portarlington lights, so it was about turn, as they had no home in that town. With the breaking of dawn they finally got their bearings and arrived home at half past . It was an unenviable experience but not one is any the worse for it.

**Research by Ann Cassar-May 2021**

## ADDITIONAL COMMENT

*Member Glen Hyde in the Book - ALTONA & SURROUNDS - A PATCHWORK OF MEMORIES states:*

*"My mum's name was Doreen. She was born in Tasmania and came to Melbourne for work. She was a housemaid at Tyquin's Farm in Laverton, next to the Explosive's Reserve.*

*It was known as Tyquin's paddocks and it was an early sheep farm in the district. It ran from Queen Street right down to the beach. Quite a big place. Mum lived with her sister Bertha whose husband was the gatekeeper at Galvin Railway Station. She met Dad at a dance in the Laverton Hall and they got engaged and then married at the old Catholic Church in Werribee."*



**SOCIETY NEWS**

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**VALE-BERYL BLAIR**

It is with sadness that we advise of the passing of Beryl Blair, the wife of member Roger Blair for 55 years. We express our sympathy to Roger and the Blair Family for the passing of Beryl after a long illness.

SOCIETY NEWS

(Current or Proposed Activities-Covid 19 Regulations Permitting)



Local Activities

The Homestead is Open	Tuesday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Devonshire Tea.-Online Booking Required	First Sunday of Month- Next Event August 1
Truganina Explosives Reserve	First Sunday of the Month-Next Open August 1

