Jeanette Harding    A wave of sadness passed over the South Gippsland region with the news from West Australia of the passing of Mrs Jeanette Harding.

Jeanette spent her school days in Toora and returned to Toora, a single parent with two small children. As the children were both sports minded, Jeanette supported their endeavours and also supported the various committees involved. She opened a plant/flower shop in Stanley Street before she became one of the mail contractors for the Toora Post Office. Being very community conscious, Jeanette was approached to consider standing for Council when it was the original South Gippsland Shire. She nominated, was elected and served for many years alongside Ab. Allott, Llew Vale and Heather Bligh to name a few. When the State Government decided “bigger was better” Jeanette remained with council to make sure “that our side of the hill” was not lost in the bigger format. Once again, she stood for Council and served for a period of six years and then for eight years, including twice as Shire President.

Whether on Council or not, Jeanette had a strong community attitude and was behind or strongly supported many projects including the Community Bank, Toora wind farm, Port Anthony, Vi Plus, and Pear Orchard etc. So many local events also had Jeanette’s input including festivals, art shows, concerts, rallies and garden parties, the list is endless. Jeanette was especially proud of the achievements for the Long Jetty restoration and the establishment of our Community Banks and delighted to see both having such a positive benefit for our region.

Editors Comment; The Toora Times would like to acknowledge the contribution that Jeanette made towards the establishment of our community newsletter, the Toora Times. Without her drive and regular input, we would not be here. Jeanette had a ‘Must do, Can do’ attitude that kept some of our local community committees going through some tough times. She was always accessible for an opinion and always followed through with her commitments.

- Jeanette is returning to Toora, the town she loved.
Emergency Contact List

Police, Fire, & Emergency Services 000
Hospital (Foster) 97 Station Rd. Foster 5683.9777
Foster Medical Centre Station Rd. Foster 5682.2088
Toora Medical Centre 4 Welshpool Rd. Toora 5686.2203
Toora Pharmacy Cnr. Stanley St. & Welshpool Rd. 5686.2649
Toora RSL Welfare Officer 28 Stanley St. 5686.2044
Veterinary (Tarwin Vet Group) Emergency A.H. Only 5662.2818
Dentist “Southern Smiles” Foster. 5682.2696

Community Organisation Information

- **Toora Fire Brigade** Last Thursday each month 8 pm.
  Training every Thursday evening. tooracfa@dcsi.net.au
- **Toora Lions Club** 1st. & 3rd. Wed. each month 6:30 pm. Club Rooms.
  tooralionsclub@gmail.com Secretary; Glenda Paragreen 0438 044 346
- **Toora Community Action Team Inc.** t cat@toora.org Website; toora.org/tcat
  meetings 4th. Tuesday 7:30 pm, at the CFA
- **Toora Hall Committee** 2nd Tuesday each month 2:00 pm. at the Hall.
  hall@toora.org
- **Toora & Dist. Family History Group** 2nd Monday of month 2pm. in research rooms.
  contact@toora.org
- **Corner Inlet Anglican Op-Shop** Thursday 10am to 4pm
  Friday 10am to 4pm (except Good Friday) Saturday 10am to 2.30pm

Toora and District Family History Group Inc. ACN No. 00222797
Publishers of the Toora Times Newsletter, with special thanks to the Toora & District Community Bank, Bendigo Bank, for their support.

The **Toora Times** provides an opportunity for organisations and individuals to place items of local interest, sporting results, or that little bit of news to share with the local community.

The T&DFHG take all care for accuracy of information at the time of publication, but accept no responsibility for the content or accuracy of any submitted works.

All positions at the Toora Times are unpaid voluntary positions, including that of Editor. All advertising revenue is put towards our publication costs as well as community projects through TCAT Inc.

Cut-off date for submissions or advertising is the 15th. each month. Submissions and photos by mail, should be forwarded to; T&DFHG, PO Box 41, Toora 3962.
Send all electronic submissions to the Toora Times Editor; tt@toora.org
  • Advertising, Web Publishing, Production, Editor; Dave Berry 0418 103 801
  • All news - submitted by community groups and individual community members
  • Web Published each month; www.toora.org
~ In tribute ~

JOHN SMALLMAN  07/12/1927 – 24/03/2020

Husband of Jan (dec) father of Larry and Linda. Father in law and friend to Sandra and Pom. Parpee to Kate, Kerri, Scott, Tara and Bree, friend to their partners Great Parpee to Kara, Chloe, Dean, Grayson, Dylan, Emily, Talei, Laycie, Cooper.

- Memorial service to be held at a later date
- Johnny will be remembered as the driving force behind a number of bands and jazz groups over his lifetime. His last Gig was for his 90th Birthday with friends at the Foster Bowls Club. Thanks Johnny, from all your band members!

RSL Appeals collector, Committee member and most importantly, dear friend, Angela Nuttall, passed away.

She will be deeply missed by our Sub Branch. RIP Angela,

“Lest We Forget”

Win Guatta

The Toora Community Hall and Library and Family History Group extend their deepest Sympathy to Nola Guatta on the passing of her sister Win.

Thank you Win, we will miss that smiling face around town. R.I.P. Win.
Toora Walking Group

9:30 Wednesdays Sagasser Park

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Hi everyone, I hope you are all obeying the COVID-19 rules. It is hard, but if we can keep this area free of this terrible virus, it will be worth it.

The orchard has enjoyed all the rain. I look forward to seeing you all again soon. While your home catch up on those jobs you haven't had time to do in the last few months/years. No excuses now. Stay safe, keep in touch with your family, friends, & neighbours. We can beat it. Meryl Agars - President.

Toora & District Family History Group Inc.

While we are all staying at home and we are unable to meet at the Family History rooms, here is a little bit of local history to enjoy;

Snippets from The Ensign Aug 1915. Toora Progress Association.
At the 1st Annual Meeting, 33 in attendance. Dr Edgar Barrett presided. Financial report. Subs- 2 shillings 6 pence. Total Income 4 pounds 18 shillings 6 pence. Expenses 4.11.4 pence. Leaving a Balance of 7 shillings. 2 pence. Business; The alteration to constitution rules. The committee to consist of 7 Members. President, Vice President, Hon Secretary & Treasurer plus 4 committee. Nominations were; President, Dr E Barrett. V Lawrence. F. Fretwell. (Lawrence & Fretwell withdrew their nominations.) Dr E Barrett accepted. Vice Pres. Nominations. F. Fretwell. accepted. V.Lawrence. withdrew his nomination. Hon Secretary & Treasurer Nomination Mr C Butcher accepted. 4 committee elected by ballot. Messrs P. Doughtery. W.L. Blanton. F. Lawrence. E. Cunningham. On Nov 4th 1914. The constitution as drafted, was adopted by the sub committee. Business discussed was, Lower Muddy Creek Bridge repair. Estimated cost 200 pounds. Review of Train Timetable. Livestock trucking yards. Re; road from Grip Rd. Jetty Reserve clear bush. Rubbish Tip, a depot being looked at in Jetty Rd 16 acres.

The Echo June 1916.


The Echo. Fri Aug 1917. (Advert.)

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW. Toora Mechanics Institute. contact J. R. Gunn.
Toora Community Hall & Library Inc.

MORE BOOKS FROM THE TOORA LIBRARY

This month I thought I might write about Bryce Courtenay, I know there are a number of his books in the Toora Library and you’ll get to read them when this madness is over and we can get back to our ‘real’ lives. In the meantime here’s some information on Courtenay and the most known of his books.

Courtenay’s novels are primarily set in South Africa, the country of his birth, or Australia, his adopted country. His first book, The Power of One, was published in 1989 and, despite Courtenay’s fears that it would never sell, quickly became one of Australia's best-selling books by any living author. The story was made into a film, as well as being re-released in an edition for children.

Courtenay was one of Australia's most commercially successful authors. He built up this success over the long term by promoting himself and developing a relationship with readers as much as marketing his books; for instance, it is said he gave away up to 2,500 books free each year to readers he met in the street. He wrote and published over 20 fiction titles and two non-fiction. It’s one of these I believe stands out from everything else Courtenay wrote – April Fool’s Day. He wrote it as a tribute to his son.

Courtenay's son Damon was born in Australia with severe haemophilia. Along with the moving story of an afflicted but strong-spirited boy, Courtenay paints a bitter and angry picture of the Australian medical community at that time, steeped in paternalism and political expediency. Several times a week Damon would bleed into his joints and his father would take him to the hospital for infusion of Factor VIII to induce clotting. In other countries families were allowed to stock Factor VIII and infuse at home, minimizing both disruption to the family and permanent damage to joints. This was not permitted in Australia, to the extreme detriment of haemophiliacs and their families. Worse than this, the screening and fractionation of donated blood in Australia did not at that time meet safety standards known and required in other countries. Damon contracted AIDS from the contaminated Australian blood supply and died of that disease on April Fool's Day in 1991. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryce_Courtenay.

Bryce Courtenay died on 22 November 2012 at his Canberra home.

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TOORA & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

The T&DFHG are saddened to learn of the passing of Win Guatta, a long time member of the group.

When Win arrived in Toora she quickly became involved in the town’s events whenever she could. She loved writing and wrote on her beloved town of Walhalla where her family lived and had a house there. Win and her sister Nola would often travel to Walhalla and stay where Win would then volunteer.

Win spent a number of years helping in the Toora library sorting and cataloguing books every week. Being an avid reader there weren’t many authors she didn’t know and if anything was happening in the hall, Win was there to help. Another love was cryptic crosswords and the Toora weekly book club.

The Toora Community Hall and Library and Family History Group extend their deepest Sympathy to Nola Guatta on the passing of her sister Win. Thank you Win we will miss that smiling face around town. R.I.P. Win.

Please contact TFHG if you can help then please contact our Researcher Mary 56821166 or President Meryl 0428864520. Memberships; Single $15. Family $20. Send to P.O Box 41 Toora. 3962. or ph 0428864520
Information sought.

The T&DFHG are seeking information on the following family:

Donald McDonald born in Geelong 1854.

Married Margaret McDonald in Creswick 1882. Died in Welshpool 1910.
Father John Norman McDonald, Mother Isabella Mackay,
Margaret McDonald Born Creswick 1859 died Welshpool 1948. Father Alexander McDonald.
Mother Lamont. Children Isabella, Mary, Annie, Margaret

• If anyone has any info on this family could you please contact the T&DFHG on 56821166
A short sketch of the "Family Tree" by Leslie W A Benn (Archdeacon of the Church of England) and the eldest son of William Sedley Benn. (Continued)

William was born in Clonmult, County Cork, Ireland on 27th December 1862 - died 13th July 1937 in Sale Hospital, Sale Victoria. William kept a diary from 1882, until his death in 1937, and they are a great resource of local information about Gippsland during those years. The following diary transcripts, date from 5th January 1891 - 19th May 1906, William was involved in owning property personally, and built several homes and businesses in the Toora District. We hope that you will find these pages of interest and they may assist in identifying aspects of Toora's History.

1891 - Monday 5th January - I left Mirboo and rode down to Mr. Wrixon's farm on the Franklin River near Toora to complete Mr. Wrixon's house contract. It came on a little stormy on my way down. I had a good coat so I did not get much hurt from the shower.

Tuesday 6th January - I spent the day drawing timber to site for building Mr. Wrixon's house, the day was fine. While passing through Toora yesterday I engaged with a man named Richard Mann cutting foundation blocks.

Wednesday 7th January - I spent the day drawing timber to site, sent R Mann cutting foundation blocks.

Thursday 8th January - Spent the day splitting and squaring timber R Mann was drawing in, fine day.

Friday 9th January - I spent the day trestles, ladder etc. for to commence building Mr. Wrixon's house.

Saturday 10th January - I commenced building Mr. Wrixon's house. I have Dick Mann at drawing in etc., fine day.

Sunday 11th January - I took a ride and spent the evening at Middletons.

Monday 12th January - I spent the day putting down blocks.

Tuesday 13th January - Dick Mann & I spent the day putting down blocks.

Wednesday 14th January - I spent the day working at the house.

Thursday 15th January - I spent the day working on the house.

Friday 16th January - I spent the day building house.

Saturday 17th January - Spent the day building the house.

(Continued Page 10.)

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Sunday 18th January- I spent the day very pleasantly. I caught my mare and rode down to Toora, had dinner I rode from there to Mr. Anderson's Saw Mills, and back by Mr Middletons. On my way from Toora to Mr. Andersons, about halfway along the train line I had the pleasure of seeing a lovely piece of scenery as grand a view of Wilson's Promontory and Corner Inlet can be seen.

This train line winds it's way through side cuttings and up from the low lying land to the top of the high hills and in place it is on very steep sidings. All around everything is the usual scrub of blanket wood hazel and musk shrubs with a thick heavy forest of bluegum and black but at a distance of about two miles lay the seashore with it's various kinds of nature's garments. Such as Mangrove, Ti tree etc.all representing the various shades of light green and even every hue one could imagine, out further the hue of scrub gave place to a muddy beach with all the usual kinds of seaweeds etc.then lay a beautiful sheet of clear water and an ever changing scene. While the clouds patting along gave the whole scene a panorama appearance, far out to the south lay Wilsons Promontory with it's summits projecting high above sea level, the islands dotted here and there looked a finish to make the scene most beautiful. Thus I spent part of my

Sunday quietly admiring in solitude the beautiful and awfully grand works of our

Great and Good and Almighty God, who has so beautifully designed everything and even we little mortals in the form of mankind, so that they may admire and appreciate his great power and goodness. I, after spending a very pleasant day, spent the remaining part of the evening in my lowly camp by myself.

(To be continued - Judy Whatley)

**RECIPE - AMERICAN APPLE CAKE**

1 cup sugar, 1 cup unsweetened apple puree, pinch salt. 1 tspn. soda dissolved in a little boiling water 1 tspn cinnamon, 1 tspn cocoa, 1 cup sultanas, 1/2 cup butter. 2 cups flour, little nutmeg, 1/2 cup chopped nuts, or a little coconut & few drops lemon juice. Cream butter & sugar, add puree, then soda, flour & fruit.

Bake 1 hour in moderate oven.
RECIPE: CURRIED CHICKEN WITH AVOCADO

2 avocados

1 1/2 cups cooked chicken chopped. lemon juice

2 Tablespoons butter, 1 teaspoon curry powder

2 Tablespoons plain flour, 1 cup milk

freshly ground pepper.

Cut avocados in half, remove seed & sprinkle with lemon juice. Melt butter in a saucepan, add curry powder & flour & stir over low heat for two minutes. Remove from heat & whisk in the milk slowly. Place back on heat & stir until sauce has thickened. season to taste. Place the chopped chicken in the avocado cavity & cover with curry sauce. Bake on mod. oven 180 c for 15 mins. Garnish with parsley YUM!
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