

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

August 2022

YOUR HISTORY, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

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Welcome to the August edition of the Cafs History & Heritage newsletter. I hope you are all keeping well and warm during these cold winter months.

Our History service plays a critical role within our organisation. Our team provides services to support the rights of former residents and their families to access records the organisation holds about them. The Cafs collection includes records, photographs and objects that relate to the former Ballarat Orphan Asylum, Ballarat Orphanage, Ballarat Children's Home, and Group Homes. Over the past few months, our team has been busy with important archival work as well as working closely with Ashtree Projects on the redesign of the Cafs exhibition space at Ludbrook House.

We are currently working on the 2021-2022 Annual Report which will become available on the Cafs website soon. We are also in the design phase of redeveloping the Cafs History web pages.

You can read more about this work, and other history and heritage matters, throughout the following pages.

Take care everyone,
Wendy Sturgess

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TRIBUTES

It is with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of the following members of our former resident community, and we send our heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

Beryl Price (nee Grenfell), Maureen Boler (nee Rawlingson), Jack Allen, Gwen Radcliffe, Ross Monks.

May they Rest in Peace

If you know anyone that we should be remembering in our next newsletter, please contact the History and Heritage Team on records@cafs.org.au.

ARTWORKS AND ARTEFACTS FOR DISPLAY

Do you have artworks or materials relating to your time in the Ballarat Orphanage or the Ballarat Children's Home?

We would love to display more artworks from former residents in our new exhibition space.

If you have artworks or materials that you would like to loan to Cafs for display, please get in touch with Ember from Ash Tree Projects: 0431983376 or ember@ashtreeprojects.com.au.

Included are some beautiful pieces drawn by children during their time in the Orphanage. More of these pastel sketches are digitally displayed by the [Sovereign Hill Museums Association](#).



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EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT

We are seeking the vote of the former resident community on the renaming of the exhibition space in the basement of Ludbrook House. This renaming is part of the broader historical re-interpretation of the space that is currently taking place.



The proposed thematic interpretation framework aims to shift the focus of the exhibition space away from public history to one of 'discovery, reflection and professional learning', with the audience and purpose being:

- Former residents and their families - so that they can connect with their histories, and to tell their own stories in ways that matter to them; and
- Current Cafs staff and their clients - so they can learn from mistakes of the past

To reflect the new target audience and purpose of the exhibition space, the Former Resident Advisory Group has shortlisted a few potential names to take to the broader community for voting.

The preferences to select from are:

- Centre for History & Memory
- History and Memory Centre
- Childhood Memory & History Space
- Heritage Centre
- History Space

Please contact Kat to register your vote.

Voting closes on Friday, September 9th

EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT 'DROP-IN' SESSION – REGISTER NOW!

We are busy revamping the exhibition space in the basement of Ludbrook House and we invite Former Residents to book in to view the exhibition in development. Share your memories and stories about items for display, provide feedback and contribute to the information that will be included in the final exhibition. Drop in at any stage between 1.30 – 4.30pm.

When: Tuesday 13 September, 1.30 – 4.30pm

Where: Cafs, Ludbrook House, 115 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat 3350.

RSVP by Thursday 8 September

Call Kat to register your attendance on 5337 3333

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STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Mary Brierley who recently completed her Business Traineeship here at Cafs. Many of you will already know Mary as she has worked in the History space, as well as in other areas of the organisation for the past twelve months.

Much-loved by our clients and former-residents, Mary has been integral to the work that we do, and we are super pleased to announce that Mary has now been appointed as the Administration Assistant to both the History & Heritage and Thread Together programs.



Mary Brierley, centre, pictured with Nicole Roberts & Kat Avery, receives her Traineeship certificate



Flag raising ceremony during NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC WEEK

Cafs History and Heritage staff joined in the National NAIDOC Week celebrations last month. This year's theme was 'Get up! Stand up! Show up!' Ballarat turned on some uncharacteristic July sunshine for the celebrations which included the flag raising ceremony over at BADAC, and a Community Day held at the Ballarat Showgrounds.

Annual reunion planning

Between now and the next newsletter we will begin planning for the next year's annual reunion. Please keep an eye out for invitations which will be sent later in the year.

Cafs History website

Plans are underway to revamp the existing Cafs History website. These plans include an improved website design, new functionality and content. Watch this space!

Australian Society of Archivists Conference – October 2022

Cafs has been invited to form a panel for the upcoming Australian Society of Archivists 'Here We Are' conference. The panel discussion, titled 'The Charter of Lifelong Rights in Childhood Recordkeeping in Contemporary Social Work Practice' will highlight the opportunities, responsibilities and challenges of the histories of institutional care, and how the Charter can be implemented into contemporary practices, using Cafs as a case study. The conference program, including the abstract for this panel, is available on the [ASA conference website](#).

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ONGOING ARCHIVAL WORK

Historical institutional records are often incomplete or missing altogether, and so it is crucial that the records we do hold are carefully archived to ensure their preservation and accessibility. We have recently been working on the cataloguing of all our records into groups of series. We've also created a series register that documents when the records were created and the date range they cover. This work also includes indexing of records, which helps us to locate any information that we hold relating to individual children. It also includes the digitisation of records. For example, we have a multitude of photographs that have not yet been digitised, and plan to work on this in the future.

CLAN & THE ORPHANAGE MUSEUM - GEELONG

Our team recently caught up with Leonie Sheedy and Frank Golding from Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) at the Australian Orphanage Museum in Geelong. The museum holds an extensive collection of memorabilia, photographs and artefacts from many orphanages across the country, or donated by Care Leavers, organisations and the public.

CLAN is a peak membership body that provides support, advocacy and representation for people who grew up in Australian and New Zealand orphanages, Children's Homes, Missions and Foster Care. CLAN is heavily involved in advocating for Redress, and also provides free support and counselling to all Care Leavers. If you would like to know more about CLAN and the Orphanage Museum, please visit www.clan.org.au



L to R: Chloe White, Wendy Sturgess, Kat Avery, Mary Brierley, Leonie Sheedy and Frank Golding

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Can you help us identify these boys?

Cafs holds many unnamed and undated photographs. Each newsletter, we'll feature a new photo in the hope that our Care Leaver community can assist with putting names to faces.

Below is a photo of the U/18 Orphanage football team. Eric Jackson has informed us that this photo was taken around 1947. Eric was playing with the U/16 team at the time and has kindly started the ball rolling by identifying some of the boys, as listed underneath the photo (thanks Eric).

If you can help us identify anyone in this photo, please let us know by emailing records@cafs.org.au or call 03 53 37 3333 to speak with Kat or Mary.



1 Harold Williamson
2 Tom Agett
3 ?
4 ?
5 Ron Irving
6 Peter Llewellyn
7 ?
8 ?

9 ?
10 ?
11 Jim Irving
12 ?
13 Harold Sealey
14 Dick Young, Captain ('non Orpho')
15 ?

16 ?
17 ?
18 Gordon Maybery
19 Kenny May

7 8 & 16 () were 'non Orpho' boys from the Burrumbeet team – the Walton Brothers??*

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FROM THE ARCHIVES



Thanks to Joyce Kendall for sending in another fab sporting photo – this time of the 1952 softball team. Here are some more photos from the collection – if you can advise names we would love to hear from you.



*Children on the playground –
Children's Home era.*



*Children playing at the beach – date
unknown*



Boys with hobby horses – 1940s

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BILL PRICE REFLECTS

I went into the Orphanage at about 3 years old from the Alexandra Babies Home. I have nothing against the place – everything was done for me. We all called each other brothers and sisters – we were family. I can remember lots of things about the Orphanage. We used to go blackberrying, mushrooming. Spending time outdoors to get away from the place for a little bit. You could hear the Orphanage bell from as far as Black Hill to get back for tea, and if you missed out, too bad. All of us used to go to Queenscliff every year. I have fond memories– loved going fishing, sitting in the sunshine, watching the world go by and if you didn't catch any fish it didn't matter. I've been back to Queenscliff many times since.

I was 7 when I got Polio. I realised when we were at Queenscliff. I was dug in a hole. When it was time to go I was unable to get out. They (the staff) thought I was only mucking about and it was my mate Val Pascoe who came to help me. Mr Ludbrook took me to the Geelong hospital. I don't know how long I was there, and after a while I went to the Ballarat Base Hospital. I stayed there for a while and I was OK. By the time I was eight years old I was up and running around without a problem. The Polio did cause my right leg to become slightly shorter than the other, but this didn't stop me from doing what I wanted to do.

When I was 13 they sent me to Balwyn to the Uralla Hostel for 'crippled' children for 12 months. I didn't like that much. By the end of the year I came back to the home and at 15 went to the hostel at 28 Victoria Street. I didn't like the person in charge and that's all I'll say about that. I got a job to work at TJ Haymes Hardware store in Bridge St and I was there for three and a half years. I boarded with the owners for a bit over a year. I left that job and started another one at Mackay McLeod Wholesale Grocers in Lydiard Street where I worked for about 6 years.

At 25 I went to work at Ballarat College as a cleaner. I was there for 31 years. In that time I married my wife A and we raised a family of 3 girls and 1 boy. At 55 I was laid off by Ballarat College because of my age. My wife A was also a cleaner at a primary school. It was a time when we had nothing, around 1990. We decided to ask the Children's Home for my records. I got them and they were very poor. They had water damage and some of the papers were damaged. One of the letters written by Orphanage staff implied that I wouldn't be able to cope when I left the Orphanage. I didn't like that letter very much, and I proved myself by going out and doing what I wanted to do. I wasn't going to let anything get me down - I never have.

The Kennett Government was sacking many primary school cleaners at that time, and A was able to get a contract to clean schools herself. So I worked as her employee. We cleaned 4 schools and our hours were spread from 6am to 11pm. In between those hours, I also worked at my son's business – the Ballarat Furniture Company. At 73 years old, we decided to retire from cleaning but I stayed on at the Furniture business. At 82, the doctor said to me sternly 'why are you still working?' I replied 'because I like it and I'm able to do it!'. It was only because of COVID that I stopped working

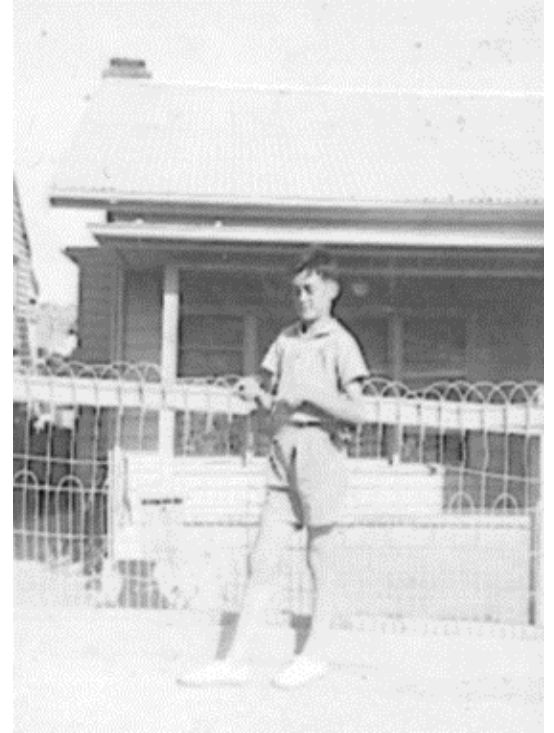
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BILL PRICE REFLECTS

I also played all the sports I could. Oh yes, sport did me the world of good. I played tennis for 10 years, badminton for 31, then ten pin bowling. I enjoyed every little bit of that! I had to stop because cleaning schools didn't pay very well, and we decided to pick up another school, leaving no time for ten pin bowling.

I've gone to many Former Resident reunions over the years. The 2022 reunion was great – it was fantastic to go back to Russell Square where we'd watch the footy on a Saturday afternoon as kids. We'd always nick off over there. Whether we were allowed to or not was another thing! - Bill Price Resident of the Ballarat Orphanage during the 1940s.

We wish Bill all the best as he recovers from his recent hip replacement



A young Bill Price pictured above

THE BRAINING OF BROWNIE - By Pat Davidson (nee Sugden)

'Brownie is approximately 10 years of age, maybe even more. She is quite a mixture as far as chooks go, coming from an inbred, happy-go-lucky country area in Tasmania where chooks were free to roam and mate haphazardly. She crows like a rooster, has spurs on the back of her legs like roosters do, and, as well, she lays eggs.

Following my trip from Tassie to the Reunion in Victoria and up to Queensland afterwards in Feb/March this year, I came home to find Brownie and Blackie – my 2 and only chooks at the moment – very much alive and well cared for by my grand-daughter, Soren.

Brownie, tho', was her usual officious nature – domineering and often pecking Blackie at meal times, etc. My solution to all this bad behavior was to shut Brownie in her Chook Unit (no.1) whilst Blackie, in Chook Unit (no.2) could be released and enjoy her food in peace and quiet.

The yard is quite large so the two meander around it all day long, eating grass seeds, scratching and digging holes.

There are grey pigeons in this area and they call in to see if there is an advantage to them after B & B have had their meals.

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Recently, after my return from the Mainland, there were 12 grey pigeons on the grass, looking for eats and B & B were mingling among them. To scare the pigeons away I have a stock of small rocks by the back door to throw at them in the hope of giving them their marching orders.

Incidentally, I have never been an accurate shot at throwing a missile - I remember playing softball as a teen in the Orphanage Team, tossing the ball to the centre pitcher from the outfield, and the ball slamming into the side of her face when she wasn't looking - "Hells Bells!!"

Well, I saw a good opportunity here with all the pigeons on the grass, so I picked up a good piece of rock and let it go. Surely it would hit one of them with so many aground!

BUT - NO!! Guess who copped a good whack on her topknot (and a very good headache as well, I believe) - YES!! It was my dear nasty Brownie - who, by the way, just always loved me to pick her up and cuddle her!

Ever since, Brownie has changed - she is nice and placid, not mean, shares the food bowls with Blackie, doesn't peck her and is as pleasant and cheerful, I guess, as my Blackie is.

HOWEVER - one significant alteration in her behaviour is this - She doesn't lay eggs anymore.



Pictured: A young Pat Sugden

Thank-you to Bill and Pat for their contributions

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ACCESSING YOUR RECORDS

If you wish to access your records, please send an email with information such as the years that you were in Care, date of birth, names of parents and any siblings. Please also include photo ID such as an image of your license.

Future newsletters

A friendly reminder that we have now moved to a preferred method of email communications, and future newsletters will be sent by this method. If you have not already provided us with an email address and wish to continue receiving newsletters, please drop us a line so that we can update our mailing list accordingly.

If you no longer wish to receive History & Heritage newsletters please unsubscribe by sending an email to records@cafs.org.au

FORMER RESIDENT ADVISORY GROUP

If you'd like to be involved in matters relating to history in the Orphanage and Children's Home, you are welcome to be part of our "Former Resident Advisory Group". We aim to meet two to three times a year - either in person or online if you can't be in Ballarat. If you'd like to learn more about this, please get in touch with Kat.

CALLING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Do you have a story or memory you'd like to share in the next newsletter? You may like to share a poem that you've written, some artwork you've created, share a photo or a memory of sporting prowess as per above. It's really up to you! If you'd like to contribute, please get in touch.

Next issue

December 2022

CONTACT US

Cafs Heritage and History Records Service

Ph: 03 5337 3333

Email: records@cafs.org.au

Hours of operation:

Monday 9am - 5pm

Tuesday 9am - 5pm

Wednesday 9am - 5pm



Cafs acknowledges Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and emerging.
Always Was, Always Will Be.