

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

December 2023

YOUR HISTORY,
OUR RESPONSIBILITY

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the December edition of the Cafs History & Heritage newsletter as we edge closer to the festive season.

The creative arts workshops for former residents of the Ballarat Orphanage and Ballarat Children's Home took place last month, which saw the production of some beautiful artwork. The exhibition was well received and attracted some great media coverage.

The 2024 Former Residents' annual reunion will take place at Russell Square on Friday 23rd February 2024 and we look forward to seeing you there. Please find your invitation as part of this newsletter.

Kat Avery has now moved on to a research role here at Cafs and we wish her all the best in this new position.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Wendy Sturgess

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

INVITATION - 2024 REUNION

Ballarat Orphanage & Ballarat Children's Home Annual Former Residents Reunion

Friday 23 February 2024
11:00am to 2:00pm

Russell Square Clubrooms
Humffray Street Nth
Ballarat East Vic 3350
(enter via Stawell St)

2 course lunch, nibbles, and refreshments included

RSVP by Tuesday 30 January 2024
Advising the name of each attendee and
any dietary requirements

e: records@cafs.org.au or phone: 5337 3333

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Parliamentary Apology to Victorians who experienced historical abuse and neglect as children in institutional care

How to watch the Apology

Introduction

A parliamentary Apology to Victorians who experienced historical abuse and neglect as children in institutional care will take place at Parliament House on Thursday 8 February 2024 at 11.30 am.

Below is information about the ways impacted Victorians, their families, carers and support people can view the Apology.

Live streaming the Apology (online)

It is important that anyone who wants to see the Apology can do so. The Apology will be live streamed on the Parliament website and people can watch it from their computer or mobile device wherever they are.

The live stream will be available on Thursday 8 February 2024 at <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/>. A link to the live stream will be found on the front page of the Parliament website and will go live at 11.30 am.

Regional gatherings to watch the Apology

We are inviting people impacted (and their families, carers and support people) to come and watch the Apology at venues in Geelong, Ballarat and Sale. The Apology will be followed by refreshments. Counsellor support staff will be on site if anyone needs this support on the day.

To register to attend, please use one of 3 links below relevant for you, or you can email dffhevents@dfh.vic.gov.au, or call 0487 353 831. Someone is available on this phone line, Monday to Friday between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm.

- [Register to attend the Geelong live stream](#) at Geelong Events Centre
 - Address: Rydges Hotel Geelong, cnr Gheringhap & Little Myers Street, Geelong VIC 3220
 - Room: Kardinia
 - Time: arrival at 11:00 am for an 11:30 am start
- [Register to attend the Ballarat live stream](#) at Mercure Hotel and Convention Centre
 - Address: 613 Main Road, Ballarat VIC 3350
 - Room: The Conservatory Room
 - Time: arrival at 11:00 am for an 11:30 am start
- [Register to attend the Sale live stream](#) at Port of Sale
 - Address: 70 Foster Street, Sale VIC 3850
 - Room: Wellington Room
 - Time: arrival at 11:00 am for an 11:30 am start

Please note: each location has a maximum capacity they can host, so please register your attendance, noting any accessibility requirements and if a support person will be attending with you.

You can also view this information online here www.dffh.vic.gov.au/Apology-live-stream.

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

“THE INVISIBLE CHILDREN” BY BOB GOLDING

Resident Ballarat Orphanage from 1940 – 1953

“There were some real characters in the Home”

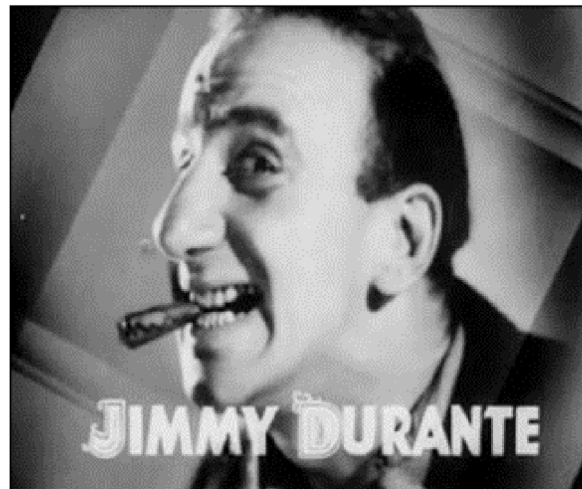
“I remember M. He was keen on country music and was a fairly good singer. One day at Queenscliff we were peeping under a tent that had been set up for a circus/country show, and we were caught. We were told that if we could give a decent rendition of a country song we would be given a free pass to the matinee. M got his pass and all I got was a swift boot up the ----, as I could not sing to save my life”.

“Bull went into the Army and was decorated with the Silver Star by the Americans for saving about seventeen of their troops while under heavy Japanese machine-gun fire”.

“Another lad, Jimmy, was nick-named ‘Durante’ after an American comedian of stage and screen, as he was the owner of a big nose”.



Bob Golding aged 18 on his entry
into the RAAF



OBITUARIES

We wanted to take an opportunity to mark the passing of some former residents in the last 12 months. Our condolences go out to the families and loved ones of Annette, Harold and Lilli.

- Riordan, Annette - April 2023.

- Sealey, Harold Albert - 4/8/1930 - 26/11/2023

Harold, together with his sisters Nell and Audrey and his brothers Jim and Cliff, were admitted to the Ballarat Orphanage in 1939. After attaining Grade 8

at school, he lived at the boys' hostel in Victoria Street while doing his apprenticeship as a Boilermaker at Cowley's. Work and adventure drew Harold to the whaling stations in W.A. He travelled and had various responsible positions during his working life. He retired to W.A. and remained in close contact with Audrey.

Rest in Peace.

- Stephens, Lilli

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LIFE IN THE BALLARAT ORPHANAGE, BY SHIRLEY COOK

Extract from Ballarat Girls' Secondary School Magazine (1950)

As I live in the Ballarat Orphanage I thought it might interest you to hear of the life we lead.

There are approximately 200 boys and girls in this institution, ranging in age from two yearsto sixteen

First I will take you to the Toddlers' Block. Here young children from two to eight are cared for by five members of the staff and five of the older girls. These girls make the children's beds, polish the floors, and was the dishes, and, most important of all, scrub the children.

The remainder of the older girls do the house-work. Two floors have to be cared for - one upstairs where the boys sleep and the other downstairs occupied by the girls. The nine girls and six boys who go [to] secondary schools are given less to do. Upstairs there are six bedrooms and, depending on the size of the room, a varying number of girls attends each. The long passage is done by everyone who works upstairs.

In the girls' department below, seven bedrooms, two sitting-rooms - the staff's and the girls' - and two flights of stairs have to be attended to. These are done by the girls who attend the primary school. The senior girls have a responsible job every morning. First, forty pieces of toast have to be made. Then one goes to supervise the work upstairs and another oversees downstairs activities. The worst job is having to look after the smaller girls. They have to be got ready for school and given clean clothes and bathed. This job is done by on senior girl and a member of staff.

So much for the girls, but the boys do their share. They rake the lawns and paths, sweep the yards, and car in the wood and work on the farm. After school the boys do the garden while the girls darn the boy's socks.

School begins at half-past nine o'clock, but the toddlers have their school in the Sunday School kindergarten room. At twelve everyone has lunch-hour. Afterwards the girls wash the dishes and the cutlery, sweep the floors, wipe down the tables and re-set them. Then back to school they go until half-past three o'clock. At half-past four, the girls who work in the dining-room come down to begin preparations for tea. Of course there is a member of staff with them. At five o'clock the quilts are taken from the beds and everyone has a wash to be ready for tea. After tea the same work is done as after dinner.



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LIFE IN THE BALLARAT ORPHANAGE, BY SHIRLEY COOK

Extract from Ballarat Girls' Secondary School Magazine (1950)

Life here is not always work. On Monday nights the senior girls go to sewing class, which we all enjoy. On Tuesday night the girls attend gymnasium, where we are given rod and standing exercises, and instructions on many different dances. The boys have gymnasium exercises on Monday nights and attend Scout meetings on Wednesdays. On Wednesday evening, for those who teach Sunday School, there is a preparation class. On Thursday, gymnasium is conducted for the young girls. Friday night we have to ourselves.

On Saturday afternoons a few go to the pictures, which are often educational. We attend church on Sunday morning, and Sunday School in the afternoon. Sometimes a few go to church at night. Very often different organization, such as the Legacy and Apex Clubs, come up and give us children entertainment. Football clubs from Melbourne and Geelong also came to see over this institution, as we have often been entertained by such clubs.

All the work we do is not done in vain, for every year on Christmas Tree Night, prizes are distributed for different phases of the work. The best prize to get is the prize for the Most Honourable Boy and Girl. I think Christmas Tree Night is the best night of all. Presents are given to every child in the home.

Either just before or after Christmas day the children go to Queenscliff for their holidays. The morning arrives. Everyone is excited and anxiously awaiting the arrival of the buses. The boys usually travel by train.

When most have gone on their holidays, the home's like a morgue. During the time they are away many repairs are done. We are really very lucky to have such a home as we have here, and many young men and women have this home and Mr. H. C. Ludbrook, M.L.C., to thank. Many old boys and girls who are being married return to have their wedding breakfasts here.

We can also be very proud to say that many of our boys and girls joined up in both wars and several made the supreme sacrifice for their Country.

I hope these facts have interested you. And that is all I have to tell you of life in the Ballarat Orphanage.

FROM THE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES



Superintendent of the Ballarat Orphanage, Mr R. J. Jenkins, standing at rear, and Mr F. Rodd, the senior housemaster, distribute to children at the Orphanage, the four basketballs and four footballs given to them by Mr A. R. Whyte, of Melbourne. The basketballs were handed over to the Orphanage by a board member, Mr J. L. Plummer yesterday.

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

DO YOU KNOW THESE CHILDREN?

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

If you can help us identify anyone in these photos, please let us know via email at records@cafs.org.au or call 0353 373 333 to speak with a member of the History & Heritage team.



Six girls in front of old building. 1940s.
(Cafs Collection CRS15_08 b09 pg08 b)



Half a dozen boys on the slide. 1970's
(Cafs Collection CRS15_08 b14 pg. 17 b)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As we undertake work caring for Cafs archives we are privy to a glimpse into life in the past.

1. Image of Admissions ledger – 1872. These ledgers remained in use until the 1990s.
2. Menu from November 25, 1962

19 1872 BALLAARAT DISTRICT									
No.	Name of	Place of Birth	Age	By what Brought	Sex	When sent to (date)	From (name of) Home and Residence	Religion	Remarks
11	Edward Richard Hill	Ballarat	17	Ballarat	Male	1872	Ballarat	Anglican	
12	Edward Richard Hill	Ballarat	17	Ballarat	Male	1872	Ballarat	Anglican	
13	Edward Richard Hill	Ballarat	17	Ballarat	Male	1872	Ballarat	Anglican	

MENU		
		DATE Nov 25, 1962
Breakfast	Pudina, Toast, Tea	
TODDLERS		
BOYS AND GIRLS		
SENIOR BOYS AND GIRLS		
Dinner	Rice, prawns, cold, with lettuce, Tomato, salad, Jambal, Peas	
TODDLERS		
BOYS AND GIRLS		
SENIOR BOYS AND GIRLS		
Tea	Bread, Butter, Vegetables	
TODDLERS	Bread, jam, Sugar, Cakes, Apples, Milk	
BOYS AND GIRLS	Bread, Jam, C. cream	
SENIOR BOYS AND GIRLS	Cakes, Apples, Tea	
SENIOR BOYS AND GIRLS	Cold, of eat, Bread, Jam, C. cream, C. cakes, Apples	
MILK	BUTTER	MEAT
30 Galls.	10 Lbs.	20 Large
P. J. Hill		

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH CAFS

If you wish to access your records, please send an email with information including 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.

Calling for contributions

Have you got 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 you're your experiences about accessing your records from your time in Care. It's really up to you! If you'd like to contribute, please get in touch.

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



Christmas 1980's

Cafs Heritage and History Records Service

Ph: 03 5337 3333

Email: records@cafs.org.au

Hours of operation:

Monday 9am – 5pm

Friday 9am – 5pm

