

Swan Hill Genealogical & Historical Society Inc.

Inaugural Member Society of the Genealogical Society of Vic.

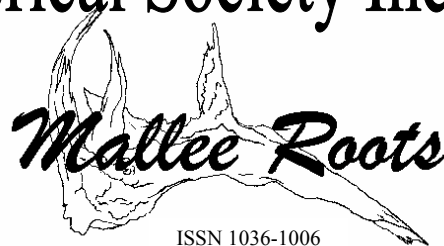
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MURRABIT OUTING

On the 13th of May, seven of our members enjoyed an historical tour of Murrabit as guests of the Kerang group.

First we saw a “Bing Bong” house which was a relic of the closer settlement commission of the early 1900’s. These houses were very cheaply built and were clad inside and out with galvanized iron sheeting which went bing bong as it expanded and contracted in the sun.

We then crossed the river and visited the Gonn Crossing location, en route the original Gurnett Homestead was pointed out to us.

We had lunch at the Murrabit hall where the history and construction of the “Bing Bong” houses was explained and Ian McDonald spoke of the history of the district and his families involvement in local history.

At Gonn station we saw the old station burial plot where there are headstones for John Capel, his horse and dog but none for his cook or the station hands buried there. Ian showed us the bridge from Gonn to Campbells Island which was built after Ian and his brother sank a punt load of sheep they were trying to bring back from the island. He then showed us a number of features and told us stories of life on the station.

We travelled back to Victoria and along the river to “Riversdale” which has been owned by the McDonald family since 1898. There we enjoyed tea and scones and enjoyed a look at many historical features of the property and enjoyed more of Ian’s explanations of the way things were done.

We would like to thank the Kerang group for organizing the trip and congratulate the bus drivers on an excellent display of off-road bus driving around the riverside and farmland.

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