

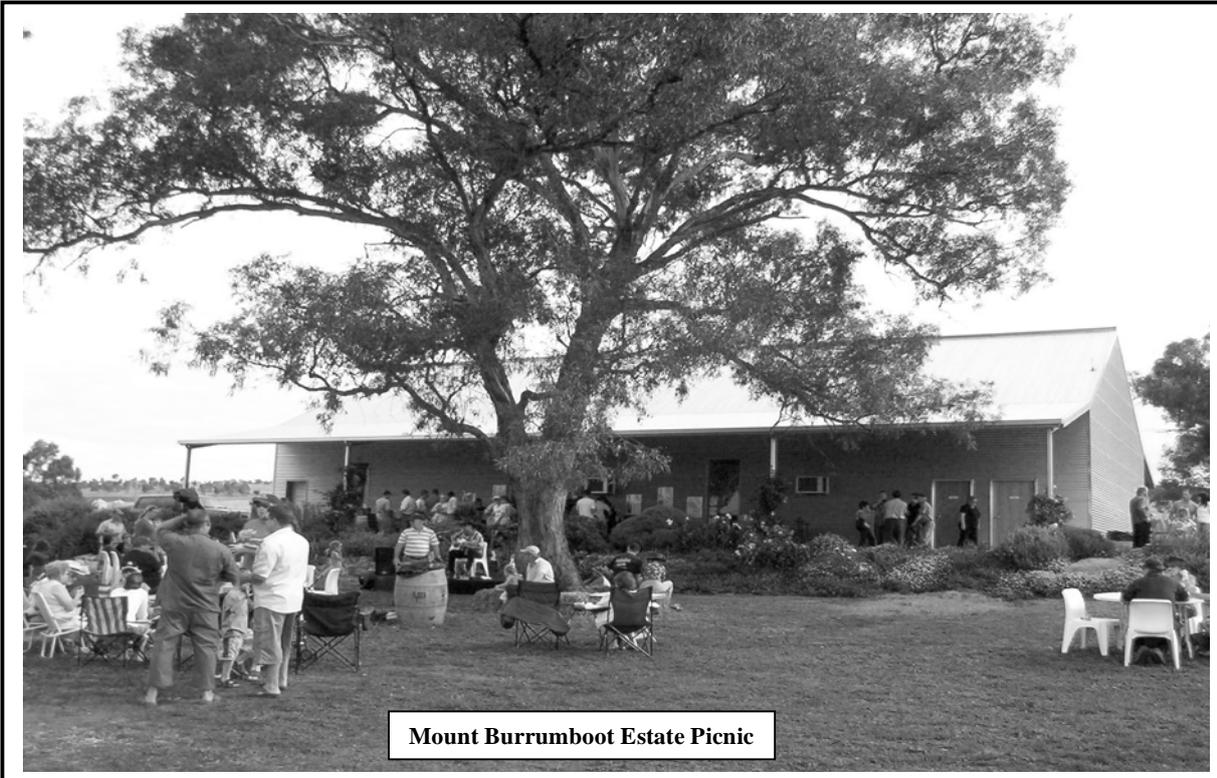


# Corop News

“The Call of the Broilga”

Issue No. 14 April 2005.

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Mount Burrumboot Estate Picnic

## The French Paradox Picnic

Do as the French do! Well, that's the advice of Cathy and Andrew Branson who promote the French ideals that good food, good wine, good company and good music are the key to health and happiness!

With the official release of their 2003 wines, Mt Burrumboot Estate was alive with festivities on the Anzac Day long weekend, with wine tastings, gourmet food and blues music. A couple of hundred people gathered at the cellar door grounds on the Heathcote Rochester road (midway between Colbinabbin and Corop) for a very relaxed Sunday afternoon.

There were wine tastings of half a dozen of their current wines, which proved to be very popular. Gourmet antipasto platters and pizzas satisfied the appetite, while gourmet preserves were also on sale. Cathy and Andrew offered tours of the winery and winemaking process. Children were well entertained with a clown, face painting, ballooning, kite flying and dancing to the band.

Cathy and Andrew are hopeful of this becoming an annual event and plan to expand the food and festivities next year. Well done Cathy and Andrew on your fantastic effort!

## CCAG UPDATE

The Corop Community Action Group is getting back into the swing of things, following a break over summer. It will be five years in August since this group began. New members are always welcome. The group meets on the second Monday of the month, 7.30 pm at the Tennis and Community Centre.

Or for those not interested in meetings, contributions in other ways are most appreciated. If you think you have something to offer, or would like to be involved in some way, please contact one of the group members (details at Store).

The CCAG's priorities for the first half of the year are mainly to continue and/or finish work on current projects. To facilitate this, an annual working bee is planned for Saturday 21st May. This will be followed by a dinner at the Lake Cooper Ski Club.

The working bee will focus on further works on the walking track at Lake Cooper; maintenance works on the north side of the highway; and if not already completed work on the town shelter surrounds.

## Along the track.

The group has had further delays in awaiting the outcome of the degazetting of the road reserve at Lake Cooper. It is proposed that the road reserve remain for the first 200 metres of what is currently part of the walking track. A fence and gate will then be installed at this point, with restricted vehicular access. An alternative walking track will be formed for the first 200 metres lower down the lake banks in amongst the tree plantation.

Signs will be installed once de-gazetting is finalised. Other tasks that will be attended to at the working bee on the track will include erecting rails to demarcate the car park area, spraying of weeds, further installation of picnic benches, and the erection of a fence and gate. Further revegetation works both at Lake Cooper and around the town have continued to be put on hold due to the ongoing drought conditions.

## Town Shelter

The replica settlers hut is gradually nearing completion. The recycled corrugated-iron roof was installed by CCAG members in January, making the hut look more finished. More recently, picnic benches have been installed.



### Town shelter – nearing completion

David Wileman has been contracted to do landscaping works. CCAG members will be erecting a post and rail fence. A car park and signs are also planned. Information boards will be placed inside the shelter including brief overviews of the history of Corop, agriculture, native flora/fauna.

It is anticipated there will be an official opening of the walking track and town shelter later in the year when all major work has been completed.

## Northern side of the Highway

CCAG has been disappointed that the Shire has been unable to follow through on its commitment to maintain the tree plantation on the north side of the town. This issue is currently being followed up by CCAG. Further work is required to replant shrubs that have died, spray or remove weeds, and add mulch to the western end beds.

## Tennis & Community Centre

The latest refurbishment to the centre has been the installation of fly-wire screens by the Shire. Thanks to the Shire, Marion Riley and to the Citizens Advisory Group for following through on this request. It's great to not get eaten alive now when we hold our summer meetings!

## Community Dinner - Saturday 21 May

CCAG has been successful in applying for a \$ 500 grant through the Shire's Community Drought Recovery fund to hold another social event in Corop. It will be on a smaller scale to the initial Lunch on Lake Cooper, but with a similar aim of getting people in the local area together to socialise and enjoy a night out.

The dinner will be held at the Victorian Ski Association clubrooms on Lake Cooper, following on from the working bee held during the day. A local band will be providing musical entertainment for the evening. As seating will be limited, people will need to purchase their tickets in advance through the Corop Store.

Further information will be circulated via a flyer so keep an eye on your mail, or check at the Store with Alan and Lyn. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Clean Up Australia Day

Another successful clean up was held on Sunday March 6th despite a small turnout. Over 5 km of highway was cleaned up either side of and including the town. A 3 metre square skip was filled to overflowing, with larger items left for collection.

Thanks must go to the 10 willing volunteers on the day, to Trevor and Beth for hosting the BBQ, and to the Shire for the donation of funds to cover BBQ costs and organising the skip. Most of the rubbish collected is drinking containers cans/bottles and food wrappers. It is a sober reminder of the importance of not throwing away your litter when you realise how much rubbish accumulates on our roadside.



The clean up gang

## The Girgarre Farmers Market

Girgarre is a small local township of 214 people and, like so many other rural communities, the drought has severely impacted it on both a social and financial level.

A small group of district members not satisfied to let the township decline, have decided to re-energise the community in a number of ways, including the inception of a Farmers Market at the local park.

The first market was most rewarding with old friends and new getting together to enjoy each others company as well as the local produce. They stopped for a free tea or coffee after purchasing their farm fresh vegetables, fruit, honey, preserves and cheeses.

The second market featured many more stalls, still under the banner of farm fresh produce. We also held our first chook auction which saw over 300 birds change hands.

The third market, to be held on May 8th (Mothers Day), will have two additional features. Firstly a Craft Market organised by the Community Cottage Ladies will be held next door at the town hall. Secondly a Devonshire tea will be held so that visitors can treat their mother to a home made scone or two.

So come along to the Girgarre Farmers Market and enjoy the live music while you purchase your local wares.

## The Road from Corop to Rushworth 15/4/05

We start at the newly erected town shelter with its splendid new picnic benches and seats and head east along the Midland Highway towards Shepparton. After driving for about 3kms, we turn right into Darrigans Road, just before the left-hand turnoff to Green's Lake. Depending on the season, you may see broilgas within the first few kilometres along this stretch of road. About 1.3kms from the highway, Camp Currumbene appears on the right. The camp is run by Ian and Ros Clark for School Camps and Group Holidays and backs onto the dry bed of Lake Cooper. Further along we come to Skewbridge Road, which is an alternative access to the Lake Cooper walking track and has a great view across the lake to the Mt Camel Range. A further 6kms on, the landscape changes slightly as we approach Gaynors Swamp, a State Game Reserve and a bird watcher's wonderland when it has water in it. The swamp covers a huge area. Continue to follow this road alongside the swamp, with a dog-leg taking you into Weppner Road. A short time later, we turn right into Clarkes Bridge Road and then left into Osment Road. As you head down this road, looking carefully to the right, it is possible to catch glimpses of the Colbinabbin Homestead through the trees (see photo elsewhere in this newsletter).

Finally, we reach the Bendigo – Murchison Road just to the east of Colbinabbin township and turn left towards Rushworth. Further on at the corner of Groves Weir Road on the right hand side, we see one of the historical markers, part of the Colbinabbin Historical Plaque Trail. This particular plaque depicts one of the sites of the Wanalta State School, now just a quiet farm paddock. For more information on this Trail, contact the Colbinabbin Store for a brochure. Further along, just after Harvey Road on the left hand side is another historical plaque pointing out the now derelict Wanalta Hotel and Post Office. The Post Office was established at the Hotel in 1879 and only closed in 1980. Ghosts of the past surely inhabit this place.



**Old Wanalta Hotel and Post Office**

Further along the road we at last come to the town of Rushworth, population 1000. Rushworth is an historical town. The Information Centre is found in the newly refurbished Old Courthouse further up the hill at the top of the main street. This is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11am until 3pm and is chock full of interesting information, photographs and brochures about the town and the surrounding areas. The old Shire Hall a little way down the hill has also recently been renovated. The streetscape presents lovely old buildings and shop fronts most of which have

remained unchanged from a bygone era. We had lunch at The Rushworth Provender, tasting a delicious assortment of dips with warm Turkish bread and coffee. The Provender, run by April English and Andrew ----- also gives wine tastings and sells wines from all around Australia. April and Andrew plan to set up a Pizza place out the back of The Provender in the courtyard. Add to this the wine, food and the occasional live jazz nights which they have now and the place will be buzzing! The Rushworth Provender is open from Thursday to Sunday from about 11am till late.

The **Possum Walk** is another attraction in Rushworth, held on the first Saturday night of each month from 6pm until midnight. All manner of enjoyments are offered on these nights, including gourmet food, wine and entertainment at the Proveneder; history walks and ghost tours in the street; opera singing by the Buskin Tuscan, Blues music at the hotel after 9 pm; local art gallery displays including sculptures and photography. The next Possum Walk is Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 5-12 pm. For enquiries phone: 5856 1731.

Other inviting stops in the town include the Nuggety Hill Antiques Shop which is full to the brim with items you never knew you needed, Fossickers Gallery run by Elizabeth Finch, with many works of art painted by local artists and Gallery L'Uccello with sculptures and artworks created by the prolific local artist Angie Russi and photographs, calendars and cards made by Soc Hedditch.

After a casual stroll along the main street, we drive up to the Lookout, which - after climbing the many steps - affords a great view of the town and the surrounding area, including the vast Waranga Basin. More information regarding the Basin and the many internment camps built around it during the war can be found at the Information Centre in town. From here, we drive back to the main street and out the other side of Rushworth towards Whroo and the Balaclava Mine.

Whroo is included in The Gold and Ironbark Trail and the name is thought to have come from the native word wooroo, meaning lips. The enormous wealth of gold found at Balaclava Mine saw Whroo develop from a village to a township but afterwards, as gold discovery declined, Whroo became a ghost town. Now there is nothing left but the diggings, which can be seen all through the towering ironbark trees along the road, and the deep Balaclava mine with its tunnels disappearing into the precipitous rock walls. There is also the Whroo Miners Retreat information centre, the Aboriginal rock well, the remains of the puddling machines and the quiet solitude of the old cemetery with graves dating back to the middle of 1800. Be sure to stop and read the many signposts of the Gold and Ironbark Trail to discover and relive the history through personal accounts of the people who lived and worked in the area at the time.

Coming out of Whroo, we turn left to follow the road to Nagambie for a couple of kilometres and then right into Tait Hamilton Road. We follow this road all the way back to the Heathcote – Rochester Road, stopping just across the Cornella Creek for a bit of afternoon tea and a lovely vista of huge gums and a paddock full of grazing cockatoos. The landscape changes from forest to blond grass paddocks along the way and opens up a long view of the Mt Camel Range and Mt Burrumboot. For a slight diversion along the way, we turn into Plain Road then Cornella Church Road and stop to have a look at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Eventually we drive out onto the main road just west of Colbinabbin and make our way back to Corop along the Heathcote – Rochester Road and the Midland Highway.

## DOBELL FAMILY HISTORY

*The following history was compiled by Beth & Alan Dobell of Corop West.*

William Laing, well known in shipping circles, arrived in Melbourne from Scotland in 1839 and lived with wife Jane on the banks of the Yarra River opposite where Flinders Street Railway Station now stands. Ellen, their daughter, was born there in 1842 and could claim to be one of the first native-born Victorians. (Ellen Laing (2/12/1842 – 12/08/1921) Baptised at St James Melbourne – 25/12/1942).

Shortly after, the family moved to Heidelberg district where they acquired 165 acres of agricultural ground fronting Plenty River, just north of Watsonia Army barracks, and entered the farming industry. The Laing house, after a checkered history, eventually became known as “Casa Maria”. The middle part of the house built in the 1830’s was reputed to be the oldest building in Vicotria (Even older than Emu Bottom). A campaign was launched to save Casa Maria but the battle culminated in a victory for private enterprise and the house was demolished in 1971.

William John Dobell (Great Grandfather of Alan) was born 11/07/1837 – Taunton, Somerset England and died 5/11/1898 at Corop West. He is buried in the Corop Cemetery. He served as a soldier in a cavalry regiment in the Crimean War (1851-56) and his reminiscences of those times were reported to be very interesting.

He arrived in Australia in 1858 and worked at Maiden Punt Echuca/Moama. William married Ellen Laing in the United Presbyterian Manse, Collins Street, Melbourne on 9/06/1860. They moved to a farm at Monegeeta in the Romsey district.

Newspaper Notice – Romsey Advertiser – 1874 “John Brown was charged at Romsey Police Court on Saturday with stabbing William Dobell at Rochford in 1872. The prisoner evaded capture until 2 weeks ago. Mr. Brown was committed for trial in Melbourne.”

The Family most likely left the district after this incident and moved to Corop West. William selected land, (which is now owned by Alan Dobell and Ken Ingram,) and his wife and family followed him in 1873. They built a five room, shingle roof house. William was an excellent “horse doctor” and his skills in that direction saved the district many a valuable horse. He was a successful farmer, being one of the first to use a system of thorough cultivation with the application of manure, for which he was rewarded with many good crops. William and Ellen had six sons and five daughters.

Emily, the eldest of the 11 children, was born on 17/11/1861 and although crippled with arthritis, lived to the age of 74. William John married Elizabeth Skates. James at the age of 12 drowned while swimming in a dam near the Mark Tree Line Hotel, not far from the family home. Elizabeth Jane and Rose Anna Margaret were born 12 months apart and both died when they were a month old. Ellen Jane was born in Romsey and moved to Korumburra when she married James Gilligan. Charles Mark married Elizabeth Vickers and purchased a farm at Ardlethan. Arthur Stone Dobell was married to Ruth Juffs. Albert George never married and lived the later years of his life in Elmore where he died in 1962 at the age of 81. The youngest of the family, Louisa Eliza was born in 19/04/1883. She married James Conway and they made their home in Leongatha. (See centre-spread for wedding photo). *Continued page 6...*

**Wedding photo of Alfred Thomas Dobell and Ann Wright, married 19/9/1899 at St Pauls Cathedral, Bendigo.**  
**Back (L to R): Albert Dobell, Thomas Wright, Patrick Wright, Ellen Dobell (bridesmaid), Charles Dobell, John Wright.**  
**Front (L to R): William Vickers, Alfred Dobell (groom), Ann Wright (bride), Martha Weeks, Louise Dobell (seated on floor)**

*(Dobell Family History, continued...)*

The second son was Alfred Thomas Dobell (13/09/1868 – 29/06/1939) who arrived with his mother at Corop West in a horse drawn cart when he was five years old. He attended Corop West State School. Eventually he took over portion of the farm selected by his parents, added more acres and successfully continued to carry on mixed farming pursuits. He was one of the oldest members of the Elmore Agriculture Society. Alfred was also a noted exhibitor of draught horses and he won many prizes with horses he bred. For many years he was captain of the Runnymede East Gun Club and a member of the Rifle Club. He was a staunch supporter of the Elmore Football Club and a member of St Peters Church.

In 1899 on September 19<sup>th</sup>, Alfred Thomas Dobell married Ann Wright from a well-known district family. The wedding ceremony (as reported in the Elmore Standard, Friday October 13 1899) took place at St. Paul's Church Bendigo. An interesting description of the bridal outfits was given along with a list of "many useful and handsome presents", and the names of the guests who had provided each one.

**Back row: Herbert Alfred (Alf), Sis, Nell, Jean, Kassie, Cora**  
**Front row: Ann and Alfred Thomas Dobell.**

Alfred and Ann had five daughters Cora, (Mrs. A Trewin), Anne (Sis) (Mrs. D Ingram), Nellie (Mrs. J Cheatley), Kathleen (Kassie) Mrs. J. Graham and Jean (Mrs. H. Hicks) and two sons. One son, James, died as an infant. The other son, Herbert Alfred Dobell (22/07/1905 – 25/10/1975) attended Runnymede East State School. He married Rebecca Osborne Cheatley (23/02/1907 - -) at St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo on 5/09/1936. Alf, (as he was affectionately known) was a keen and successful farmer until his death and was remembered by many as being one of the last to use a team of draught horses. He was a member of the Elmore Fire Brigade and represented the brigade at many demonstrations. He was also a tennis player and a prominent player with the Elmore football Club over 20 years. He held the position of captain for at least one season.

Alf and Beccie Dobell were the proud parents of two sons. Alan Alfred, and Daryl John who still reside in the district. Alan married Beth Chiswell in 1966 and they have two sons, Damien and Nigel and a daughter Kylie. Damien and partner Julie have a son, Liam Alfred and a daughter Ella Jewel. Nigel is to marry Jennifer Thompson later this year. Kylie married Darren Kay on 16/04/1994 and they have two sons, Thomas Alan and James Ronald.

Daryl married Yvonne Cooper in 1963. They have two daughters, Kaylene (Pinnuck) children Sophie, Fraser, and Anna, Nadine (Laschko) children Hayden, Benjamin, and Olivia and two sons, Ashley, children Nicholas and Jackson and Peter who has a son Dean.

The 13 great grandchildren of Beccie and Alf (dec) are the sixth generation of this line of the Dobell Family in Australia.

Alan and Beth Dobell, son Damien Alfred and his son Liam Alfred (who was the youngest member of the Dobell Family at the time and the youngest person present) witnessed the burying of the capsule on the 25/04/2003 at the historic dinner on the dry bed of Lake Cooper.

**Alan & Beth Dobell family: Nigel, Alan, Beth, Damien and Kylie.**

## **VALE - REGINALD MARA**

**15<sup>th</sup> April 1903 – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2005**

We were saddened to learn of Mr Reg Mara's death in early February.

Reg Mara was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1903 at the Corop Hotel, which was owned by his parents, Patrick and Ellen Mara. He attended the local school and throughout his long life he retained happy memories of his boyhood years spent in Corop.

Chats with Reg about those early times were always interesting and enjoyable. He had a wonderful memory and a great talent for describing the people and events of those early times. Reg's recollections have contributed greatly to our understanding and appreciation of that part of Corop's early history.

Reg left Corop when he was 14 years old to take up an apprenticeship with a grocer in Newmarket, Melbourne. After army service he took a position with Coles, where he stayed until his retirement at sixty-five. Within a short time Reg was asked to return for a brief stint and finally retired from his part-time position at the age of eighty-six.

Reg Mara was a gentle, unassuming man. It was a pleasure to know him and spend time with him. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.



**Mr Reg Mara at the Luncheon on the Lake 25/4/2003**

Photo courtesy of Campaspe News

## Food and Wine Matching - Art or Science?



**Cathy Branson –local vigneron and chef**

Cuisine and wine have evolved together over the centuries. As each small region of each winegrowing country developed, their food developed distinct regional differences, as did their wines. These differences were due to the seasonal, geographical, cultural and social conditions that predominated. For example, a harsh, hot climate, with rocky, dry soils, lends itself more to the cultivation of foods and vines that tolerate those conditions. The food and wine of Greece is a perfect example of this - Greek food and the pine-resin flavoured retsina wine are delightful together, although retsina's dubious attractions take on a distinctly unpleasant hue when sampled on its own, away from Greek cuisine.

This is an extreme example of how food and wines match. However, in this day and age, the Australian wine consumer is lucky enough to be able to obtain foods and wines from all over the world. Spoilt for choice, we no longer **have** to match our local wine with the local dish. Australia, being a country of varied climate and terroir for grape growing, can produce wines of almost any variety of as high a quality as anywhere in the world.

Thus has the question been raised - which food for which wine?

The truest answer is that the wine you enjoy best is the best one to have with any food. However, there are some combinations that raise both the food and the wine to dizzying heights of degustatory delight.

A rich, hearty osso bucco, with the stickiness of the veal marrow, cries out for a wine that can complement the meatiness with fruitiness, and yet cut through the fattiness with grippy tannins. The ideal wine here, naturally, is a Heathcote Shiraz! The archetypal beef partner, Shiraz just romps alongside steak and casseroles.

An aromatic, spicy dish, such as Thai or Indian food, often partners well with a white wine, with some residual or fruit sweetness, and good acidity, to offset the spiciness. A Riesling, or Semillon can work well in this case, as well as a bigger bodied, fruity rose. Rose is the true al fresco, lunchtime quaffer - not too hard work, not too serious, lean or sweeter, depending on the style and grapes used, it goes beautifully with grilled meats, fish, salad and antipasto.

Everyone knows that white wine goes with fish - but with such a huge range of fish, saltwater, freshwater, shellfish, etc, you can actually end up flattening the fish if you choose the wrong wine. In my opinion, there isn't much better than

fresh oysters with a Marlborough (New Zealand) Sauvignon Blanc. But more locally, try a Marsanne or Unoaked Chardonnay with yabbies, which can handle a rounder, fruitier wine, as can redfin. Sea fish, I find, needs something a little bit leaner and crisper, perhaps even a Pinot Gris (Grigio), particularly oilier fish. Tuna is a dark fish that can even handle being partnered with a red wine - not too tannic, so not Shiraz or Cabernet - they are a little strong here - but a medium bodied, lighter style of red wine, such as Tempranillo or Sangiovese, can work well,

Pinot Noir is well known as the ideal partner with duck, but a voluptuous, well rounded Merlot is absolute heaven with duck. The spicy black currant fruit of Cabernet Sauvignon or Petit Verdot complements lamb nicely - the delicate flavour of good lamb is enhanced by the fruit, and the astringent, blocky tannins cut through any fattiness.

Cheese and wines can be trickier - a big bodied Shiraz or Merlot can go with an aged, sharp vintage cheddar or blue cheese, but more often, aged wines, such as an old Semillon, or dessert wines, such as a Sauternes (a sweet white wine from Sauternes in France), as well as fortified wines like Port or Muscat, work better with the bitiness of the cheeses.

Having said all this, the original statement still holds true: if you have a wine that you love, then you will probably love it with everything. And with even the most perfectly matched food and wine, if you are upset or irritable, nothing is going to taste much good, since our taste and smell receptors are so affected by the mood chemicals produced by our bodies.

The fact that we have so many wines available to us means that we have the opportunity to experiment. It is only through experimentation that you will find what truly works for you. There are no hard and fast rules in food/wine matching, just as there are no hard and fast rules in winemaking. It is an art, rather than a science, constantly changing and evolving as new styles of wine and new combinations of flavours appear before our ever-enthusiastic palates. So raise your glasses, and enjoy. Cheers!

## **Possum Walk at Rushworth a big success**

The **Possum Walk** in Rushworth, is held on the first Saturday night of each month from 6pm until midnight. All manner of enjoyments are offered on these nights, including gourmet food, wine and entertainment at the Provender; history walks and ghost tours in the street; opera singing by the Buskin Tuscan, Blues music at the hotel after 9 pm; local art gallery displays including sculptures and photography. The next Possum Walk is Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 5-12 pm. For enquiries phone: 5856 1731.

[Please Note: Our article on "The Road from Corop" to Rushworth has been held over to the next edition].

**This newsletter was compiled by Carmel Pearson, Pat Kennedy, Bill Barkla and Katrina Hall. Graphics are provided courtesy of Katherine Weeks. Thanks to everyone who contributed articles and photos and to the Rochester Secondary College for its ongoing support in reproducing this newsletter.**

## The Road from Corop to Rushworth

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Finally, we reach the Bendigo – Murchison Road just to the east of Colbinabbin township and turn left towards Rushworth. Further on at the corner of Groves Weir Road on the right hand side, we see one of the historical markers, part of the Colbinabbin Historical Plaque Trail. This particular plaque depicts one of the sites of the Wanalta State School, now just a quiet farm paddock. For more information on this Trail, contact the Colbinabbin Store for a brochure. Further along, just after Harvey Road on the left hand side is another historical plaque pointing out the now derelict Wanalta Hotel and Post Office. The Post Office was established at the Hotel in 1879 and only closed in 1980. Ghosts of the past surely inhabit this place.



**The Old Wanalta Hotel and Post Office**

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remained unchanged from a bygone era. We had lunch at The Rushworth Provender, tasting a delicious assortment of dips with warm Turkish bread and coffee. The Provender, run by April English and Andrew ----- also gives wine tastings and sells wines from all around Australia. April and Andrew plan to set up a Pizza place out the back of The Provender in the courtyard. Add to this the wine, food and the occasional live jazz nights which they have now and the place will be buzzing! The Rushworth Provender is open from Thursday to Sunday from about 11am till late.



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**Part of Rushworth's picturesque streetscape**

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