

House Proud

Newsletter April 2019: 'Did You Know?'

Did you know ...?

There are TWO Portarlingtons - our town and its Irish namesake!

The township of **Portarlington in Victoria** was formally surveyed around 1850 and originally called Drayton. It was renamed Portarlington in 1851, and has been said to either be in honour of the English peer, Sir Henry Bennet, 1st Earl of Arlington, or named after the town in Ireland bearing the same name. This Irish town though, was itself founded by Sir Henry Bennet in 1666, so the naming convention probably amounts to the same thing!

Portarlington in Ireland is a town located in a bend of the River Barrow, straddling the counties of Laois and Offaly, west of Dublin. It was originally a fortified place called 'Cooletoodera', meaning 'Woody Nook' in Gaelic. Because the English at the time of the 'plantations' (planting Irish areas with English and Scottish settlers) were giving Irish places English names, it was renamed for Sir Henry Bennet, Baron Arlington, as 'Arlington's Fort', or Portarlington.

In 1690, the lands were passed to Henri Massue, Marquis de Ruvigny, later Baron of Portarlington. Ruvigny decided to offer the town as a refuge to the Huguenots, French protestants who were escaping persecution in Catholic France at the time. About 10,000 Huguenots came to Ireland, mostly to towns south and west of Dublin, like Portarlington.

Did you know these facts about Portarlington, Ireland?

- A French Festival (Festival Français de Portarlington) takes place annually in this Irish town, around 15-17 July.

- The Blongs were French butchers in Portarlington, and *Finnegan's Wake* by Irish author, James Joyce, contains a reference to them: 'Blong's best from Portarlington's Butchery, with a side of riceypeasy' (*Book III chapter 1*).

- Another famous Irish Author, Jonathan Swift, wrote a large part of *Gulliver's Travels* while living in Woodbrook House, Portarlington.

In 2012, Radio-Television Ireland (RTE) chose Portarlington as the focal point for the television show, *Dirty Old Towns*. The town was filmed extensively over a number of weeks as the local people changed what was becoming run-down into what has become a **colourful, clean and vibrant town, full of sculpture, murals and gardens**. It was the enthusiasm from the people of Portarlington, who seemed as if they were just waiting for an opportunity to show what they could do, that convinced the producers to make Portarlington the star of the show.

Does this community sentiment sound familiar? We also have annual festivals—the Celtic Festival and Mussel Festival. We also are a community blessed with artistic and literary talent as well as avid gardeners, and we have the enthusiasm and community spirit to continue to make this place fabulous. **Let's all remember this spirit as we move forward in our own plantation to a new home!**



Local murals from the Irish television series 'Dirty Old Towns' in which Portarlington, Ireland, featured.

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Did you know ...?

... about the Irish in Victoria?

After the Irish famine of the 1840s, many Irish settlers migrated to Victoria, including the area around Portarlington, in vast numbers. They were the largest immigrant group after the English, from 1854 to World War I, and by 1871, more than one in four Victorians was born in Ireland. Many came to escape cultural and religious repression, and in contrast to many other immigrant groups, they came in equal numbers of men and women. They worked in country Victoria as whalers, fishermen and farm hands and in townships as labourers and factory workers. Some sought their fortunes on the goldfields, and a few became property owners and professionals. Many became important in political movements seeking justice for workers.

Did you know?

At the trial of bushranger Ned Kelly in 1880, both the accused *and* the judge who sentenced him to hang, Sir Redmond Barry, were from Irish families.

Did you know?

The feast day of St Patrick the patron saint of Ireland, is marked by 17 March, the date in 461 of the saint's death. Patrick was born in the late 4th century in Roman England, but at age 16 he was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave. After 6 years he escaped, but later returned to Ireland to convert the people to Christianity. Many legends grew around him, most popular being that he drove the 'snakes' (evil) out of Ireland, and that he used the 3-leafed Irish shamrock (Irish 'seamrog' meaning 'young clover') to explain the Holy Trinity.

Today, we celebrate his day not only with religious services and feasts, but also with parades and all things green! BUT ...

Did you know?

Saint Patrick's colour was originally blue, not green. The hue — St. Patrick's blue, a lighter shade — can still be seen on ancient Irish flags. But the use of green on St. Patrick's Day began during the 1798 Irish Rebellion, when the clover became a symbol of nationalism and the 'wearing of the green' became common.

No Saint Paddy's day would be complete without ...

Corned Beef and Cabbage

(traditionally in Ireland, bacon loin would be used)

- 1. Prepare Corned Beef and Vegetables:** In a casserole dish or saucepan, place a corned brisket with your favourite flavour additives – common are onions, peppercorns, bay leaves, vinegar and brown sugar, and enough water to cover; heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 2 hours 30 minutes.
- 2. Add quartered potatoes, carrots, and parsnips to your dish;** heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 30 minutes or until meat and vegetables are tender. With tongs and slotted spoon, transfer meat and vegetables to platter; cover and keep warm.
- 3. Add cabbage (a head cut into 8 wedges with core attached) to liquid in pot;** heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 5 minutes or until cabbage is tender.
- 4. Meanwhile, prepare your favourite white sauce or a horseradish-mustard sauce.** For the latter, in a small bowl, with fork, mix ½ cup mustard, 2 tbsp maple syrup, and 1 tbsp prepared horseradish until smooth; set sauce aside. Drain cabbage and add to platter with meat. Thinly slice meat and serve with vegetables and sauce. Garnish with chopped parsley.



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Did you know ...

There is a reason for a Community Hub.

Since updating the Community in the March edition of the Port Report, with the 'Reasons for the Neighbourhood House Relocating', the City of Greater Geelong has now signed off on taking over the Hall from Bellarine Bayside. As a result of this, the Portarlington Neighbourhood House has signed a 'Heads of Agreement' with COGG to rent an office and reception space at Parks Hall. The building of this office and reception area should commence in April (this month) and we have been advised that the Neighbourhood House may be in the new offices by August this year!

With the City of Greater Geelong taking over the running of Parks Hall and the Neighbourhood House becoming a tenant of the newly built office and reception area, the beginnings of a 'Community Hub' has been born in Portarlington. With work, Community Hubs can be vibrant gateways that connect individuals and groups, forming an axis for participation.

A community hub is defined as 'a multi-purpose centre or building that is made accessible to the residents of the area that it occupies'. It provides a range of community services, delivered by community members, and in the case of Parks Hall will be managed by local council. The concept of a Community Hub has risen through a growing focus on reducing social isolation through an increase in local groups and facilities within hubs – in a single geographical location.

The beginnings of a Community Hub are well placed in Portarlington, given that there will now be greater opportunities for individuals and organisations to connect with Senior Citizens, Kindergarten, Neighbourhood House, Uniting Church and Portarlington Primary School, these all being within a short stroll of each other and the 'village' of Portarlington.

We are at the beginnings of sharing a Vision for our own Community Hub - and we as a community can start thinking of ways in which we can really ... **Make our Hub Great!!!** This could be through combined community arts projects or combined community projects ... There are many examples of other communities who are enjoying the benefits of welcoming and contributing to a Community Hub in their own communities.

Soo ... did you know??

... It just might be the time where we can all come together and start thinking of and planning ways through which we are all going to build and create a truly special Community Hub in Portarlington.



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A 'HAPPY EASTER' TO ALL!

Early on Easter Sunday morning, the Easter Bunny delivers chocolate Easter eggs to children in Australia, as he does in many parts of the world.

But ... *did you know where the Easter Bunny originated?*

The rabbit and the hare have long been associated with fertility, and have therefore been associated with spring and spring festivals. But the original idea of the Easter Bunny, or 'Osterhase' in German (literally, 'Easter Hare'), was in fact a very German creation dating back to the Middle Ages. By the 17th Century, the Easter Bunny was bringing eggs for children to discover on Easter. But the creature bringing treats wasn't always a hare: there was also an Easter Fox, Stork and Crane in various regions before the hare became the mainstream egg bearer. The first edible Easter bunnies, made from sugared pastry, were made in Germany in the 19th century.

According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of the egg-laying hare. Their children made nests in which the creature could lay its coloured eggs.

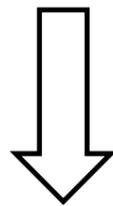


2019

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all those 'stars' who have updated their membership for 2019!

We hope the Easter Bunny brings you lots of eggs!



This is the team that produces House Proud :

Di Kolomeitz, Anna Agius, Julie Walker,

Phyllis Perry & Julie Hyslop.

Quarterly publications of House Proud are distributed at the end of each term.

As always, feel free to approach any of our friendly House Proud Team with photos, ideas and stories!

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PORTARLINGTON CLASSES

Did you know the history of these activities?

CANASTA: developed in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in the 1940s. 'Canasta' is the Spanish word for 'basket', which probably derives from a tray placed in the centre of the table to hold undealt cards & discards. **BOLIVIA** is a form of Canasta, where 7 wildcards together form a 'bolivia'.

CARD MAKING: the sending of greeting cards can be traced back to the ancient Chinese who exchanged messages of goodwill to celebrate the New Year. Also, the early Egyptians conveyed greetings on papyrus scrolls. The Germans are known to have printed New Year's greetings from woodcuts as early as 1400.

CHESS: the earliest known predecessor of chess originated before the 6th century in India, where it was called Chaturanga.

CARPET BOWLS: believed to have been developed by ancient Egyptians who played a kind of skittles using round stones.

TAI CHI: is an ancient form of exercise created as a fighting art in China over 2000 years ago.

MAHJONG: its origins are shrouded in myth, but one popular and enduring legend is that the game was invented by Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher, in the year 500 BC. Mahjong was most likely first introduced to Westerners around the turn of the 20th century, when people began playing it in British clubs in Shanghai.

HARMONICA: also called the French Harp & mouth organ, the harmonica has a long history, beginning in China with an instrument called the Sheng. The harmonica was further developed in Europe during the early 19th century, the first being manufactured in Germany. The best-known harmonica company, Hohner, is still making harmonicas in Germany to this day.

LINE DANCING: is believed to have originated from folk dancing. During the 1970s & '80s, dances were performed to disco music and included such classics as the Bus Stop & Nutbush. During the '80s & '90s, line dances were created for popular country songs such as 'Achy Breaky Heart'.

ZUMBA: is believed to have roots in Latin dances that date back to the 17th century, such as the samba. However, Alberto 'Beto' Perez, choreographer & fitness instructor, is credited with formally creating and naming Zumba in 1999.

KNITTING: the oldest knitted artefacts are socks from an excavation in Egypt dating from the 11th century. The earliest-known knitted items in Europe were made by Muslim knitters employed by Spanish royal families. One silk knitted cushion cover was knitted using 20 stitches per inch.

MOSAICS: mosaics have a long history, starting in Mesopotamia in the 3rd millennium BC; they consisted of coloured stones, shells & ivory. These decorative, abstract pieces laid the groundwork for mosaics thousands of years later, in ancient Greece and the Roman Empire.

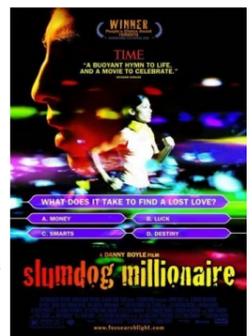
BOLLYWOOD DANCING:

Probably many of us have seen and enjoyed the colour and spectacle of a Bollywood film. Well, *did you know where it all started?*

In 1899 the first Indian short film was screened; it was shot at the Hanging Gardens in Mumbai, and known as 'The Wrestlers'. It was a simple recording of a wrestling match and is considered as the first motion picture of the Indian Film Industry - Bollywood was about to be born! A Bollywood movie is one that comes out of Hindi film industry. Just like in Hollywood, the films were silent to begin with, then in the 1930s the films became 'talkies'.

Many Indians came to live and work in Britain around 50 years ago and they brought their culture with them. Now, Bollywood's biggest audience outside India is in Britain. Probably one of the more well-known mainstream movies associated with India - one that won eight Academy Awards including Best Picture - was made in Britain.

'*Slumdog Millionaire*', shot in India with Indian actors and musicians, is based on an Indian novel.



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FOCUS ON ... Sartaj Vishal

One of our Bollywood group members, **Sartaj Vishal**, loves the music and dance classes she attends at PNH. Sartaj was born in the Indian state of Gujarat, and was sponsored to come to Australia in 1974 by her sister, then a medical doctor. From that time, she lived in Drysdale and has only recently moved to Leopold. Her sister played the sitar, but Sartaj had no musical background before she started attending classes at PNH in 2013. While she has been a participant in other classes previously, Sartaj continues to enjoy *Singalong with Margaret, Harmonica Group and Bollywood*. She says these musical experiences have given her both 'confidence and pleasure'.

Sartaj joined Bollywood classes because, even though she had no dance experience in India, she had watched lots of Bollywood movies and listened to the music. She has told House Proud that music and dancing give her the 'rhythm that can be missing in life'.

'I would rather do something I don't *have* to do,' says Sartaj. 'Some people say they are happy because they are singing ... but I say, I am singing because I am happy.'

Did you know ... this is another great example of our Neighbourhood House helping to make people happy?

FOCUS ON ... Gemma Tobschall & 'Port Snappers'

Did you know ...

Alongside Canasta, Port Snappers was one of the first programs offered by Portarlington Neighbourhood House. This program is offered fortnightly.

Gemma Tobschall was one of the original participants of Port Snappers, and is now its driving force.

Did you know ...

Originally, Port Snappers involved people who were interested in photography. The group would go out on photoshoots to various locations around the Bellarine Peninsula. The group would then show their photos at the next session and share ideas on how to improve their shoots by experimenting with shutter speed, lighting etc. They would also hold exhibitions. Gemma arranged lectures and presentations by various speakers to enhance the knowledge and experience of the group. The numbers of the group fluctuated and so, due to the uncertainty of participation, the group needed to change ... and thus, **Port Snappers Arm Chair Travel** was born!

With Gemma's encouragement to people to share their travel experiences and of course, their photos, Port Snappers Arm Chair Travel has gone from strength to strength! Numbers still fluctuate but Gemma continues to be very pleased by the response and participation by the members of the PNH. Gemma says, 'it's all very civilised' – as a glass of wine and nibbles are provided!

Gemma is well travelled and has many stories of her own, and, of course, photos to share! With other members sharing their travel experiences as well, there are many lively discussions about the different cultures experienced. If there is no volunteer to present on a particular day, the internet is a wonderful source for travel experiences. The last Arm Chair travel was actually to Brazil, with the group sitting back after their glass of wine watching the Mardi Gras Carnival!

Gemma notes that a variety of members come to Arm Chair travel: those who have travelled, those who are contemplating travelling overseas and looking for ideas, those who have travelled but who can no longer travel, and those who just cannot travel for a variety of reasons. Whatever the reason, Gemma and her group welcomes everyone. So, come along! Gemma's innate ability to bring her experiences to life will enthral you.

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Did you know ... about this building?

The building PNH currently occupies was started in April, 1874, by the Sons of Temperance, Arlington. The bricks were transported from Widdicombe's brickworks, now known as The Old Mill. By July 1874, the Temperance Hall was completed and at that time was described as 'quite an ornament to the township'. The walls are 14 inches thick; the roof is slate.

In June 1874, the first event took place in the hall - a Church of England divine service. In August 1883, the ante-room served as a free library, pending the building of a permanent library elsewhere in Portarlington. Before that, the Hall had also been used as a schoolroom.

The Masonic Arlington Lodge no.81 was consecrated in 1899 and held its meetings in the Hall. The Lodge bought the building and the half acre of land on which it stands, in 1934, for 380 pounds. Additions and renovations were carried out in the 1950s and 1980s.

The Masonic Hall is the oldest brick (former) Temperance Hall in the Bellarine area. It has been in continuous use as a community hall for various functions for over 140 years.

Did you know ... about the PNH Library and our Librarian, Hetty?

Hetty is the Portarlington Neighbourhood House Volunteer Librarian, and has been in this position for the last 8-9 years. Hetty is a retired librarian/technician, who worked in the education system for 25 years. Hetty has enjoyed her role at the Portarlington Neighbourhood House immensely

When Hetty started her role here at PNH, there were approx. 200 books – and now there are approx. 2000 books! These books are mostly fiction but there are quite a number of biographies as well. Also, there are a large number of DVDs and CDs (both modern and classic) as well as jigsaw puzzles, which are very popular. While most puzzles are for adults, there are

some children's puzzles.

Did you know ... You don't have to be a member of PNH to borrow books! All you have to do is enter the items being borrowed in a book, along with your details – this book is located in the library near the reception office and is based on the honour system. There is no timeframe and no limit on items borrowed. The library is opened Monday to Friday from 10.00am till 3.00pm.

Did you know ... there are no non-fiction books unfortunately. There is just simply not enough room at the Neighbourhood house to extend the collection.

Did you know ... all books have been kindly donated by the Portarlington community. Books are continually donated to the library but only books that are in good condition go in the library. All other books, as well as non-fiction donations, can be taken from a trolley in the foyer, for a gold coin donation. PNH really appreciates the continued support of the Portarlington community.

Did you know ... there are a small number of pre-school books and DVDs that can be borrowed, also based on the same honour system - just enter your details and items in the book.

Did you know ... there are, as well, a small number of large print books!

Did you know ... Talking books could be soon available. Hetty is looking for a someone who can volunteer their time and expertise to convert tapes to CDs. So, if this is YOU, please contact PNH!

Did you know ... Hetty has a small team of assistants to help her. Hetty would like to acknowledge these helpers as she appreciates their time and effort.

Did you know... Hetty is available to chat about anything to do with books on Monday mornings!!!

