



Snippets

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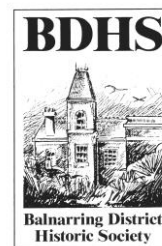
Balnarring and District Historical Society Inc.

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Editor: I. Hackett



"SHANKS' PONY" AND OTHER IDIOMS

A short time back B.D.H.S. member, Ian Wisken, used the expression "shanks' pony" while in conversation with younger members of his family. It met with raised eyebrows and looks of puzzlement. They had no idea what he meant; simply that he had walked - used his own two legs. This chance remark led to the compilation of the following list. Phrases in common speech come and go; some endure but too many are lost. Do you have phrases you can remember being in use during your childhood? We would love to add to the list.

Okey dokey = alright

Blimey! = expression of surprise

Crook e.g. 'I feel crook' = feel sick

things are crook' = not good

go crook at someone = tell someone off

a crook = someone who has broken the law

China plate = mate

Money

Quid - one pound

Bob = a shilling

Two bob = two shillings

Ten bob

Deena = one shilling

Trey (bit) = threepence (pronounced 'thruppence')

Tenner = ten pounds

Fiver = five pounds

Zack - sixpence

Gone bush = left the area

On the wallaby = travelling, often destination unknown

Sheela/Sheila = girl/ woman

Tart = girl/ woman

Bloke = man

Flash = showy

Drunk as a skunk = intoxicated beyond limits

Blown the coop = gone away, escaped

Shank's pony = on foot

Dob on someone/ dob in = name

someone for doing something wrong/ tell on

Dobber = a person who tells on another

Never- Never = remote, seemingly without an end. e.g. Hire purchase or a remote, un-named area in the Australian Outback

Fuzz = police

Beaks= magistrates

Beak = nose

Sticky beak = someone who wants to know other people's business

Nosy Parker = someone who wants to know other people's business
 Grouse = really good/ to one's liking
 See ya = a farewell
 Wobbly boots= drunk
 Groovy = expression of approval implying up to date
 Up the duff = pregnant
 A bun in the oven = pregnant
 Snogging = cuddling & kissing
 Wokka wokka= helicopter

 Cranky = irritated, cross, bad-tempered
 Cop it tough/ rough = having misfortune
 Get the short end of the stick = the worse of two options
 or when one gets to do an unwanted job
 Hell's bells! = exclamation
 Crazy as a two-bob watch = unpredictable, beyond reasoning
 Stone the crows! =Exclamation
 Mad as a meat axe = furious
 Round the bend = illogical
 (To talk or do something) 'nineteen to the dozen' = far faster than normal
 Not on your nellie = no chance
 Over my dead body! = It is not going to happen while I can stop it.
 Dinky di = genuine
 Slow as a wet week = extremely slow
 A shiner= black eye
 What do you do for a crust? How do you earn a living?
 Dressed to the nines = wearing best clothes
 Tizzied up = dressed up to go out
 Be in a tizz = all worked up over something minor
 A load of old bull = speaking absolute nonsense
 Full as a goog = eaten as much as one can possibly eat
 Knock it off! = stop doing that

Knock yer block off = threat to fight/ punch up
 Do your block = lose one's your temper
 Scarcer than hen's teeth = very rare
 Happy as Larry = very happy
 Over the moon = delighted
 Strewth! = exclamation
 The other side of the black stump - a long, long way away, beyond civilization
 Back o' Bourke = beyond civilization
 A penny short of the pound - someone who doesn't have his full wits about him
 Talk the hind legs off a donkey = someone who can out-talk anyone
 As crooked as a dog's hind leg= very bent
 Little tackers = children
 Hunky dory = alright
 Chocka block full = filled to capacity
 Chokkas = (abbreviated form of above)
 Bonza! = good/great. Expression of high approval
 Dunny = lavatory
 Thunderbox = pan in an outdoor lavatory
 Shag on a rock = conspicuously isolated
 Treads - shoes
 Blast! - mild swear word
 Blasted above used as an adjective
 Heavens above! = exclamation showing frustration, annoyance
 Good grief! = exclamation of surprise, frustration, annoyance
 A load of old tripe = rubbish, nonsense
 Play it by ear = go along with things as they come rather than plan
 Gone to the dogs = gone to ruin; no longer caring about how one looks or acts
 Not out of the woods = not quite overcome one's problems or difficulties
 Shot through like a Bondi tram = take off at speed
 Off like a bride's nightie = something done very quickly

Chuck a wobbly = throw a tantrum
Budgie smugglers = brief, tight-fitting man's bathing suit
Chuck a sickie = take an unscheduled day off work
Keep nit - be on guard, keep watch
Cobber = friend
Norks = breasts
Drongo = idiot, no-hoper
Bogan = uncouth person
Crack onto = get going with more enthusiasm
Arvo = afternoon
Swaggy = swagman, person of no fix address who travels the countryside looking for work
Gasper = cigarette
Whinger = someone who continually complains

Blind Freddy = something so obvious that even a fictitious blind person could see it.
Turn it up = stop saying or doing something
Happy hunting ground = paradise
Coffin nails = cigarette
Your shout = your turn to pay
Cuppa = cup of tea
Fair dinkum = honestly, really
Hoon = speedster (often irresponsible)
Cockie = person from the bush, farmer
Loo = lavatory (toilet)
Brekkie = breakfast
Billy lids = kids i.e. children
Lord luv a duck! = exclamation of surprise, annoyance
Two shakes of a lamb's tail = as soon as possible

BALNARRING BEACH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Shortly after Dr. Peter Cooper and his wife Beth had moved to live permanently at Balnarring Beach they saw a need for a formal group, made up of people who were ratepayers and their immediate families, to have some means of addressing problems in the neighbourhood and of preserving its best features. They proposed forming an association of local residents.

The inaugural meeting of the Balnarring Beach Residents Association was held on Saturday, 16th December 1989 in the home of Peter Cooper. Dr Cooper chaired the meeting himself. He had listed some problems and during the course of the meeting others were added to his original list.

Some of the concerns that were raised by residents were:

cars speeding though the area; horses on the beach; dogs roaming on the beach and in the streets; vandalism; security against burglary; litter on the beach and in the streets; concern about native fauna - its protection, preservation and re-instalment; unruly and antisocial gatherings; long term occupancy in the caravan parks; T.V. interference especially with Channel 2.

Over the years, the new group did what it could to enhance the area and to protect it from inappropriate development or use.

In 2015 at the annual general meeting members voted for the committee to prepare a new constitution in line with the new Model Rules for Associations that had been introduced in 2012. At the same time the original aims and objectives of the association were re-examined.

The group adopted a new name and became known as the Balnarring Beach Community Association. Membership of the group, at that time, stood at approximately 300 people. It has now more than double that number of members and continues to function to protect this coastal village and preserve its natural beauty.



Photo: John Sullivan

THE BUNYIP OR DEBBIL-DEBBIL

Herald 1928, May 23

“Tuerong” Barnsbury Road, Deepdene’

Sir-

I would like to tell you of my experience after nearly 80 years in touch with bush-life in Victoria. About 1850 my father purchased a cattle station in Western Port, near Mornington.

The station was named 'Tuerong. With it he bought stock and outfit. The first occupant was Mr Thomas^{*}, who was also appointed "Black Protector", to distribute the flour, blankets and other comforts to the natives. Although rations stopped when he left, the tribe still remained in their quamby - a collection of shelters made simply by planting two forked sticks in the ground, a sapling across for a ridge and branches and bark leant against the ridge. These mi-mis ran in two parallel lines, about 30 feet apart. Across one end was a bark square, about 8 x 10, composed of flat sheets, sewn or tied together with dried sinews from kangaroos. On this large sheet there was sketched in some white substance, similar to the clay or paint with which they smeared their faces and bodies for corroboree or war-dance, the outline of the bunyip or debbil-debbil of the lagoon, or lake or pond. The bunyip when spoken of was always associated with still water, never a river or creek. His noise was like 'drum-bool-abool or thunder. It seemed a sketch of a very large amphibious creature like a walrus or seal. Some years afterwards, when I was in business as a photographer, Mr Street of the City Buffet who had been a collector of wild animals previous to the zoo, got me round to photograph lions, tigers and other animals. There was a sea devil (which snapped at my camera legs) with round, unblinking eyes, the exact counterpart of the sketch on the sheet of bark of which I speak. Although like the New Zealand DoDo they have become extinct, the bunyip traditions have been handed down from tribe to tribe

Your etc.

T.J. Ruddell

**The Tuerong station was first taken up by William Jackson Thomas, son of the Assistant Protector, William Thomas. The station also became a distribution point from where Thomas cared for the Bunurong people under his protection. The Thomas family erected a house at Tuerong.*

Living in the 70s

Anna and Paul Buchhorn

Paul and Anna Buchhorn came to Balnarring in 1971 from Newcastle, N.S.W. The John Lysaght Steel Rolling Plant (now Bluescope) was being established in Hastings and Paul was recruited to oversee the installation of machinery. At first a house was provided for them in Frankston and later the couple bought acreage along Stumpy Gully Road where they built their family home. While the house was being built, they lived in a small house on a property in Somers. After living in the suburbs, it was strange to look out and see sheep in nearby paddocks. Anna was recruited into a psychology career with the Education Department of Victoria. She spent time working at the Frankston Teachers' College, Hastings High School (before it became Western Port Secondary College) and visited various schools throughout the Peninsula.

They found the area 'perfect'. Many apple orchards still covered the countryside and the steel mill was set up in the middle of the farming landscape under comprehensive environmental protection regulations.

The Buchhorn children attended the Red Hill Consolidated school during the primary stage of their education and travelled by bus to school. It was a long bus ride from home and fairly exhausting when they were in the junior grades. When they reached the secondary school stage, Anna and Paul bought a second house in Mentone. During those years and while their children were at university, they continued to come to "the farm" every weekend and for school holidays. Usually there were extra school friends whom they could bring in their early model Ford Transit bus. There was plenty of room for companion animals and friends. Saturday mornings were working bees around the farm, helping with maintenance, cleaning, mowing, shed or fence repairs and many other chores. Each Sunday there were picnic days at various Peninsula beauty surfing or snorkeling spots. "We used to eat a lot of fish." Beach visits were frequent and as they became strong swimmers, a serious interest in snorkel fishing and surfing developed. Usually, two or more boys from Mentone would be included in all of the above.

Acquisition of a "paddock bomb" meant that the young people had to keep this wreck running and these skills were useful to them with their first cars.

“We butchered our own meat with help of fellow who would get himself drunk by ten a.m. and inspired us to drop him out of our plans. There was much interest in this process from the visiting boys. When our sons were in tertiary education even medical students would come for the butchering events. They would all join in digging a pit for offal, cutting up the portions, helping instantly on request. At times close to twenty people would be visiting for lunch, often a huge beef roast and vegetables from the garden. Our daughter too became skilled in car maintenance, making pork sausages, smoking hams and bacon . . . no end of fun!”

“The children had plenty of friends even if the boys had to settle into the new school situation. They had each other in the playground. A family of five boys in their age group arrived and then there were plenty of adventures for all.

We did not become involved much in community matters while both of us were working. On retirement, Paul established a Shareholders’ Association branch on the Peninsula (early 20th C) which is still functioning and he joined the Delage Club of Victoria (a vintage car club). Anna joined the Balnarring and District Historical Society. Both joined the Victorian Wader study group, a citizen venture which monitored the numbers and health of birds which came here from the Arctic for our summer to feed at the tidal flats and return to the Arctic for breeding in the northern spring. This involved serious bird netting events, at times catching over 1,000 birds for ‘processing - weighing, ageing, measuring vital statistics and banding each bird. Both of us joined Probus clubs to be in company with local people many of whom moved into the district in retirement.

The Peninsula has changed. The old-time, rural flavour of apple orchards and small cattle farms has passed. Farm land is expensive. Wealthier city farmers grow grapevines, avocado, Wagyu beef, cute herb farms, berry orchards and cheeseries. Local culture has taken on a suburban values flavour: the pace of life is faster; luxury houses are replacing cottages. The corner store is now a large “providore”. There are medical, dental services a pharmacy, a variety of small business to supply folk the year round. There are restaurants, coffee shops, a wetland park, landscaped rewilding areas for enchanting walks. Luxury mansions are replacing a simpler life. The beach attracts waves of tourists, at times quite overwhelming. Locals switch to shop in Hastings during tourist seasons for a quieter experience, or

shop as early as possible to avoid the crush and the queues and depleted shelves.

The flavour is of change from a quiet and even disdained “underdeveloped” village with a decrepit corner store. The district has become a beacon to those with wealth and a wish for a luxurious life in what they believe to be a quiet corner.

COPING WITH PESTS

An orchardist's problem

Mornington Standard February 4, 1905

THE DESTRUCTION OF STARLINGS

No Action by Flinders and Kangerong Shire

The Department of Agriculture had sent a recommendation that starlings should be destroyed, using municipal funds. During discussion, Cr Davis supported the proposal, Cr Nowlan opposed it. Cr Shand thought it was of no use for the council to take steps when other municipalities were not, though he agreed that starlings were just as destructive as stated in the recommendation.

Cr Oswin had this to say.

Cr Oswin was very surprised that a shire like Frankston and Hastings had decided to take no action. A great proportion of the ratepayers in that shire were interested in the fruit-growing industry, being dependent upon it, and until Frankston and Hastings took some measure to eradicate the birds, Flinders and Kangerong could not be expected to do anything in the matter. There was no doubt that the starlings were the greatest curse the orchardists had, for they swept the orchards clean. However, the fruit-growers were in a minority in this shire, and others might reasonably object to being taxed to protect them.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the motion had not been seconded, and it would accordingly lapse. The next business would therefore be proceeded with.

Are you a financial member for 2025?

∕ If your subscription for this year has not yet been paid, could you ∕
∕ please do so ASAP or let me know that you want to withdraw your ∕
∕ membership. *Thank you!*

(contact:email:cphijh @bigpond.com)

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