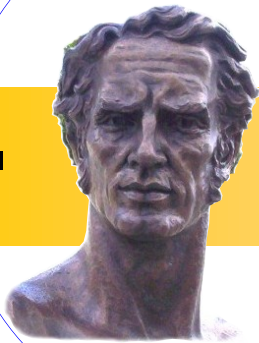




ISSUE 14 - JUNE 2010



THE WAYFARER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE INC.

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ISSN 1834-4070
ISSN 1834-4089

THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE INC. (A0049425F)

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THE TORQUAY FORTH AND BUBBLE LITERARY FESTIVAL

Torquay is a growing Victorian seaside town with a population of 12,000 and with a very enthusiastic Shire Council interested in the Arts. In the community we are supported by partnerships with active groups.

Using Gordon's words "Life is mostly Froth and Bubble" we have caught everyone's imagination with Torquay's bubbling surf, beautiful scenery and its many cafés and restaurants, and we could not run a festival without the strong support from our festival committee members in Torquay.

The third weekend in June saw the third year of our Torquay Froth and Bubble Literary Festival with a total of over 700 people attending our many literary events,. Some 40 artists and groups presented plays, readings and workshops martial arts, literary panels and multicultural events.

This year the Torquay College was our venue, for which we thank them, and, in the tradition of Charles R. Long, we engaged the students in our festival activities during the week, with visiting literary

professionals and a poetry competition. On Saturday our keynote speaker was Arnold Zable and a play reading was presented at our Festival Dinner by The Torquay Theatre Troupe. Apart from the large presentation hall, our event rooms were called the "Kindness Room" and the "Courage Room".

A central café provided the meeting room where everybody could chat and exchange ideas.

The Sunday afternoon coincided with the start of refugee week and we used the theme of "Kindness" to hear stories from people such as Dr.Serge Liberman and Anne Phelan (of *Prisoner* fame).

The workshops were popular as was our Living Library of ten books which could be borrowed and read for 30 minutes. None of our living books needed dusting down afterwards and all were well read with great interest. For the first time this year we conducted a short story and poetry competition which attracted many entrants, some from interstate.



PETER MARSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY
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www.petermarshallphotography.com

AT GORDON SQUARE TO REMEMBER ADAM LINDSAY GORDON

After our Torquay Froth and Bubble Literary Festival over the third weekend in June, we cast our anxious eyes at the wattle trees. Will there be any early wattle to lay at the statue of Gordon in Spring Street, Melbourne during our annual gathering in one week's time? Nothing of note in our immediate vicinity, but a question to our local florist drew the remark *"I have a wattle tree covered in blossom in my home front garden. Here is a pair of scissors, go and help yourself and I will ring my husband to let him know that you are coming"*.

Saturday morning 26 June saw us on the road, early for our 11.00am gathering. Again more anxious eyes. This time to the sky, will we have to use our umbrellas?

One thing is for sure though, it will be cold. After parking our car undercover we made for the cosy café from where, over our cups of coffee, we had a good view through the large glass windows of the tourists piling out of mini buses on a regular basis for happy snaps beside the statue of our hero. We came to the conclusion that this must happen every day, 365 days of the year.

We were joined by Carol Lutz with her daughter Miranda and Miranda's husband Pasa, together with our Patrons Professor Weston and Janice Bate and more cups of coffee.

The sun came out, and at 11.00am we gathered at the statue, where we met another member, Douglas Gaze from Wangaratta.

We distributed our small bottles with wands for bubble blowing and as we opened our ceremony bubbles floated over the statue and into the city.

We opened with apologies from those who could not attend and continued with a short address by the secretary that our gathering marked the 140th anniversary of Gordon's death, and followed with a short account of the first Gordon Memorial Committee and their efforts in raising the money for the statue and remarking on two of the notables who were in that committee, Julius Grant in the business of entertainment and Charles R. Long in education.

Professor Weston Bate continued on with this theme commenting on the amazing work done by our pioneers and then read a poem especially composed for this occasion (see page four).

We finished with the laying of wattle sprigs at the base of the statue.

The tourists from a mini bus posed for photos with us and Weston happily autographed and handed over a copy of his poem, upon their request.



(above) Pictures from Melbourne's newest tourist attraction—'The Weston Bate Show'.

LATIN OR ENGLISH: RECALLING GORDON'S FAMOUS SPEECH

The Argus newspaper reported a meeting of the Commonwealth Literary Fund Committee held in April 1915. The President of the Committee was Sir John Landgon Bonython (1848-1939), editor, newspaper proprietor and philanthropist who took the opportunity to recall Adam Lindsay Gordon's time in the South Australian Parliament;

"I heard Gordon, in 1866 [sic -1865], deliver his famous speech in the House of Assembly. It has been very properly said that it is a question whether the speech was an English speech with Latin quotations, or a Latin speech with English quotations. I remember as a lad being aghast at so much Latin. The speech did not attract any special attention when delivered. Gordon was not then as he is to-day, a great Australian poet. He was rather looked on as an eccentric, who, by some accident, found himself in Parliament. I can now see Gordon as he spoke. I can point out the exact spot where he stood in what is not the Parliamentary Library, but was then the Assembly Chamber. He was tall and thin, and rather gaunt looking. He was not dressed at all like a member of Parliament. I don't exactly know how a member of Parliament ought to dress, but Gordon was essentially a horsey man, and as such he appeared on the floor of the

House. There was, however, no question that he was both a gentleman and a man of education."

The speech Sir John referred to took place on 6 June 1865 and can be found in the Members' Area of our website. Here is an extract for all you Latin lovers;

"Sir—Last week the Government and this honourable House after a long discussion and a great deal of speechifying—good, bad, and indifferent—passed a resolution in favour of an amendment of the hon. member for East Adelaide, which amendment I had the honour of supporting; and I may here observe that upon the occasion to which I allude I came into the House prepared to support the motion of the hon. member for the Port, but it was proved to me that if the motion was good the amendment was something better. I cannot understand the policy which would cast a resolution one day and the next day knock it upon the head. It looks to me like labour in vain, and calls to mind the legend in the Greek mythology, where Sisyphus is engaged in continually rolling a stone up a hill—an employment in itself probably agreeable, but decidedly monotonous—(a laugh)—or like the snail in the schoolboy's problem, which goes up the hill two inches by day and falls back one inch every night; but there at least some progress is made.

Our motto is "Advance"—"Vestigia nulla retrorsum"—and shall we emulate that renowned commander who with 20,000 men, marched up a hill and then marched down again? You may talk about Goyder's valuations, annual leases, &c., from noon till dark, and it's a matter of sublime indifference to me personally whether "Trojan or Tyrian," squatter or anti-squatter gain the ascendancy.

Now they tell me that the squatter must go to the wall. Well it won't hurt me, that's one comfort; and perhaps, who knows, in those halcyon days to which the hon. Treasurer tells us we may now look forward, when the ad valorem taxes are repealed, when the blessings of free distillation are reaped by the public in general and by the teatotalers [sic] in particular, when railways and suchlike Utopian luxuries flourish in the South-Eastern Scrub—in short, when we enjoy a sort of colonial millennium—who knows, I say, but that some of us in the fulness [sic] of our hearts may devise some scheme to shorten the period of 'rebuke and blasphemy to which we have been justly doomed—the condemned class, the enfans perdus, the morituri, the squatters."

(Source: The Argus 23 Apr 1915 p6; SA Hansard 6 Jun 1865 p430-434)

"He was rather looked on as an eccentric, who, by some accident, found himself in Parliament"

MEMBERS' AREA

Members can read the full speech on our website. The link is:

<http://adamlindsaygordon.org/secure/sahansard6Jun1865.htm>

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON

Our Patron, Weston Bate read poem at the gathering held at Gordon's statue in Spring Street, Melbourne on 26 June 2010.

You sit in Spring Street now,
But once you rode
Past wattles trembling into cloth of gold.
Your life transforming shadow into shine
Though bubbles burst to froth
Across its rim.

Yet, like champagne,
Uncorked to toast the hour
Your thoughts exploded
Into ardent song.

Within that art
The heart of England beats,
That nurtured Shakespeare,
Shelley, Wordsworth, Keats,
And Byron, man of action and repose,
Like you. Like you! And yet it was
A distant colony that flowered your rose.

Your verses galloped to the winning post
Hurdling the troubles that unseated you,
Till cares went stalking death
On Brighton beach.
Little we understand
The awful fall
On that forgetful sand.

THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON GRAVE RESTORATION APPEAL

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Grave Restoration Appeal has now raised \$9,419. In the coming months, we expect to reach the target of \$10,000 and then look towards preserving the amount in a Trust fund so that the future maintenance of Gordon's grave at Brighton General Cemetery (Vic) is secure.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Appeal especially the following:

Joe Baker (\$200), James



Payne (\$100), Jennifer Mulholland (\$50), John Evans (\$40).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT COLERAINE (VIC)

All members should by now have received notice of our Annual General Meeting to be held at Coleraine (Vic) on Saturday 14 August 2010.

This year we will be setting up a display stall at the Coleraine racecourse, the theme being "Adam Lindsay Gordon". So

come along and look out for our marquee on the day.

You might even be lucky enough to see 'The Weston Bate Show' in town.

For more information, contact John Adams, Secretary and Life Member, on 03 5261 2899 or via email: info@adamlindsaygordon.org



...Mr 'E' the Sound Master



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