



ISSUE 33—MARCH 2015

THE WAYFARER

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

THE POET OF AUSTRALIA 1833-1870

WHO LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR LITERATURE AND THE ARTS IN AUSTRALIA



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Membership forms are available on our website, listed below.
 New memberships \$20
 Membership renewals \$15

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Ye Wearie Wayfarer Fytte VIII Finis Exoptatus

[A Metaphysical Song]
 'There's something in this world amiss
 Shall be unriddled by and by.'—*Tennyson.*



A DESIRABLE END

Boot and saddle, see, the slanting
 Rays begin to fall,
 Flinging lights and colours flaunting
 Through the shadows tall.
 Onward! onward! must we travel?
 When will come the goal?
 Riddle I may not unravel,
 Cease to vex my soul.

.....

Courage, comrades, this is certain,
 All is for the best—
 There are lights behind the curtain—
 Gentles let us rest.

Adam Lindsay Gordon.

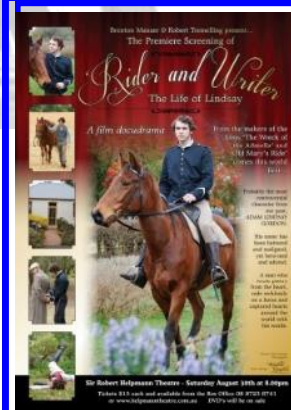
ANNUAL GATHERING—SPRING STREET STATUE GORDON RESERVE MELBOURNE CBD

On Saturday June 20th we will meet at the Café Excello, 99 Spring Street, Melbourne, at 10:30am, and at 11:00 we will cross to the Paul Montford statue of Adam Lindsay Gordon for our annual Wattle-laying Ceremony, and blowing of bubbles.
 (Life is mostly froth and bubble).

OUR 2015 Annual General Meeting



Please make a tentative note in your diaries that our Committee has decided upon Casterton as the venue for our AGM this year. The weekend of October 18th and 19th. There is V/Line from Melbourne to Casterton via Warrnambool early Friday morning-back Sunday afternoon. Suggested accommodation The Albion Hotel Motel.



Copies of the DVD "Rider and Writer" are now available for purchase. Order per email, address at far left. Price \$20

POETS' CORNER

[FACEBOOK—LISTS OF AUSTRALIAN POETS](#)

Wikipedia.org

The poets listed in the link above were either citizens or residents of Australia or published the bulk of their poetry whilst living here. An interesting years link has been placed against each poet to the corresponding year in the poetry article.

When you reach the facebook page, log in and just click on to "continue reading."

[Visit Historic Dingley Dell Cottage.](#) South Australia's first heritage listed building where Adam Lindsay Gordon spent the happiest years of his short life and where he wrote his brilliant poems about the sea. Situated in a conservation park south of Mount Gambier not far from Cape Northumberland and Port MacDonnell. Why not organise a visit for your group by contacting Allan Childs on 08 8738221 Mbl. 0408 382 222

[The Henry Lawson Memorial & Literary Society Inc.](#)

THE NATIONAL HENRY LAWSON AWARD 2014-2015

A poetry and short story competition open to all writers with special accommodation for junior entrants with prize money equivalent to that previously offered by Australian Unity.

Closing date: 31st March 2015. [Click here](#) to download the official entry form and guidelines.

Monthly Meetings. Come along to the monthly meeting of the Society and hear readings from Henry Lawson's poetry and prose and the works of other like minded poets from the past and present. Visitors are welcome!

WHERE? Monastery Hall, rear of St. Francis Church, 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

Enter through the gate beside the bookshop, then walk straight down to the hall. Enter through the white door WHEN? Third Saturday of each month (February-December inclusive) from 1.30pm to 4.00pm
COST? \$1.00 for members (\$2.00 non-members) and includes afternoon

The (ABPA) Australian Bush Poetry Championships-2015 Man from Snowy River Festival. Corryong. Victoria. 9th-12th April 2015. The closing date for Adults has past. Juniors close on Friday 20th March. Contact Jan Lewis, Secretary. (02) 60 774 332 E-Mail: info@ABPA.com.au www.bushfestival.com.au/main-events/poetry-bush-music/

[The C.J. Dennis Society](#) The Annual General meeting for the Society will be held at 11am on Sunday 22 March at the Singing Gardens, Toolangi. (1694 Healesville-Kinglake Rd, TOOLANGI, VIC, 3777) Annual subscriptions which are now \$25 due on 31st of this month. BSB 633-000 C.J Dennis Society. Acct: 1431 29773 New membership may be obtained via the society's contact page. 2015 is the Centenary of the first publication of "The Sentimental Bloke," so we are looking for ideas to mark this celebration. If you have any suggestions please let us know and these will be considered. Contact is via their website, above.

[John Shaw Neilson Acquisitive Art Prize](#) 21st-24th May Entries close 4pm Friday 15th May 2015 Entry for the John Shaw Neilson is \$25.00 (GST incl.) per entry. Maximum entries are TWO per person. Anyone may enter for the \$7000 prize, but the \$500 local prize is restricted to permanent residents of The Limestone Coast. For further details please download the entry form from the above website. Must be a 2D artwork inspired by the poems of John Shaw Neilson 1872-1942. Neilson wrote about the natural world, particularly birds, and about people. He wrote about life and death; joy and sorrow; innocence and the experience and love.

.....
"The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke is a verse novel by Australian novelist and poet C. J. Dennis. The work was first published in book form in 1915 and sold over 60,000 copies in nine editions within the first year. The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke tells the story of Bill, a larrikin of the Little Lonsdale Street Push, who is introduced to a young woman by the name of Doreen. The book chronicles their courtship and marriage, detailing Bill's transformation from a violence-prone gang member to a contented husband and father. "(Wikipedia)

Michael Wilding has written and edited some fifty books. He recently turned to crime with the private eye novels The Prisoner of Mount Warning, The Magic of It and Asian Dawn (Arcadia). His Wild Bleak Bohemia: Marcus Clarke, Adam Lindsay Gordon and Henry Kendall: a documentary is available from: [Australian Scholarly Publishing.](#)

Lorraine Day (Day Business Solutions Inc. Freestyle Publications has published "Gordon of Dingley Dell" The Life of Adam Lindsay Gordon, Poet and Horseman available in paperback from this site \$30 **Dr. Helen W Kinloch (Dehn)** has published a booklet on the life of Adam Lindsay Gordon with an emphasis on his life in Ballarat. Also available from this site \$10. <http://www.adamlindsaygordon.org>



THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON POET'S TRAIL

At one of our online committee meetings between our geographically scattered committee members last year, it was decided to commence a trail recording all of the places, all of the events and all of the people that Adam Lindsay Gordon came across in his short life of 37 years, commencing in his birthplace of The Azores and ending with his death on Brighton Beach, Victoria. Our committee very much would like to hear from individuals, historical societies, genealogy societies, tourism centres and town councils with the idea of giving a full account to the people on how our pioneers built up the foundations of our great country, and thus create a poet's trail for all to use.

OUR TRAIL HAS ALREADY COMMENCED AT: <http://algordon.travellerspoint.com/> It incorporates photos, online links to YouTube and personal stories. Please send us an email to : adamlindsaygordon@gmail.com we would like to include you!

PLACES—PEOPLE ON OUR GORDON POET'S TRAIL SO FAR:

Portugal: Horta-The Azores; **Spain:** Madeira.

Scotland: Esslemont House, Ellon.

England: Cheltenham: Father Adam Durnford, Mother Harriet Elizabeth, Children; Ada, Ignez and Adam; Houses in Cheltenham, 4 Pittville Villas; 25 Priory Trce. ; Schools. Cheltenham College; Dumbleton Rectory. Holy Trinity Church family graves; St. Mary's Bells.

Prestbury: Steeplechasing;

London: Shooters Hill Woolwich; Woolwich Royal Academy;

Worcester: Royal Worcester Grammar School:

Lived at Greenhill Estate; Visits The Manor, Broughton Hackett; The Plough Inn: Steeplechase with Berkley Hunt Club.

Friends: Charlie Walker; Jane Bridges

Worcester and Cheltenham Sporting identities: Jem Edwards; Tom Olliver; George Stevens; Tom Sayers; Thomas Pickernall; George Reeves; Fred Marshall.

Port of London: St. Katharine Docks; Gravesend Docks; The Barque Julia.

[Bound For South Australia-Watch on YouTube](#)

Adelaide South Australia: Stayed with Mr. E. Ashwin O'Connell St. North Adelaide: Adelaide Old Police barracks; Police Commissioner Alexander Tolmer; Old Parliament House: Bank Street Stables; Old Thebarton Racecourse; 58 Penzance Street Glenelg Home; James Sugars; E.G. Blackmore; Early Glenelg down to Seacliffe.

Mount Gambier: Border Watch Office; Vansittart Park; Original Police Station-Cave Gardens; Umpherston Sinkhole and Yahl Paddock home; Blue Lake Leap; Main Corner; Sgt Bradshaw Young; Presbyterian Church and Manse;



Old Mount Gambier Hospital site.

Port MacDonnell: Dingley Dell Cottage Museum; Cape Northumberland; Old Lighthouse Site; Customs House. Port area; Mary MacKillop.



Penola: John Riddoch Centre; Poet's Corner; Mary Mackillop Centre; Petticoat Lane; Yallum Park; Alexander Cameron; Tommy Hales; William Trainor; John Riddoch. Old Police Station Site.

Naracoorte: Charles Mullaley; John Robertson, Struen House; Cemetery where Gordon's Widow buried.

Robe: Edward and Harry Stockdale; Father Julien Tenison Woods, Old Gaol; Caledonian Inn; Robe Hotel; Lake Hawdon.

Carpenter Rocks: Site of the Admella Wreck. Ben Germain. DVD "Wreck of the Admella" Brenton Manser.

Gordon's ride from the wreck.

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Bunbury Western Australia: Port of Bunbury; Ship "The Clutha"; Williamston to Bunbury; The Wellington Hotel Bunbury; Picton; Live sheep transport; James Guy Thomson; Lambton Mount; Walter Padbury; John Peake; Brookhampton; Balingup-Blackwood River; Cottage Donnelly River; Manjimup; One tree bridge; Port of Albany.

Victoria: Portland; Casterton; Coleraine; Hamilton.

Ballarat Craig's Hotel; Ballarat Botanic Gardens; Cattle Yards Inn; Lake Wendouree Home; Dowling Forest-Ballarat Turf Club. Ballarat Rowing Club; Harry Mount; Ballarat Troop of Light Horse.

Melbourne: The Yorick Club; Napoleon Third Hotel; Adam and Eve Hotel; Kirk's Bazaar; The Australasian Newspaper; The Argus Newspaper; Flemington Racecourse; Melbourne Hunt Club; George Higinbotham; Marcus Clarke; Home 10, now 8, Lewis Street Brighton; Brighton cemetery; Marine Hotel, Brighton; Robert Power at Toorak; Herbert Power; Henry Kendall; Dr Patrick Murray; Major Baker; Victoria Barracks; Brighton Artillery Corps; Brighton Beach; William Kelly; Westminster Abbey-Douglas Sladen.



AUSTRALIAN EARLY HISTORY IS ENTHRALLING

For instance, our man, Adam Lindsay Gordon, directly after resigning his seat in the South Australian Parliament in November 1866, and within weeks was in Williamstown, Victoria, supervising a consignment of 4800 sheep to go to his new venture in Western Australia. Days before he sailed we have him at the Opera in Melbourne where he busily composed another of his poems and we have the transport ship "Clutha" berthed at a Pier in Williamstown ready to leave.

The state of the Port of Bunbury is noted by the captain, upon arrival, as having no light to guide a ship in. No boat belonging to the Port and no water supply except for a water-hole nearby. Construction of a pier had commenced but had not yet been completed.

The captain then states that his ship is available for hire and accepts a consignment of 91 of Australia's finest horses and sets sail for Calcutta and Madras.



Later on, in November 1868, Gordon stayed with his racing friend, Major Baker at the Victoria Barracks, St Kilda Road, Melbourne. What history do we have there? The soldiers of the barracks were involved in the putting down of the rebellion at the Eureka Stockade in Ballarat. The "British 40th Division of Foot" have their own history and it is interesting that when they finally left the Barracks in August 1870, all 300 of them, 50 men having deserted, were transported back to England on "The Corona" which is recorded of carrying 306 convicts to Western Australia's Swan River colony in 1866 and another voyage to Melbourne in 1869 carrying 448 migrants in steerage.

In Short, the story of the life of Adam Lindsay Gordon is closely intertwined with the history of Australia.

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc. are in the process of compiling an Encyclopedia encompassing everything connected to our poet.

**Ye Wearie Wayfarer
Fytte VI 'Potters' Clay'**



An Allegorical Interlude

'Nec propter vitam vivendi perdere causas'

'Just for the sake of living, don't lose the reasons for living'.

*THOUGH the pitcher that goes to the sparkling rill
Too oft gets broken at last,
There are scores of others its place to fill
When its earth to the earth is cast ;
Keep that pitcher at home, let it never roam,
But lie like a useless clod,
Yet sooner or later the hour will come
When its chips are thrown to the sod.*

*Is it wise, then, say, in the waning day,
When the vessel is crack'd and old,
To cherish the battered potter's clay,
As though it were virgin gold ?
Take care of yourself, dull, boorish elf,
Though prudent and safe you seem,
Your pitcher will break on the musty shelf,
And mine by the dazzling stream.*

(Adam Lindsay Gordon)

Published in 'Sea Spray and Smoke Drift' (1867).



An Announcement. From The Federation University-Australia.

Professor Keir Reeves has been appointed Professor in History and Director of the Collaborative Research Centre in Australian History (CRAH) in the Faculty of Education and Arts at Federation University Australia, Ballarat. Dr Jolanta Nowak has been appointed as Administration/Research Officer. Jolanta brings extensive experience in research management and community engagement.

Aims:

1. Working with partner organisations and researchers to create a strategic, long-term research program in Australian history that has an international, comparative focus and highlights the contemporary relevance of research findings;
2. Fostering collaborative partnerships with Indigenous, arts, cultural, heritage, libraries, museums, businesses and tourism organisations to advance their strategic interests through research and teaching of Australian history.

The CRAH offices will be based at our SMB campus in central Ballarat. (107 Lydiard Street South-Old School of Mines) This location will facilitate community engagement, holding public seminars, and working with our research partners at regional, state and national levels.

[A LINK TO CRAH \(Pronounced circa\).](#)