



ISSUE 34—JUNE 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  
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**SPRING STREET GATHERING**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 20**  
**GORDON RESERVE**  
**11:00 AM**  
**ALL WELCOME**

**We shall be meeting at the Café Excello, 99 Spring Street, Melbourne**  
**At 10:00 am**  
**And crossing to the statue at 11:00 am for a 30 minute Commemoration**  
**With Bubble-blowing and Wattle-laying**

**ADAM LINDSAY GORDON AND H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

**THE GEELONG RACING CARNIVAL AT CONNEWARRE OVER TWO DAYS- THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 4TH AND 5TH MARCH 1869**  
 This race meeting was attended by H.R.H. Prince Albert, The Duke of Edinburgh on an informal visit to Australia. He was the second son and fourth child of Queen Victoria. This was his second visit to Australia. Previously from 31st October 1867 to 26 June 1868 after closely escaping an assassination attempt in Sydney. The Governor of Victoria, Sir John Manners-Sutton also attended. The crowd was estimated at 10,000. At that stage the rail line from Melbourne terminated at Geelong and passage to Connewarre was by horse-drawn coaches and cabs. Racegoers also came by rail and coach from Ballarat, coach from Colac and by ship from Melbourne and Westernport. In all 10,000 people attended. A branch line was later opened from just north of the existing Marshall Station to the old racecourse. The first race meeting to use the line was held on Friday February 1 and Saturday February 2, 1878. On both days a special train left Melbourne at 10:15am, stopping as required in both directions. Trains also ran from Ballarat and Colac to Geelong. On the first day about 1000 passengers travelled on local trains from Geelong to the racecourse. In 1907 it was decided to relocate the Geelong Racecourse and Geelong Showgrounds to their current site on Breakwater Road, East Geelong due to flooding of the course and financial problems due to distance. The first race meet was held there on March 1908, with the first Geelong Racing Club meet being held there on December 12 1908. The Geelong Racecourse railway station was also provided at this time.

**THE HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE, Of 150 sovs. Second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. About three miles.**  
 There were seven horses in the race. Adam Lindsay Gordon was on Mr. G Carmichael's r.g."Union" aged, 10st. 7lb. The favourite.

**A NEWSPAPER DESCRIPTION**

"During the race the favorite (Gordon) was running last, but got over all right, although very awkwardly, and from the first it was evident that he was more than likely not to warrant the unbounded confidence reposed in him when he was made such a hot favourite. At the fourth jump he fell, but Gordon kept his seat. It was found, however, that the bridle had broken in the spill, and "Union" went no further."

Between that meeting and his death on 24th June 1870, 15 month's later, Gordon is recorded as attending at least 25 more race and hunt club meetings.

**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>

**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.](http://www.AustralianScholarlyPublishing.com)

**GORDON IN BALLARAT**

**DOWLING FOREST RACECOURSE**

**COTTAGE BOTANIC GARDENS**

**FEDERATION UNIVERSITY-BALLARAT CAMPUS -OLD SCHOOL OF MINES**

**CRAIG'S HOTEL**

**GOLD MUSEUM**

**EQUESTRIAN STATUE**

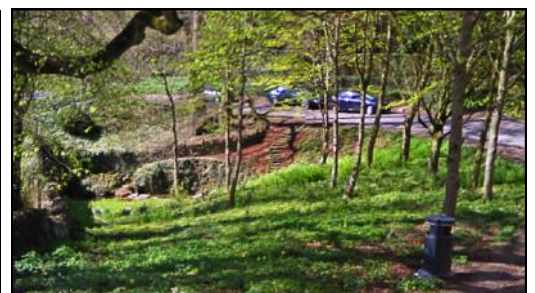


[Visit Historic Dingley Dell Cottage.](#) South Australia's first heritage listed building where Adam Lindsay Gordon spent the happiest years of his short life and where he wrote his brilliant poems about the sea. Situated in a conservation park south of Mount Gambier not far from Cape Northumberland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

[Federation University Australia's Collaborative Research Centre in Australian History.](#) Ballarat, Victoria, has many connections with Adam Lindsay Gordon and we thank the Federation University Australia's Ballarat campus for including us in their community partnership program.

It was in memory of glorious cross-country gallops with the hunt club packs in Cheltenham, England, that Gordon sang in "By Flood and Field".  
 "I remember the lowering wintry morn,  
 And the mist on the Cotswold hills,  
 Where I once heard the blast of the huntsman's horn,  
 Not far from the seven rills."

The Seven Rills (Springs) are one of the two sources of the mighty Thames river. (Google pic)



YE WEARIE WAYFARER PART 3  
THE FALSE THRILL OF ALCOHOL  
COMPARED TO THE NATURAL RUSH OF ADRENALINE

Adam Lindsay Gordon



I REMEMBER some words my father said,  
When I was an urchin vain ;—  
God rest his soul, in his narrow bed  
These ten long years he hath lain.  
When I think one drop of the blood he bore  
This faint heart surely must hold,  
It may be my fancy and nothing more,  
But the faint heart seemeth bold.

He said that as from the blood of grape,  
from juice distilled from the grain,  
False vigour, soon to evaporate,  
Is lent to nerve and brain,  
So the coward will dare on the gallant horse  
What he never would dare alone,  
Because he exults in a borrowed force,  
And a hardihood not his own.

And it may be so, yet this difference lies  
'Twixt the vine and the saddle-tree,  
The spurious courage that drink supplies  
Sets our baser passions free ;  
But the stimulant which the horseman feels,  
When he gallops fast and straight,  
To his better nature most appeals  
And charity conquers hate.

As the kindly sunshine thaws the snow,  
E'en malice and spite will yield,  
We could almost welcome our mortal foe  
In the saddle by flood and field ;  
And chivalry dawns in the merry tale  
That 'Market Harborough' writes,  
And the yarns of 'Nimrod' and 'Martingale'  
Seem legends of loyal knights.

Now, tell me for once, old horse of mine  
Grazing round me loose and free,  
Does your ancient equine heart repine  
For a burst in such companie,  
Where 'the Powers that be' in the front rank ride,  
To hold your own with the throng,  
Or to plunge at 'Faugh-a-Ballagh's' side  
In the rapids of Dandenong ?

Don't tread on my toes, you're no foolish weight,  
So I found to my cost, as under  
Your carcass I lay, when you rose too late,  
Yet I blame you not for the blunder.  
What ! sulky, old man, your under lip falls !  
You think I too ready to rail am  
At your kinship remote to that duffer at walls,  
The talkative roadster of Balaam.



VISIT OUR POET'S TRAIL

<http://algordon.travellerspoint.com/>

THE HENRY LAWSON SOCIETY CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THEIR  
MONTHLY MEETINGS. Centrally located in the Monastery Hall, rear  
St Francis Church 326 Lonsdale Street Melbourne.  
Held on the third Saturday (except January).  
1.30pm to 4.00pm