



NEWSLETTER – May 2017

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Museum and Gallery address: 3328 Huon Hwy, FRANKLIN Tas 7113
OPENING HOURS: 10:00am – 5:00pm
P.O. BOX 243, FRANKLIN 7113 Tas

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 17th May 2017 - 7:00 pm, FHG Room at the Evaporators

FHG LIBRARY OPEN 10.00 - 12.00 NOON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Harry Rettino will be in attendance in our library/office from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon each Tuesday and Thursday. He is particularly interested in people dropping in with material about their families' ancestry. Business has been quiet, but some visitors have called in with information.

The library is expanding, and Harry and Judy Krynen have continued the good work started by Jane Walduck and Judy, preparing sleeves in our references to allow them to be loaned out.

Any articles of historic interest for our future newsletters would be most welcome.

VISIT FROM THE HUON VALLY COUNCIL ARTS AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Adriana Taylor and the HVC Arts Advisory committee visited our proposed site on Friday 21st April. All were excited about the possibilities, and one or two interesting ideas came from the meeting.

Martin and Judy Krynen and Alan hosted the visitors before being shouted lunch at Frank's.

VOLUNTEER'S HIGH TEA AT HOME HILL

On Wednesday 10th May Harry and Alan represented Franklin History Group at an enjoyable afternoon tea to celebrate and thank all volunteers in the valley.

VOLUNTEERS EXPO AT HUONVILLE PYC

This expo took place between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm on Saturday 13th May. The Franklin township had a booth which involved all volunteer groups from the town. Representatives were able to assist with information about several groups as many Franklin people are members of a number of community organisations. Business was slow, but it was a great opportunity to network with other groups.

FRANKLIN'S HYDRO POWER STATION

Franklin was one of the earliest towns in the Huon to have electricity connected. A hydro power plant was completed by the end of 1915 using the water of Price's Creek near where Old Road joins New Road. This plant was operated by the Huon Council until 1929, when it was handed over to the Hydro Electric Commission. It is unsure how long the system operated after handing over to the state grid.

Remnants of the plant still exist. FHG has a small section of the water pipeline which was used for the scheme. It was revealed when an excavator dug it up at some stage and rescued by Ruth Young. It is pictured below.



(Photo: A. Cato)

The pipe is made of wood, cleverly crafted longitudinally, and strengthened by a heavy wire spiralling around it. In the photo, the wire is much looser than it was originally because of the break when it was dug up. There was also a bituminous material covering the wooden structure to prevent leaks.

Huon resident, Rob Linnell tells that his father recalls that the plant had a Pelton wheel generator, much in use at the time for small communities. There is a typical one at the hydro museum. The water wheel had a large number of double cups arranged around its perimeter. The water was aimed at the joint between the cups so that as much of its energy as possible was imparted to turn the wheel. As the water deflected it pushed the wheel around. The waste water having lost its kinetic energy, dropped to the bottom of the wheel casing and was directed into the creek. The Pelton wheel turned a shaft that went into another housing where magnets were rotated within

a fixed coil of wire that induced the electric current. Simple but effective.

The other remnant of the plant is now located at Huonville. The Mitre -10 complex stands where the old Hydro Electric Commission Sub Station once existed and it is therefore no coincidence that the shed behind the main shop building is likely to be the shed which housed the Price's Creek power station.

Anyone prepared to scramble down a steep bank can visit the dam and weir which are clearly visible.



The shed believed to be from the Price's Creek power plant
(Photo: A. Cato)



The dam .
(Photo: A. Cato)

Sources: *The Palais Theatre – A social History of Franklin's Town Hall 1912 – 2012* Ruth Young. Also notes taken by Ruth Young from a conversation with Rob Linnell. Plus site visits.



The weir at the base of the dam, complete with old water outlet.
(Photo: A. Cato)



A dis-used section of pipe amidst blackberries – appears to be the same size as the one in the first photo.
(Photo: A. Cato)

AN INTERESTING SHOT OF THE EVAPORATORS BUILDING

Last month's newsletter showed an early photograph of workers at the evaporators. This month we see a more recent shot from the air of the complex which will soon become 'home' for the FHG. The photograph is one of a series of pictures from Ruth and John Young's collection depicting the Franklin foreshore in more recent times.



Aerial photo of the whole northern end of the waterfront in 1995. Note the relative absence of boats in the River.

(Photo courtesy of Bill Wright)

The evaporator complex was obviously in operation judging by the timber for the furnaces stored in the grounds, and the stacks of apple bins to the north of the building.