

Goldfields Diggings

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society 2022-08

October 2022

October Dates to Remember:

27th Sep - 7th October - School Holiday Program

5th October - Volunteers Morning Tea

9th October - Spring Festival

19th October - General Meeting

James Murray Aitken

Thanks to the members and guests that came along and listened to the story of James Murray Aitken, a Kalgoorlie boy who fought and died in World War 1. Mark Wilmott read extracts from the letters that Murray sent his mother Bessie which told a very powerful story of the emotional impact of the war on men, women and families.



The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society is looking for volunteers.

Can you spare an hour or two once a week?

Do you have a passion for local history?

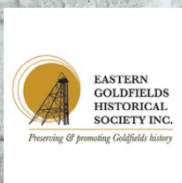
We can help!

Phone, email or call in.

08 9093 3360

eghs@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Old Boulder Power Station. Hamilton St. Boulder.



**EASTERN
GOLDFIELDS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.**

Preserving & promoting Goldfields history

Can You Help?

Do you purchase the newspaper every day and then put it in the recycling bin? The Society collects articles from the Kalgoorlie Miner for future reference. If you would be willing to donate your read newspapers to us, we can put them to good use. You can drop them off or we will collect fortnightly. Please, let us know.

Spring Festival
Sunday, 9th October
8am - 3pm.

All hands on deck!



Contact Details

Phone: 08 9093 3360

Email:

eghs@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Website:

www.kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Donations

BSB: 066514

Account: 00900580

Can You Help

Railway Hotel Boulder

Over the past few weeks we have had a lot of interest in what was the Railway Hotel Boulder. Once located at 14 Burt St.

Do you have any images in your collection .

We have the image below taken by John Rees in the 70's shortly before it was demolished.



It was also known as the Boulder Coffee Palace.

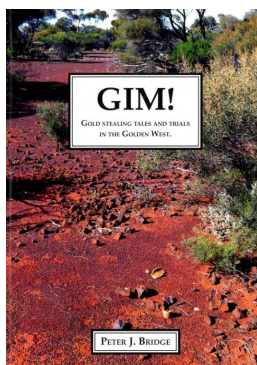


Ora Banda

We are still looking for images of the Ora Banda Hotel, inside and out, to help build a pictorial history of the hotel. Please forward your images to:

eghs@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Book Shop News



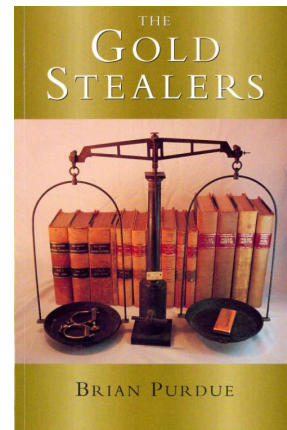
\$35.00 - Gim! Gold stealing tales and trials of in the Golden West, Gold stealing was a way of life on the WA goldfields. It still continues in the boardrooms of the corporations in which are ensconced only the 'best' people. In our Darwinian economy only the most brazen and successful thieves survive to rob again. Many Westralian fortunes were and are built on these rorts. But it is usually the small miner who got caught. These latter stories have become part of the folklore of the goldfields.

\$35.00 Gold Stealers. The murders of Police Officers Pitman and Walsh by the gold stealers , Coulter and Treffene, in 1926

Did you know the Bookshop has a large selection of secondhand books?

All are available at very reasonable prices.

Drop in for a browse soon!



Book Review - Around the Blue Laminex Table - Ken Boyne

In writing *Around the Blue Laminex Table* Wayne Lamotte joins other illustrious members of the Eastern Goldfields High School (EGHS) alumni, Mike Duggan (*Koolyanobbing: place of large rocks and big hearts*) and Robert Baugh (*Wealth for the Winning: Story of Kanowna*), who have put heart, soul and expertise into producing yarns about earlier days, times, people and experiences about Kalgoorlie and its surrounds.

And a ripping yarn it is indeed. The title alone evoked for me strong memories of our family's move from Lakewood to Kalgoorlie in the early 1960s and our own Laminex table. We had made it! City living and the most modern of furnishings.

Wayne takes us through his early days in Mullingar with vivid descriptions of his neighbours, their houses and the kids he knocked about with, particularly the mobs who lived in Hobart and Elizabeth Streets. He later expands his story to accommodate his expanding world of school, sport, extended family and places visited on his Dad's mail run. The story wraps up when Wayne turns 18 and heads off to the big smoke. Wayne describes those years as his 'golden years' and respectfully acknowledges their strongly positive impact on his development and capacity to deal with the adult world.

Wayne has a keen eye for character and paints strong images of the people he met along his journey and reflects on those characters and their influence on shaping his own approach to life and people.

It is a bloke's yarn. While Wayne pays homage to the many women who worked to raise him it is the character of the blokes around him that seem to have had the greatest effect on his upbringing. I was particularly taken by his respectful acknowledgement of the war service of many of the men he grew up around. My own father was a veteran of the Middle East and Papua campaigns and I often wonder to what extent the horrors and deprivations of their war experiences shaped the development of our generation. Perhaps that reflects the social norms of the day where men were the dominant influences on our lives? I would love to read a similar memoir written from a feminine perspective by one of our EGHS alumni.

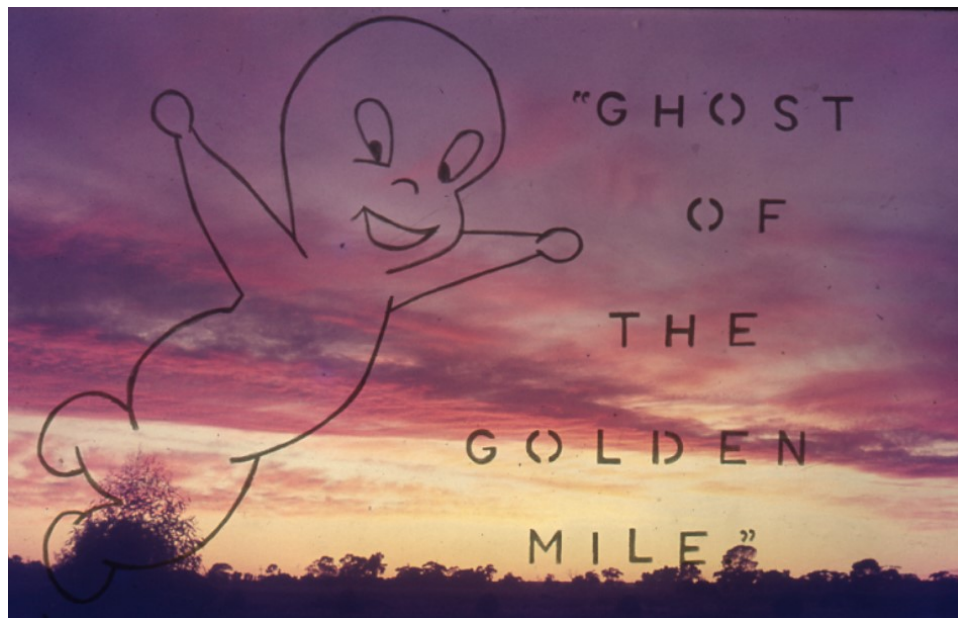
This is a thoughtful memoir, written without chagrin, borne out of a love, affection and respect for the people and experiences that Goldfields provided.

Do yourself a favour and buy a copy for yourself and another to gift on. But get in early, the yarn is likely to be as popular as a Kitchen Sink burger from the Hot Spot on a cold winter's night.

Haunted Happenings - Believe it or not!

The Goldfields Mining Journal August 1992 reported that the ghost of George Edward Jordan was haunting the Hannans Hotel. Manager at the time Ian Miller, said the ghost was partial to playing with the office radio, moving keys, freezing cold feelings and the ghost was also blamed for a fire in one of the rooms.

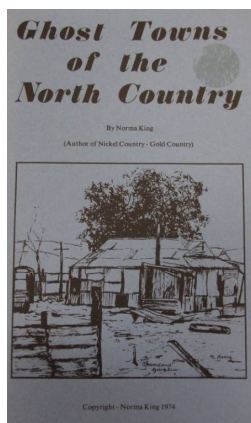
George Edward Jordan was killed in 1934, sparking the race riots. The Hannans hotel was formally called the Home from Home Hotel.



Coolgardie Ghost Yarn

For some nights past at Montana some person has been masquerading as a visitor from "spirit land". The scene of operations has been mainly the Burbanks Road. The "apparition", as described by those who have seen it, appears to be a human figure draped in a white cloth, under which a light appears to be burning. Some of those who have come across it state that as soon as they saw it a strong light was flashed in their faces, and it then immediately extinguished and the "ghost" disappears. Probably a white sheet and a bicycle lamp has a lot to do with the make up of the joke. It is said a vigilance committee has been formed and "Mr Ghost" can reckon on being summarily dealt with if caught. It is hard to conceive the brainless conduct that some people can be capable of.

This article appeared in the Kalgoorlie Miner. 14 October 1912. Page 4



In the book shop. Ghost towns of the North Country \$5.00 and The Ghosts of Bayley Street \$22.00



DGR Status

Did you know that the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society is recognised as a DGR or Deductible Gift Recipient?

A DGR is an organisation that can receive donations that are tax deductible.

What does this mean?

If you make a donation to the EGHS you may be able to deduct that gift from your own income - claim the donation as a deduction when filing your personal income tax return for the year.

For more information please speak to your accountant.

CREMORNE GARDENS TO-NIGHT. "THE HAUNTED HOUSE."

Those who like their mystery seasoned with laughter will enjoy every foot of "The Haunted House," featuring Chester Conklin, Thelma Todd, Flora Finch, and a fine supporting cast. Showing on the same programme, Rex, King of Wild Horses in "Wild Born." Added attractions, latest gazettes. Coming soon, Colleen Moore in her latest success, "Happiness Ahead."

Do you need help digitising old photographs from your own collections?

Call in and speak to the volunteers. We would be happy to help.



EASTERN
GOLDFIELDS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.

Preserving & promoting Goldfields history

Can you help?

We are looking for images of headframes from WMC Mines (any and all) but specifically any images of winders or headframes from the **Oritava** from 1939. The mine was previously called the **Adeline**.

Can anyone spare some time to help bring this dry blower back from the brink of extension.



Kanowna

In the collection of photographs that John Rees was recently digitizing he came across this image of the "first" to Kanowna, photographed by AS Doolette & Co, Kanowna WA.

This photograph was presented to the Society by Mrs Pennifather in 1969.



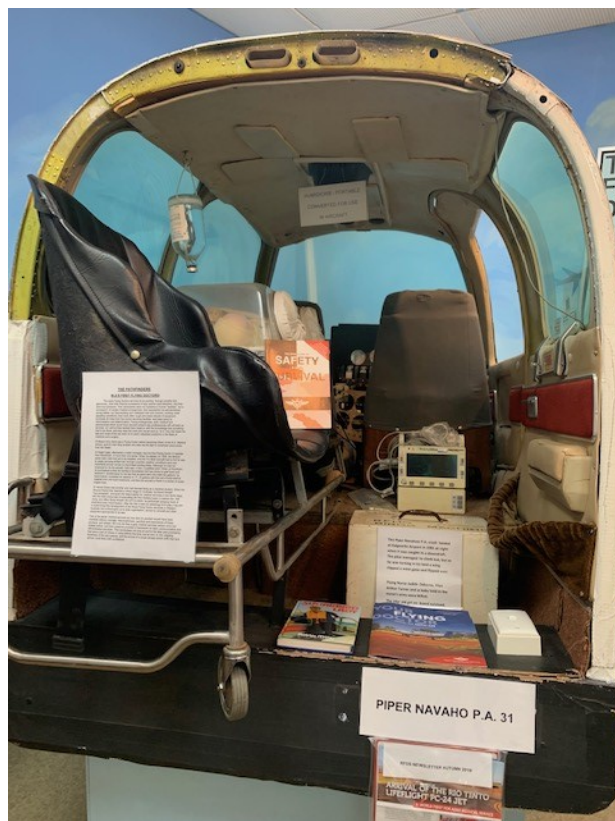
WA Medical Museum

Recently we had a request from the WA Medical Museum for some information on the first hospital in Coolgardie - the tent hospital. The information will be used for a display being put together by the museum.

The WA Medical Museum is a small organisation that is located in the Harvey House on Barker Rd, Subiaco. This building is depicted on the \$50 next to Edith Cowan's head and they would love for you to visit next time you are in Perth.

Part of the collections housed at the museum includes some pieces of the Royal Flying Doctor Piper Navahoe that crash into the Chaffers headframe killing four people, including an infant.

Photos supplied by the WA Medical Museum.



Focus on Tech

Recently some visitors came into the Society and were talking about apps they use for scanning. Looking for a great portable scanning app that's free. Try the Adobe Scan App.

The Adobe Scan scanner app turns your device into a powerful portable scanner that recognizes text automatically (OCR) and allows you to save to multiple file formats including PDF and JPEG.



You'll need to sign in. This can be done using your Adobe account log in if you already have one or with Facebook, Google or Apple. Once you have signed in it's ready to use. You can scan and edit on the go, saving automatically to the cloud. A great tool for all historians on the go.



If you prefer Apple - then Apple Notes - it can be used as a powerful mobile scanning app and it automatically saves all your scans to the iCloud. Allowing access on all your devices.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help in the research department at the EGHS. The position of researcher is very rewarding. Ideally if you have a strong connection to Kalgoorlie-Boulder or any surrounding Goldfields towns you would be ideal. All other training will be provided.

If you don't think research is for you come and have a chat, we have plenty of other volunteering opportunities.

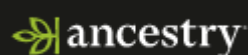
The EGHS is an excellent place to volunteer. If you are interested in learning new skills, meeting new people and learning something new every day, this is the place for you!



Mentally Healthy WA

Members' Corner

Did you know that the EGHS has a subscription to Ancestry.com? Members are welcome to come down to the Society and search for information on Ancestry. Non-members are also welcome, for a small fee.



YouTube - Oral History Recordings

The EGHS is now on YouTube. Via video link only at this stage, members can listen to a selection of Oral History Recordings.

Do you have time to come down to the Society and help upload some of our oral histories?

BREAD TAGS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Aussie Bread Tags for Wheel Chairs

The EGHS is now one of the two collection points in the Goldfields. Don't forget to drop them off!



The EGHS has set up an account with containers for change. If you would like to donate to a worthy cause please consider us.

Scheme ID: C10397895



Schools in the Goldfields

Schools in the Goldfields have been a big focus of some of the research requests in the last few weeks.

Have you ever thought about just how many there were? Would you be interested in writing a list?

If this is something that interests you get in touch.

We still have lots of books that we would like someone to read and write indexes for. If you are interested, please get in contact with us.

The plant display is looking a bit empty...

If you have any plants you would like to donate to the Society, that would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off.

We are also on the look out for a small garden shed. If you have one that you might like to donate to the Society, please let us know.

We are always interested in images and stories from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and up until now, that pertain to the Eastern Goldfields.

If you have them and you would like to share them, come and see the volunteers at the Society.

Piano

In the EGHS collection we have a number of pianos - we are seeking information on the piano below. Can anyone tell us where this particular piano came from, do you know the history and provenance of it. If you do please let us know.

Brief History - the piano is a Campagnie Concordia manufactured in Berlin between 1869 and 1928.



If you look at the exhibition medals shown either side of the name - the roman numerals indicate the piano was made after these events - one of which was probably 1883.

Images below might help you identify the Piano.

