



HISTORY ROOM

NEWS



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by Dawn Juers & Helen Halm

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BOOK SWAPS

This was a good idea that we saw in the town of Cummins on Eyre Peninsula. Bruce Scotland always a keen reader swapped a book from the cupboard which was protected from the weather under the verandah of the local hotel.

We thought it a great idea for travellers to pick up a book on their journey. Perhaps other towns will do the same and create a reader's trail. Let me know if you have come across others.

Goolwa's little Cittaslow building now has its own little book swap. They tell me sometimes you can swap a jigsaw puzzle too. Cittaslow also have free plants, fruit etc. on the little trolley outside.

For those who can remember the Cittaslow building was once the Goolwa Lending Library.

The HISTORY ROOM NEWS will possibly come to you bi-monthly from now as I will be away for five months, and our volunteers are already strained.

If anyone has an interest in local or family history and would like to be a volunteer in the History Room, please phone the Library on 8555 7000 and ask to speak to Trish or Joel.

SIGNAL POINT OPENED BY PRINCE CHARLES (Written 30 years ago by Helen Halm)



Signal Point awaiting Royal Couple

The day dawned, hot and windy – one of those few days when Goolwa could be really unpleasant. Was it really necessary to give our Royal Couple such a warm welcome?

Nevertheless our neighbour Al donned blazer, tie and RSL badge, proud to be one of the Guard of Honour for Prince Charles and Princess Diana when they boarded the “Mundoo” for a short luncheon cruise.

In front of that curious new construction, Signal Point, there were bunting, barricades, a temporary stage, milling crowds and a group of partially disabled citizens already sitting in the hot, dusty enclosure.

Excitement and discomfort grew. There were two buses of media crews. It was rumoured there were frogmen on the river. Helicopters buzzed about. When would the Cockle Train steam in?

At last, somewhat overdue, THEY arrived. Prince Charles, elegant as always. Princess Di looking hot in red. Later we learnt the air-conditioning in their vehicle had given up mid-way between Government House and Victor Harbor. Then they had travelled by train to Goolwa. What joy to be a VIP when it's over the old century with a north wind as well!

After the formal opening ceremony where Prince Charles played a little politics in support of the Steam Railway, neighbour Al's big moment came. THEY walked past the Guard of Honour to the waiting “Mundoo”, Princess Di making his day with her comments.

She soon appeared on deck, standing like the mast-head seeking a breath of cooling air.

Then on to the West Park complex where there were more official ceremonies. And our other former neighbour, Mrs. Nora Hopgood was thrilled by the Princess's natural charm.

We watched the TV news coverage – from Channel 9 to 7 to 10 and 2. There was Goolwa on the evening news, taking national, if not international, stage for the day. Usually one had to spell it, expect to receive mail addressed to Gawler 5214, or respond to the query – “where's that?”

Yes on January 29, 1988, Goolwa, at least temporarily, was on the map.



Guard of Honour at Wharf

HAPPY RESEARCHING

DAWN

Help is available in the History room when a volunteer is on duty. If you are travelling some distance it may be advisable to phone the Library on 8555-7000 to ascertain whether a volunteer is available.

For comments, suggestions or to receive this newsletter via email history.goolwa11@gmail.com

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