

# The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

## Onen hag oll

## December 2020 Newsletter

Chairperson	Admin.Secretary	Treasurer	Newsletter Editor
Keith Lanyon 34 Glazebrook St Ballarat 3350 03 4343 2390 <a href="mailto:kmlanyon@hotmail.com">kmlanyon@hotmail.com</a>	Lorice Jenkin 29 Queen St South Ballarat 3350 03 5332 2920 <a href="mailto:lajenkin@bigpond.com">lajenkin@bigpond.com</a>	Ian Jennings 52 Arrandale Ave Alfredton 3350 03 5334 1558 <a href="mailto:ianjen9329@bigpond.com">ianjen9329@bigpond.com</a>	Robyn Coates 28 Town Hall Ave Preston Vic 3072 03 9478 6135 <a href="mailto:robyncoates@hotmail.com">robyncoates@hotmail.com</a>



### Saturday 5th December at 12 noon -

We are planning a luncheon at Barklys Restaurant, corner of Barkly Street and Main Road.

(Subject to restrictions being eased)

At the moment the cost is unknown but will probably be around the same as previous years. If you are coming please RSVP asap to Keith Lanyon [kmlanyon@hotmail.com](mailto:kmlanyon@hotmail.com) or phone 0411 512 160

It will be wonderful to see as many as possible.

**Thursday 14th January 2021** - Committee Meeting at 2.00 pm - venue to be determined

**Saturday 6th February 2021** - the meeting venue to be determined - Robyn Coates will speak on 'Thomas Curnow - The Glenrowan Hero'

**Saturday 10th April 2021** - John Mildren will speak on Cornish Pirates. Note - this is a week later than normal due to Easter

### A FEW FESTIVE WORDS IN CORNISH

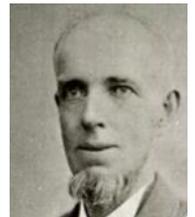
**Nadelik Lowen!** Merry Christmas!  
**Bledhen Nowyth Da!** Happy New Year!  
**Gorhemynadow a'n Seson** Season's Greetings  
**Gwedhen Nadelik** Christmas tree  
**Royow Nadelik** Christmas presents  
**Tas Nadelik** Father Christmas  
**Rudolf an Karow Ergh Tron-Rudh** Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer  
**Kelyn** Holly  
**Ydhyow** Ivy  
**Uhelvar** Mistletoe  
**Ei** Angel  
**Chons da!** Good luck!

### OCTOBER MEETING

At the October Meeting, held via Zoom, two of our members, Wendy Benoit and Di Christensen, gave very interesting talks about Ballarat identities – both with connections to their families and both who had served as Mayor in local government in Sebastopol and Ballarat East.

William Hicks in Sebastopol and Isaiah Pearce in Ballarat East.

**William Hicks** was born in 1831 in Penstraze, Cornwall, the son of Thomas Hicks and Ann Roberts – he was the second child of six – Jane, William, Thomas, John, Mary Ann and James.



By the age of ten he was working as a dresser in a copper mine and by the age of 20 he was a copper miner.

He travelled to South Australia aboard the sailing ship *Sultana* with his wife Jane Wallace/Wallis whom he had married, after Banns at St Cleer in April 1851. She was the daughter of John Wallis and Mary Stephens.

After a time in Burra and the birth of two children in South Australia, they travelled to Victoria where another eleven children were born.

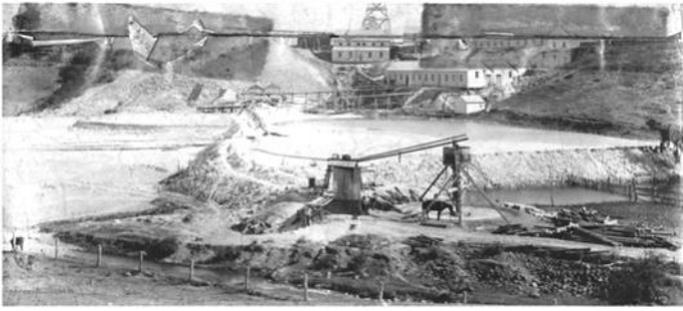
After brief stays working as a miner at Forest Creek and Bendigo they lived in Ballarat and Linton before settling back in Sebastopol.

William held positions with various Mines, before acting as Mine Manager with the Guiding Star mine and then the Star of the East Mine, which produced more than 250 000 ounces of gold.

Normally meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat.

Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.





Star of the East Mine  
 Photo from Ballarat Golden City - A Pictorial History - John Reid and John Chisholm. Photograph by Max Harris

William Hicks served for ten years as a Councillor on the Sebastopol Council and was Mayor during 1885-1886.

William Hicks was very community minded and he was a member of the Old Colonist Association, Ballarat Hospital Board, the Benevolent and Orphan Asylum and the Masonic Lodge. He attended the Rubicon Street Wesleyan Church and was Sunday School Superintendent for many years.

He died in December 1898 and is buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery. A memorial service was held at the Rubicon Street Wesleyan Church to celebrate his life the Sunday after his burial.

His wife Jane died in 1922.

William was Wendy's maternal great, great grandfather.

**Isaiah Pearce** was the son of John Pearce and Eleanor Pool, of Crowan, Cornwall.

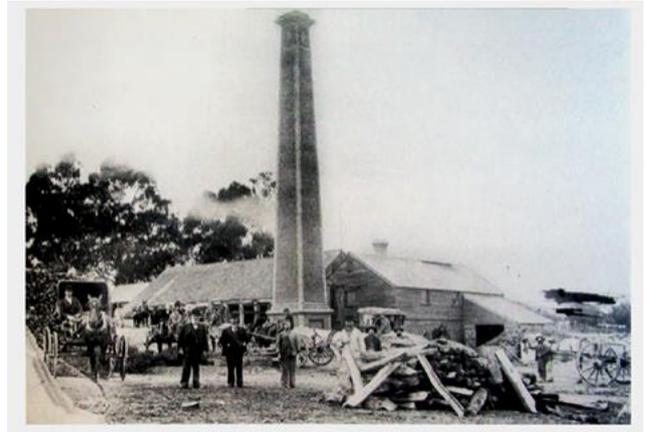
He was the youngest of six surviving children – John, James, Emmanuel, Solomon, Ellen Pool and Isaiah.

All six children emigrated to Australia and apart from one, Emmanuel, (who was drowned whilst returning to Cornwall) they lived and worked in Victoria.

Isaiah in partnership with his brother James, and a brother in law, William Thomas, ran Pearce's Battery in Golden Point in 1861. It was one of the earliest batteries in Ballarat and was set up to crush quartz



into finely ground ore from which gold was extracted.



Pearces Battery  
 Photo from Ballarat Golden City - A Pictorial History - John Reid and John Chisholm. Photograph by Max Harris

They worked on contract but also crushed quartz from the North Woah Hawp Canton mine which they partly owned.

When the Band and Albion Mine discovered gold at Redan, the quartz was transported from there to Canadian to be crushed at Pearce's Battery. It was still in operation in the 1920s.

Isaiah was a member of the Council of the Borough of Ballarat East for many years and was Mayor four times; he was very involved in Council business always speaking up for the residents of the municipality.



He was a member of many community organizations in the city - Ballarat Water Commission, Ballarat Benevolent Asylum, The Ballarat Orphanage, Ballarat East Library and President or Chairman of most of them. Ballarat Cricket Club and President of the Mt Pleasant Mechanics Institute. He was also a member of St John's Masonic Lodge. He was appointed a JP in 1892.

Isaiah built a home on the corner of Barkly and Cameron Streets in Ballarat East, named *Clowance* after an estate near where he was born in Cornwall.

His wife, Anna, died in 1895, leaving him with children aged from six to seventeen.

In 1896, he married Emma Potter, daughter of Richard Potter and Sarah Ann Newland of Adelaide.

On 27th June 1919, he celebrated his 75th birthday – a few days afterwards, he became very unwell and he died on 7th July 1919. Was it Spanish flu?

He is buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery.

There is a memorial window and plaque in the Ballarat Uniting Church, Lydiard street, Ballarat. In Mount Pleasant, there is a park named for Isaiah Pearce.

Di had a connection to Isaiah Pearce through her Gribble and Eddy Families.

Church Window - Photo from Sabine Handreck



Clowance' - the Pearce Home in Mt Pleasant



Pearces Park, with rotunda, in Mt Pleasant.

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### “CONTROVERSIAL” CHURCH WINDOW

This was the headline in the Courier article on 10th December 1962.

In December, 1962 the Anglican Bishop of Ballarat, Rt. Rev. W.A. Hardie, dedicated a new stained glass window at St Paul’s Anglican Church, Bakery Hill.



This window was unlike any other in the church - a very modern design and not many people liked it. Various comments were made after the unveiling.

It depicts Christ asking “Who say ye that I am?” and Peter replying “Thou art the Christ”. The window was designed and made by D.Taylor Kellock and his wife G.A. Kellock.

It was given in memory of James and Mary Jane Eddy by Susan de Malmanche and John Lovell Eddy, the remaining two living children of James Hicks Eddy (St Just in Penwith, CON) and Mary Jane Lovell (Falmouth, CON). They were my great grandparents.

In March 1864, they had married at St Paul’s, just one month before the church fell down into mining shafts.

Fortunately, the beautiful East window had been saved with each piece of glass being removed carefully by hand before the building finally fell. The tower remained in place and the new church was built on the western side of the tower - the church now faces Humffray Street.

James Eddy was very involved in the community of Ballarat and was a Councillor of Ballarat East for some years. He was also a member of the Ballarat Mining Board and President on one occasion.

The Eddy family was very connected to St Paul’s Church and most of their family baptisms, marriages and funerals were held there.

After some years in Ballarat, James and Mary Jane moved to Dalmorton near Glen Innes, in New South Wales where several children were born. The family returned to Ballarat with their seven children and later James moved to Silverton where he was mining captain for several years before dying there in 1890. He was buried in the Silverton cemetery, a very desolate place.

Mary Jane remained in Ballarat where several of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren lived. She attended services at St Paul’s for many years before her death in 1938.

Di Christensen

## MINING MUD AND MEDALS

This book was published in late 2018 by Victorian Interpretive Projects Inc, situated in Ballarat, edited by Yvon Davis.

Yvon is to talk to us at a Ballarat meeting sometime during 2021.

It is the story of the Tunnellers in the Great War. Over 170 men left Ballarat for the war, not to fight above ground but underneath.

It includes chapters on:

The World at their feet:  
Schools of Mines and the  
Tunnelling Corps  
Australians tunnelling at  
Gallipoli  
The Recruitment of  
Tunnellers  
The Formation of  
Australian Tunnelling  
Corps in the Great war  
Why Did the War come to  
France and Flanders?  
The return of the  
Tunnellers



These chapters were contributed by Damien Finlayson, Clare Gervasoni, Simon Jacks, Dr Janice Newton and Dr Michael Taffe

Selected Biographies of World War One Tunnellers from the electorate of Ballarat These individuals were researched by a small band of volunteers.

Yvon Davis contributed many research notes and also many photographs

In the recent Victorian Community History Awards this book received a commendation in the Local History Project Award.

The full list of winners and commendations can be found in *Despatch*, November 2020, Public Record Office Victoria.

I commend this book to those with an interest in Ballarat and World War One.

Di Christensen

Photos taken at Hill 60 about six kilometres south east of Leper (Ypres) commemorating 1st Australian Tunnellers Company (Robyn Coates)

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## LOVEDAY YELLAND AND GEORGE TRUSCOTT

Photo thanks to Jo Fryer, Ballarat.



Loveday was born in 1837 to James Yelland and Anne Bunt at Sticker. (Sticker is located three miles SW of St Austell)

She was one of five children.  
Elizabeth b 1832-1925  
Loveday b 1835-1909  
William Henry b 1836-1899  
James b 1838  
Lydia b 1840-1867

Loveday arrived in South Australia in 1848 with her two sisters, Elizabeth and Lydia. She would have been 14. Travelling with them were a Mr and Mrs William Hicks. They were onboard the ship *David Malcolm*.

By that time their father was deceased.

In 1850, at Kooringa, South Australia she married George Truscott.

Loveday was only 15 and George was 20. He had arrived in South Australia in 1849 aboard the ship *Pakenham*.

George Truscott was born in 1822 at St Stephen in Brannel. (Located four miles west of St Austell)

George was the son of Alexander Truscott and Catherine Bunney.

His siblings were  
John 1820-1887  
Alexander 1824 -1909  
Walter 1827-  
Florence 1831-1875  
James 1833-1912  
Kitty 1836 -1921  
Mary Jane 1839 - 1901

By 1855 they were in Ballarat..

George was a publican in Magpie on the 1856 Electoral Roll.

Their first child George was born in Ballarat in 1855-1881.

George was followed by

Louisa 1857- 1925

Rebecca 1860-1862

Julia 1862-1899

William Henry 1866-1892

Elizabeth Ann 1868-1935

Kate 1872

Later they lived in Wills Street and ran a hotel/boarding house.

In 1871, The Ballarat Star, Wednesday 8 March 1871, George was mentioned in:

*A DISTURBANCE AT CANTERBURY HALL.*

*George Truscott was brought before the court for causing a disturbance at the Canterbury Hall, late Great Britain Hotel, on the previous night, and was fined 20s, with the usual alternative.*

And again in 1875

Sat 3rd Apr 1875 Geelong Advertiser p3

*A BALLARAT DEN.*

*On Thursday we alluded to a mysterious establishment that had been opened by George Truscott. Thanks to praiseworthy efforts of the police the mystery has been revealed. On Wednesday evening Senior Constable Nolan and Constable Mansfield made a rush into the place before anyone was aware of the visit. There were some eighteen or twenty females dancing at the time, and the cry of "POLICE" being given and taken up by the nudes present, there was a general run to the side rooms of which are as numerous as rabbit holes. Senior Constable Nolan noticed a girl disappear through one of the doors and he at once made for it. Truscott tried to prevent him, saying it was his "ladies dressing room." The senior constable was not to be outwitted and half opening the door called to the "ladies" to come out. Soon there appeared eight young ladies whose ages appeared to be from thirteen to sixteen years. The constables were proceeding to take their names and addresses when they were prompted by persons, whom the police described as "bullies" to give fictitious names and addresses. Senior Constable Nolan, seeing he was not likely to get any satisfaction in that manner, took two girls himself and handed two to Constable Mansfield, intimating they would be taken to their homes. The others\_ as well as the remainder of the girls \_ then escaped by the door. The officers who took these four girls home describe it as one of the most heart rendering tasks they ever had to perform. All of them were very respectably connected. One was a shop girl in a large establishment, another*

*was at service and another residing at home with her parents. In the case of the latter the constable who had her in charge discovered on going to her house that the father was at work and the mother in bed with heart disease. And he could not out of pity break the tidings of the girls' conduct. While conducting the four home the police obtained the names of the other girls who frequented the dance room and the police at once went round to the parents and got them out of bed to go after midnight and search for their daughters, who were supposed to be safe in respectable situations. In nearly every instance the police say, the parents would rather have witnessed, their children's corpses being carried in than heard the story the police had to give. Truscott appeared at the Town Police Court yesterday to answer a charge of keeping a disorderly house: but the case was postponed until the 5th instant. Now that the police see how great a hot bed this place is, another summons will be issued against him.*

A similar report can be found in The Herald Sat 3rd Apr 1875 p4.

From 1885 on Loveday featured in court reports for the use of insulting words and obscene language.

In 1887, Loveday was sent to jail for eight months for being "An occupier of a house frequented by reputed thieves."

Both featured in a myriad of Newspaper Reports as well as Police Gazettes,

The Police Gazettes also at times gave descriptions such as in July 1891, George was 5 ft 8 1/2 inches, sallow complexion and had brown eyes.

Another stated he walks lame.

Loveday was 5ft 4 1/2 inches. Sallow complexion and had blue eyes.

In other newspaper reports George was mentioned in letters to the paper.

One by James R Thomson stated George had written about the driving of shafts in Ballarat East in 1855.

This was near Steinfield's building on the Nightingale Lead.

Ballarat Star 21 August 1869 - sadly I could not find the letter of course.

What may have been the catalyst for all this? Doubt if we will ever know!

Loveday outlived her husband and all her children except for daughter Louisa, who died in 1925.

George died in Ballarat in 1903 and Loveday also died in Ballarat in 1909.

George and Loveday are buried in the same grave - Ballarat New Cemetery C of E Section 07 grave 11

Wendy Benoit

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## **ROBERT MALACHY SERJEANT JNR**

Written by Amanda Bentley - *Ballarat & District in the Great War* - used with permission

When researching some families, it is like following the veritable seams of gold on which Ballarat was built.

Those are the families who forged industry, developed education, fostered the arts, served in the military, and virtually stitched the fabric of which our history was made.

Certainly, the Serjeant family provided that drive for community development that makes for fascinating reading.

Cornishman, Robert Malachy Serjeant, arrived in Australia in 1848 – for those with a particular interest in our Cornish immigrants, he was born in Callington, close to the border with Devon. Being the son of a surgeon in the Royal Marines, he had a background that bore testament to both higher education and military interest.

His arrival on the Victorian goldfields was early and profitable. So successful was his prospecting, Serjeant was able to set up one of the early deep lead mining operations in Ballarat. He went on to manage the Band and Albion Console Mine, sit on the inaugural council of the Ballarat School of Mines, became a Life Member of the Ballarat Hospital, and represent the city as a politician in the Legislative Assembly. It was later said that he was so much a part of Ballarat, 'he may almost be said to have grown up with it.'

His wife, Elizabeth Peters, was also a native of Cornwall, coming from the pretty coastal village of St Agnes. Their youngest son, Theophilus Hengist, was born in Ballarat in 1871.

A handsome, adventurous young man, Theo would also build a deep connection with mining and a significant military career.

When Theo married Ballarat-born Alice Mary Nicholas, a dainty little slip of a girl, it was with the knowledge that she had a congenital heart condition.

It is likely that this was a significant factor in the couple only having two children.

Their first child was named for his paternal grandfather, Robert Malachy Serjeant, and was born in March 1895 at Ballarat West.

His sister, Alice Mary, was born four years later in 1899.

During this period the family lived in the substantial Victorian villa known as *Yarrowee Hall* in Darling Street, Redan.

Shortly after Alice's birth, Theo Serjeant enlisted in the Australian Forces fighting in South Africa. He served with the 2nd Victorian Mounted Rifles and was involved in fighting at Houtnek, Vet River, Zand River, Johannesburg, Pretoria, and the battles of Diamond Hill and Berg-en-dal.

During his time away fighting, his son had begun his education at the Redan State School, where his friends had taken to calling him Bobbie.

Upon returning to Ballarat in December 1900, Theo held the rank of captain and wore the Queen's Medal with five clasps.

But he also arrived home with a burning ambition to return to South Africa.

The end of Boer War resulted in the opening up of numerous opportunities in the colony.

During a visit to South Africa, Theo Serjeant was offered the position as Commissioner of one the largest mining districts on the Rand. He returned to Ballarat to collect his family intending to take up permanent residency in South Africa.

In December 1901, shortly before embarking, a large group of mining managers from Ballarat and district, representing the Federal Amalgamated Mining Managers' Association of Australasia, met at the Old Colonists' Hall to honour Theo Serjeant.

The secretary of the association was moved to say that they were farewelling 'a Ballarat boy, who had been brought up in the district, and [who] had earned the respect and esteem of all...'

Once settled in South Africa, young Bob continued his education.

However, whilst his father's career continued to flourish – he became Registrar of Mines at Klerksdorp – the climate did not agree with the boy. It appears that his mother also struggled with the conditions, so in September 1908 she and the children returned to Ballarat.

Theo would eventually join his family, and they made their home at 1010 Talbot Street South.

Bob, like his father before him, continued his studies at the Ballarat School of Mines (SMB), where he proved to be a dedicated, if quiet, young man.

But instead of a career in mining, he aimed for a future in electrical engineering.

He also served with the 71st Infantry Regiment, where he attained the rank of sergeant.

When Britain declared war against Germany in August 1914, Theo Serjeant was working in London. He immediately sought and was granted a commission with the Royal Fusiliers.

Back in Ballarat, Bob also chose to serve his country. He enlisted in his hometown on 4 December 1914.

Having just completed his course at SMB, he listed his occupation as a student.

Colonel Doctor C. H. W. Hardy conducted the medical examination and, despite not having reached his 20th birthday, Bob was already a well-built young man – he stood 5-feet 10½-inches in height, weighed 145-pounds and could expand his chest to 35½-inches.

His dark complexion, brown eyes and dark hair spoke strongly of his Celtic ancestry.

Soon after joining other recruits at the Broadmeadows camp, Bob was promoted to the rank of corporal. He was assigned to the 2nd reinforcements to the 8th Infantry Battalion before embarked at Melbourne onboard the troopship *Clan MacGillivray* on 2 February 1915.

Just three days out from port, Bob was promoted to the rank of lance-sergeant.



After arriving in Egypt, Bob joined the 8th Battalion. He was taken on strength of A Company on 13 March and within a few short weeks he would be bound for the Dardanelles.

Once again, Bob boarded the *Clan MacGillivray* – this time at Alexandria on 5 April, with the assignment being to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in the Gallipoli Campaign.

The 25 April 1915 is now forever etched in the consciousness of the Australian psyche and the 8th Battalion was in the vanguard of the Landing.

Bob Serjeant survived the confusion and trauma of those first few days on the Peninsula.

However, on the 29 April he suffered a catastrophic gunshot wound to the head.

He survived long enough to reach the hospital ship, *Huntsgreen*, where he died later the same day.

Reverend A. E. Talbot buried his body at sea in the waters off ANZAC Cove.

Strangely, Alice Serjeant was informed that Bob had died on 10 May, but this must have been of little consequence – all that mattered was her one and only son was dead. When a small parcel of effects arrived, she took possession of the last few items that Bob had carried with him – his identity disc and wristwatch, a note book, a hymnal, several letters and two military books.

It must have seemed such a pitiful collection for such a short and vibrant life.

By the end of the Great War, Theo Serjeant had risen to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and was decorated with the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest decoration for military merit.

He remained in London, where his wife and daughter joined him. In a complete change of career, Theo set up business as a wine merchant in the city.

Sadly, having dealt with so much loss, Alice Serjeant's flawed heart finally gave out and she died on 9 March 1924.

Footnote:

Robert Malachy Serjeant is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial, Panel 30, Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey.

The Memorial commemorates the 3268 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who have no known grave and the 960 Australians and 252 New Zealanders who were buried at sea after evacuation through wounds or disease.

Theo married Mary Ellen Melling in Manchester in July 1924. He died in 1933 in Melbourne and Mary Ellen returned to Manchester where she died in 1959.

His daughter Alice married James Kline in 1927 in London and she died in 1989 in Macleod. Her husband pre-deceased her in 1984.

## ROBERT MALACHY SERJEANT SENIOR

On Thursday evening, November 12th, I had the pleasure of attending the Federation University Alumni awards online. A very interesting event. My interest in RM Serjeant is through one of his descendants with whom I attended secondary school in Ballarat many, many years ago.

Earlier this year, I was able to put Fed. Uni. in contact with Barbara when they were seeking descendants of R M Serjeant. Barbara, some of her immediate family and other descendants of RM Serjeant were also present online.

R M was also an acquaintance of my great grandfather James Eddy.

Many in Ballarat know that *Yarrowee Hall*, in Darling Street was his home for many years.

**The Distinguished Alumnus Awards' Evening** was hosted by the new Vice Chancellor of Fed. Uni. Professor Duncan Bentley.

There were seven awards presented.

Alumni of the Year - Mrs Leigh Rusell and Mr David Noonan

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alumna - Mrs Jodie Sizer - (first time this award was presented)

Distinguished Alumna

Mrs Merle Hathaway and Ms Rosie King

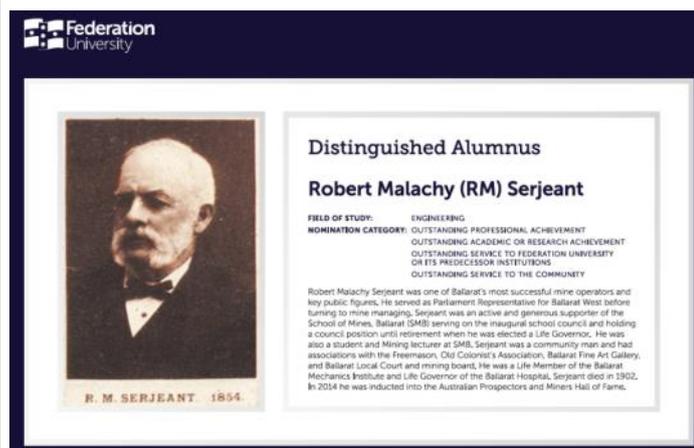
International Alumnus of the Year - Mr Sanjay Bharwani (Indonesia)

Posthumous Distinguished Alumnus

**Mr Robert Malachy Serjeant**

As each award was announced, the Vice Chancellor read a citation and following that a short video from the recipient was shown, and these were most interesting. The video for RM Serjeant was presented by his great grandson Graeme Serjeant, a descendant of Alfred George Serjeant. Photos of the recipients with their certificates were shown at the end of the evening.

Di Christensen



## Christmas Slice

Base:

3 oz/85 grams of softened butter

1/3 of a cup of soft brown sugar

1 cup of plain flour

Beat the butter and sugar until light and creamy then work in the flour.

Press evenly onto the base of a lined 12 inch x 8 inch baking tray using the back of a spoon.

Pre heat your fan oven to 170C - slightly more for non- fan forced.

Bake for about 10 mins.

The topping:

2 large eggs

1/2 cup light or dark brown sugar

1 teaspoonful vanilla extract

1 tablespoonful plain flour

1/2 teaspoonful baking powder

1 1/2 cups of desiccated coconut

1 cup of fruit mince

1 tablespoonful brandy

juice of half a lemon

In a medium bowl, whisk the eggs, sugar and vanilla until slightly thicker and frothy.

Fold in the flour, coconut, baking powder and Fruit Mince plus the brandy and mix well.

Spread over the base and level off.

Sprinkle over the lemon juice and bake for about 25 mins until firm.

Cool in the tin for a short while then lift out using the baking paper and slice.

Dust with icing sugar to serve.

With clotted cream of course!



Recipes from a Cornish Kitchen

