

# Guerin Family Reunion

**On Sunday 23rd October more than 150 people gathered at Bull Creek and Macclesfield to join in a Guerin family reunion.**

170 years ago on the 24th October five unaccompanied Guerin siblings - Lawrence 26, Bridget 23, Patrick 21, John 20 and Catherine 16, arrived in Adelaide on the ship 'Hooghly' from Ireland.

John married Bridget Conlin, also from Ireland, arriving in 1846 and they purchased land in Bull Creek in 1850, hence the reunion based in the area.

The reunion started in the morning with the original house and property opened for family to wander through and absorb their heritage.

The property's current owners have faithfully restored the original house - with some modern conveniences and are gradually restoring all the farming buildings on the property.

Family were able to see the original hut that Bridget and John lived in until they built their three roomed house, as well as the stables, dairy, shearing shed, well and even the last standing 150 year old apple tree - in blossom!

The reunion moved to the Macclesfield Sporting Complex at midday where family had lunch while they could catch up with known and unknown relatives. There were family trees

information on the family history. The children arriving from Ireland were poor, and quite likely illiterate (or only used Gaelic), so there is not a lot of documented history on their early life either in Ireland or in South Australia.

Gradually more details are being sourced and particularly as old records are being documented on websites both in Ireland and Australia. The speeches were final-

ised with the presentation to the current owners of the Bull Creek property of a commemorative plaque for the house.

The family gave the owners a rousing thank you for both allowing the visit to the property and for their efforts in preserving the heritage.

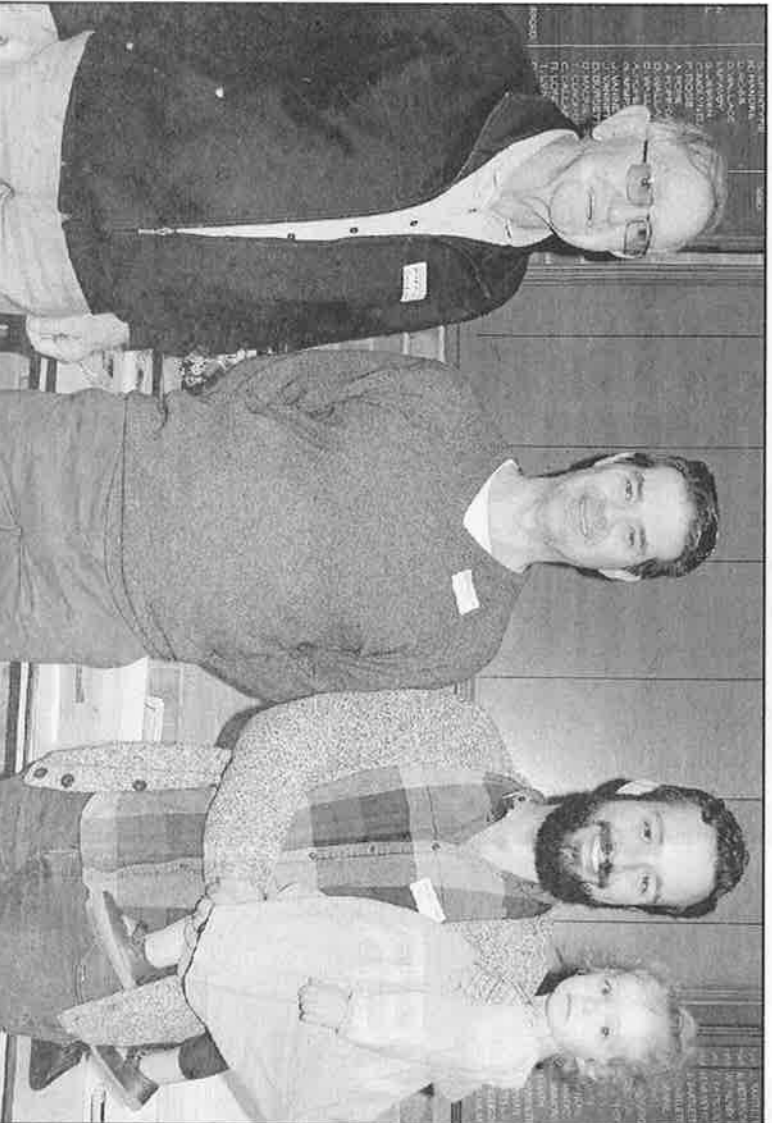
The Guerin family are very grateful to the Macclesfield Sporting Complex for the use of the facilities and the excellent service provided.



Stuart and Helen Brasted with the plaque presented in gratitude of their restoration of the Guerin family home at Bull Creek.



Stephen Guerin - Salisbury, Virginia Loy nee Guerin - Alice Springs, Michael Guerin - Murrindindi, Victoria, Pat Guerin - Goolwa and Michael Guerin - Belair.



Four Guerin generations - Martin - Salisbury, Frank - Salisbury, Ross and Evey - Greenwith.

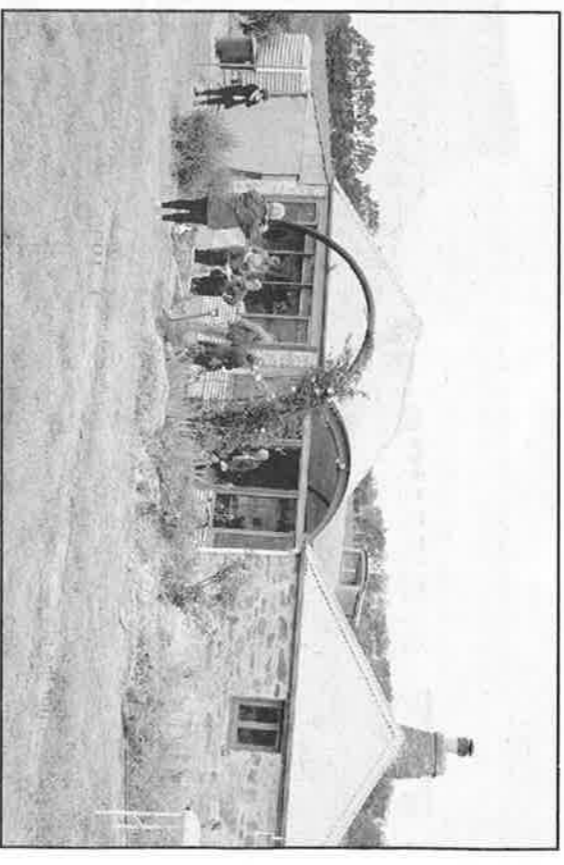
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The original 'hut' that John and Bridget Guerin lived in until the house was built - originally it would have had a thatched roof.



The restored Guerin house on right and adjacent restored stable - modern link in between - the house is of three rooms and the stable has a loft.

## Riverboat re-enacts mail run on film

**Much loved riverboat the Oscar W will be filmed as it re-enacts Meningie's 150th anniversary mail run across the lakes.**

The restored steam-powered, wood-fired River Murray paddle steamer, built in 1908, will set off from Goolwa on Friday, October 28, travelling to Narrung, taken by vintage car to Strathalbyn and delivered through the narrow lake opening, carrying mail in traditional canvas sacks.

The mail delivery comprises letters from schoolchildren from Goolwa and Milang to students from Meningie

Primary School, together with invitations to the 16th biennial South Australian Wooden Boat Festival, April 22-23, 2017.

Letters from Meningie students will then be taken by vintage car to Strathalbyn and delivered to the Steam Ranger for delivery, via Mt Barker, to the Adelaide GPO by a 1920s Graham-Paige American motor vehicle and posted to the Goolwa and Milang schools.

Coorong District Councilors have agreed to contribute \$2,500 towards the production of a retail video of the mail run re-enactment across the lakes. Council will receive intellectual property rights in the production for use of the video in marketing and tourism activities. Councilors are considering the allocation of funds in future tourism budgets for similar, high quality digital material with the aim of generating a resource library of marketing material for promotional use.



The 1908 built Oscar W on the water.