



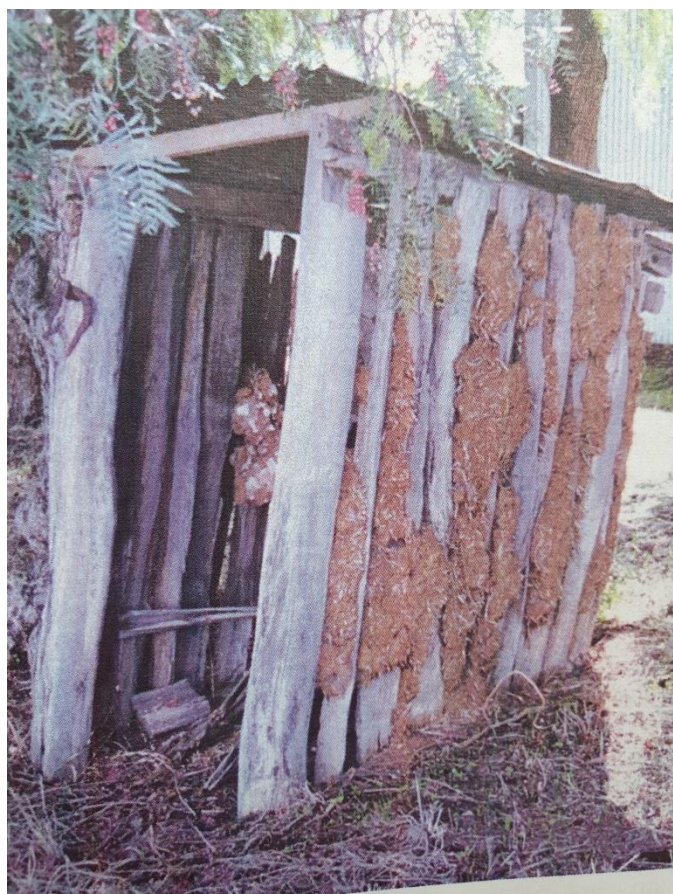
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January 2022

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Although in many ways we may feel that we cannot keep up with the constant changes of what living with the pandemic means for us, in other ways it's true to say that not much has changed under the sun! Who of us has been inspired to do much-needed home renovations by the imminent arrival of visitors? And what activity was popular in Light Pass 100 years ago, that we still spend much of our time on today? Read and enjoy these two stories...

The Old Polst Outhouse.



Rechner cottage is not the only pug building in Light Pass. Luhr's Cottage across the road is a fine example of a fully restored pug cottage. And then there is this one - The old dunny on the Polst property... A wonderful example of early architecture!

L Grope, in *Reminiscences Of Old Stockwell*, explains how the outhouse came to be built...

"There was great excitement in our grandparent's home at Light Pass. In a few weeks' time two Polst ladies from America would be paying them a visit, and there was much to get ready.

The five Polst sisters were concerned about such mundane things as what to wear and what to cook while the American visitors were with them, but their Dad had a much more basic concern. how on earth would they manage with all these females and only one toilet? Some drastic action was called for. What Grandpa needed was a private little dunny which he could use without fear of being disturbed by strange visitors from America.

No sooner said than done. Grandfather built himself a dunny in a secluded spot behind the machinery shed. It consisted of rough slabs of timber, plastered over with a mixture of clay (known as Pug). He carefully fitted it out with a suitable seating arrangement a metal spike to hold the small pieces of newspaper that served as toilet paper (and reading material) in those far-off days.

Grandfather's dunny still exists, even though it is beginning to show its age. It is a reminder of the days when toilets were strategically situated at some distance from the house, and were definitely NOT en suite! "



The Mission House

Some of you may know the Mission House – another historic building adjacent to Rechner Cottage. The central part is the original manse built and lived in by GJ Rechner in 1861, when the Strait Gate Church began.

I had to laugh when I looked back through some old documents to see what was happening in Light Pass 100 years ago, in 1922. I had an inkling that some things might not have changed much, human history being what it is. And lo and behold, there was an article in the Lutheran paper, informing readers that in 1922 the Board of Missions purchased the old manse to provide a place for missionaries to stay when back home on furlough (which is why it is now known as "The Mission House"). It needed renovating and furnishing, so they were busy trying to raise funds. Hmmm – this is beginning to sound very familiar..

In their appeal to the wider church they said “We are sure that our congregations wish that the Missionaries after their years of toil should be enabled to rest in a comfortably furnished home and that therefore contributions will flow in freely for this noble cause. Especially are we sanguine in our hope that the ladies of our congregations will rally to our help in collecting for the furniture of the Home. As the Home will be repaired shortly, a quick response would be very welcome.”



They say there are three things in life that will always be with us - death, taxes and I'm pretty sure the third must be fundraising!

Staying home more at the moment? Wondering what to do with the money you are saving?

What with all the uncertainty around already this year, many of us are not going on holidays, or out to public places and events, and are even limiting our shopping expeditions. So what can you do with all the money you are saving? Don't let it burn a hole in your pocket! Here's two ways to spend it that benefit both you and the cottage☺



People's Choice Community Lottery.

The People's Choice Community Lottery is still running. 100% of the money from the tickets you purchase goes towards the conservation of the cottage, so it's a wonderful way to support us. And you have a chance to win one of the great prizes on offer,



including cars and a Harvey Norman entertainment package. You can buy as many or as few tickets as you wish, at just \$2 a ticket.

<https://communitylottery.peopleschoice.com.au/products/rechner-cottage-conservation-association>



We are receiving great feedback about our Rechner Cottage wines!

We've had lots of positive comments from people who enjoyed our Rechner Cottage wines over the Christmas period. And sipping a glass of sparkling white, Rosé, or one of our fine reds is a great way to ease into the New Year. We can highly recommend it! And as well as being a lovely tippie, all profits support the conservation of the cottage.

We've attached an order form for you, and the tasting notes if you'd like help deciding which to get. Or try a mixed box, and that way no hard decisions are necessary...

*Celebrate summer with a
crisp sparkling white*

We wish you all the best for the coming year. Exciting things are happening around Light Pass, and with the cottage. We'll keep you informed!

Warm regards

Robyn, Catherine, Andy and Jo

The Rechner Cottage Conservation Association Committee