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Please address all enquiries to W.V.A.H.S. to the Secretary, Helen Curkpatrick, 273 Old Hamilton Road, Haven, Vic., 3401
Ph: 03 5382 7227
E: wwahsinc@gmail.com



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Western Historian

Newsletter of the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies

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The Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies acknowledges the traditional owners of country on the land on which we are meeting throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, culture and community.

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W.V.A.H.S. Executive Committee for 2023-2024

President: Michael Menzies, Geelong (S)	0419 546 251	raillexp@bigpond.com
Vice-President: Brett Leslie, Landsborough (W)	0404 813997	bleslie@bigpond.net.au
Secretary/Treasurer: Helen Curkpatrick, Horsham (W)	0413 382 567	haven273@outlook.com

Members:

Carolyn Olive, Charlton (M)	0418 361 971	c.olive@bigpond.com
Robin Parker, Maryborough (M)	0459 032 068	robinparker81@hotmail.com
Kate Van Dyck, Stawell (W)	0428 841 011	katiejvd@iprimus.com.au
Bob McIntosh, Terang (S)	03 5592 1354	macmarbob@hotmail.com
Craig Proctor, Mortlake (S) and Jeparit (W)	0408 311 302	craige@iprimus.com.au
Tracey Potatau-Wright (Glenthompson) (S)	0438 774 215	glenthompsonhistory@hotmail.com

Please email your report or any other contributions for publication as Word documents with images as jpgs to Craig Proctor, craige@iprimus.com.au or wwahsinc@gmail.com

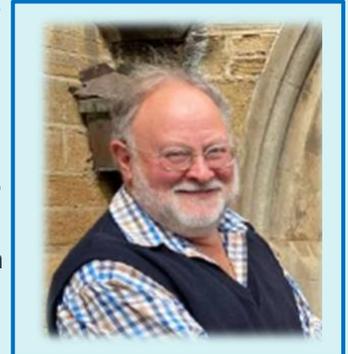
Potential Member Groups

Arapiles (Natimuk)
 Ararat
 Balmoral
 Birchip
 Boort
 Camperdown
 Carisbrook
 Casterton
 Charlton
 Cobden
 Cohuna
 Colac
 Coleraine
 Dimboola
 Donald
 Derrinallum/Lismore
 Dunkeld
 East Loddon (Mitiamo)
 Edenhope
 Geelong & South Western Rail
 Glenthompson
 Goldfields (Dunolly)
 Halls Gap
 Harrow
 Heytesbury
 Hawkesdale
 Horsham
 Hopetoun
 Inglewood
 Kerang
 Koroit
 Landsborough
 Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum
 Maryborough Midlands
 Minyip
 Mortlake
 Mount Rouse (Penshurst)
 Murtoa
 Nhill
 Nhill Silo Heritage Project
 Nullawil
 Ouyen
 Port Fairy
 Portland
 Pyramid Hill
 Rainbow
 Rupanyup
 St Arnaud
 Stawell
 Swan Hill
 Tarnagulla
 Terang
 Warracknabeal
 Warrnambool
 Wedderburn
 Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum
 (Jeparit)
 Woolsthorpe

President's Report 2022-2023

Delivered at AGM, Charlton, 15 April 2023

Despite ongoing uncertainties while dealing with Covid-19, the Executive remained positive and proceeded to plan for and hold the AGM at Warrnambool on Saturday 2 April 2022. We enjoyed a wonderful venue at The Hammond Centre at Christ Church. It was a real treat to be given a guided tour of the adjacent church and see the wonderful restoration work underway, revealing traces of earlier interior decoration.



Following dinner that evening, Sunday commenced with a wonderful guided bus tour of primarily the southern areas of Warrnambool. The highlight was a walking tour of the sensitive redevelopment of the former Warrnambool Woollen Mills including inspecting the conversion of the former Office Block into a wonderful home, retaining much of the feel and patina of its previous use. Well done to Janet Macdonald and the team at Warrnambool and District Historical Society for organising it all.

Sadly, the three Zone meetings due to be held during Spring 2022 did not occur. The Midlands Zone was to gather at Nullawil. While not particularly badly impacted by the floods, most roads between Nullawil and the home bases of the member societies were flooded and some societies directly threatened. The Southern Zone were to meet at Camperdown but many roads connecting members with that location were closed by floodwaters and lengthy detours would have applied. The Wimmera Zone meeting was to be at Dimboola but, again, rising rivers hindered travel. There was also still some reluctance among some members to gather due to Covid risks, indicating smaller than usual attendance. I hope that we are all able to get together for our respective Zone meetings later this year.

Craige Proctor has settled in to the task of Editor, producing quarterly issues of the *Western Historian* on schedule throughout the year. His efforts are greatly appreciated. Please assist him by forwarding information for inclusion in our publication. Thanks are also due to Carolyn Olive for maintaining our website and Facebook page. Those facilities are available for all member Societies to promote their existence and activities. We all need as much public exposure as possible and the more information and stories that are posted, the more attractive those sites are for the public to visit and see what we are all doing.

Finally, thank you to all Office Bearers, Committee and members for their involvement throughout the past year. Particular thanks to our Secretary / Treasurer Helen. She keeps our association ticking over and maintaining contact with us all.

Michael Menzies
 President, W.V.A.H.S.

AGM

Around sixty people representing many of our member groups from the coast to Swan Hill and Ouyen and from Nhill across to the Midlands gathered in Charlton on 15 April for our Zone Meetings and 2022-23 AGM. The W.V.A.H.S. Executive thanks sincerely the members of the Golden Grains Museum for hosting this event so well, including the Sunday morning bus tour to Yeungroon. We were privileged to have Dr Rosalie Triolo, Councillor and Vice-President of the RHSV and Chair of the newly-formed Historical Societies' Support Committee (HSSC) and Dr David Waldron a member of the History, Engagement and Preservation Partnerships (HEP) initiative, Federation University, Ballarat, join us for our AGM.



Following the Zone Meetings and AGM, attendees adjourned to the Rex Theatre, a Charlton landmark. Built in 1938 this 'picture palace' has been beautifully restored and maintained despite having had a number of incarnations since the 1960s. Projectionist David Pollard gave an overview of the building's life story and also took us on a tour 'backstage'. For a detailed history of the Rex check out the following sites:

<https://connection.vic.gov.au/charltons-charming-art-deco-rex-theatre-reopens>

<https://www.rextheatre.org.au/>



Many thanks to Tracey Potatau-Wright of the Glenthompson Historical Group Inc. for providing these photos of the Rex Theatre.



Charlton's Golden Grains Museum and Yeungroon Hall. Photos provided by Tracey Potatau-Wright from Glenthompson.



WVAHS's Helen Curkpatrick and Michael Menzies.





Attendees at the AGM in Charlton.

Advance Notification

W.V.A.H.S. 60th Anniversary: Thursday, 28 September 2023

We plan to have a lunch at an historic location around Horsham along with a bus tour of the district. Costs and other details are still being determined.

Updates will be published on our [new Facebook page](#), our website <https://westernhistorian.org.au/> and via email.

Trivia question: The original W.V.A.H.S. included nine member groups. Which of the following nine were Foundation Members? Hamilton, Ouyen, Beaufort, Warracknabeal, Stawell, Kaniva, Warrnambool, Nhill, Horsham, Donald, Arapiles, St Arnaud, Ararat.

New Facebook page

Check out our new W.V.A.H.S. Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/WVAHS/>

Email

Please remember that W.V.A.H.S. now has a dedicated email address to which all communications should be sent in preference to using Helen Curkpatrick's personal email address. Helen, Michael and Craige all have access to the email inbox and it is checked constantly for emails.

wvahsinc@gmail.com

Newsletters

Only a few members are sharing their newsletters with W.V.A.H.S. Please include us in your newsletter mailout. Absolutely every newsletter is read thoroughly and some items are certainly worthy of being shared with other members.

Email to

wvahsinc@gmail.com or to
craige@iprimus.com.au

The Wonderful Work in the West

Dr Rosalie Triolo, Vice-President, Royal Historical Society of Victoria and Chair of the RHSV Historical Societies Support Committee (HSSC).



Most WVAHS members know that their Network embraces approximately 50 societies across the large western 'half' of Victoria. While the distance for driving to some Network events might understandably be off-putting to some representatives, the Network should reflect positively on the large AGM attendance, including by 'distant' members, as well as the nature and extent of activities reported at the Charlton AGM on 15 April 2023. As a first-time WVAHS AGM attendee, I learned a great deal about 'the wonderful work in the west'.

I was, however, prepared helpfully in advance of the meeting, thanks to Craige Proctor (WVAHS Newsletter Editor) who thought to email me the four most recent newsletters. Thus, when societies (or 'zones' within the larger region) reported at the AGM, I had 'background' to the updates. The regular newsletters are a real strength of WVAHS and impress me as a means of reducing distance and showcasing the best work that other societies might emulate. Member societies need only supply to any editor a small report of their activities (or a larger one, by negotiation) with images. The sharing of common experiences, including challenges, enables members to realise that they are often not alone, and I gained an impression that once a challenge had been written about (or voiced in the meeting), other society representatives are keen to offer solutions. Foremost, the newsletter reporting is overwhelmingly of a positive kind that any of us could take to commentators who think that local community history is an insignificant affair. The benefits to members of historical societies - and to their wider communities - are truly impressive.

From where else can information and inspiration be obtained? I risk stating the obvious, but 'from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV)'. Many items in *History News*, but perhaps, especially, the HSSC reports of practical advice and 'Around the Societies' provide a wealth of ideas: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/publications/history-news/>.

A cover-to-cover read is worth the time; as is, simply, an exploration of the RHSV website, overall: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/>. New practical information as well as the very latest in historical scholarship and terminology is added regularly. I am often able to answer a correspondent's query by linking them directly to a section or specific item on the RHSV website.

Less often known and accessed by historical societies yet of enormous value is the national peak body, the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS): <https://www.history.org.au/>. It works and advocates at national level for the significance and wellbeing of *all* of Australia's historical societies. It also produces, approximately quarterly, the *eBulletin* of 'recent developments' and 'upcoming events': <https://www.history.org.au/ebulletin/> as well as the biannual *eNews*, being the FAHS newsletter of more detailed articles, sometimes built around a theme or significant Australian historical commemoration during the year. These colorful and clever items can be emailed directly free-of-charge to any interested parties who sign up on the FAHS website. Also, in recent years, FAHS has received funding to produce valuable and detailed reference guides, for example, in terms of succession planning, disaster recovery and connecting with (primary) schools. While all of this information (not always found on individual State and Territory websites) can also be accessed free-of-charge, FAHS welcomes individual and society memberships for humble fees that cover the most basic of costs of the almost wholly voluntary but crucial work undertaken at national level. Sometimes, politicians will only interact with this national body, not the State and Territory peaks. The good news for WVAHS and all Victorian historical societies is that Victoria's local history movement is well-represented by RHSV representatives and a recent RHSV and FAHS past-President seated at the FAHS table.

I hope this item has 'short-cut' to some valuable reference points for you. For now, I wish to thank the Charlton Golden Grains Museum and other Charlton history devotees for hosting the weekend, complete with historical experiences and site visits across both days, and excellent 'country cooking' evening dinner; also Michael Menzies (WVAHS President) and Helen Curkpatrick (Secretary and Treasurer) who welcomed my participation so warmly. The WVAHS network is a wonderfully professional and collegial binding agent in Victoria's western half. 'Keep doing as you do' and I hope our paths cross again soon in our important work that supports Victoria's history and heritage.

Dr Rosalie Triolo

Chair: RHSV Historical Societies Support Committee

Federation University Initiative

Dr David Waldron, Senior Lecturer in History, represented Federation University at the W.V.A.H.S. AGM and Zone Meetings at Charlton. Dr Waldron found it fascinating listening to the discussions which ranged from issues of copyright and management of photographs of Indigenous sensitive materials appearing on social media to managing both costs and the damage caused by last year's extensive floods. Dr Waldron spoke on the newly redeveloping History and Heritage Major at Federation University and the importance of collaboration with local partners and the importance of work integrated learning and placement opportunities for the university's student cohort in the humanities. This future initiative engendered considerable interest among participants and we look forward to hearing further about these plans.

A reminder that we all have the opportunity to engage in the History, Engagement and Preservation Partnerships webinars run by the Institute of Education, Arts and Community at Federation University through which we hope to learn more about the possibilities for Humanities students being placed in and working within heritage organisations; a win for both sides! If interested in joining these webinars, email the Convenor, Professor Jenene Burke, at ieac.hep_partnerships@federation.edu.au

The RHSV's Mallee Adventure Seminar Program

Strengthening your Society through History

A number of W.V.A.H.S. Member Societies attended the very successful RHSV Seminar Day in Birchip on Saturday 20 May.

While there was much disappointment that Dr Rosalie Triolo was unable to attend, we were still treated to four excellent and thought-provoking presentations along with valuable advice and perspectives from the RHSV's Executive Officer Rosemary Cameron.

Paul Fearon's presentation on 'Capacity building: leading and retaining volunteers' resonated with many of us faced with the lack of volunteers in our organisations. Paul provided us with a series of key steps necessary to formalising volunteer onboarding and retention. The first step is to identify 'tasks' – what needs to be done – and then to ensure that onboarded volunteers have a clear sense of their role. Their skill sets need to be identified – ask what they can do and would like to do – and there needs to be negotiation and mutual support. Rosemary Cameron, and others in the audience, advised that 'tapping someone on the shoulder', especially new arrivals in the locality, can be an excellent strategy. Another is to engage with younger people, including school students, who not only have IT and other skills which can be usefully tapped into but who are frequently looking for various experiences to add to their CVs.

Helen Laffin, Acting Curator with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and volunteer with a number of societies and organisations, presented on 'Managing and maintaining an archive', identifying the key processes and protocols for archivists in historical societies, including deaccessioning of items in a collection.

RHSV President Emeritus Professor Richard Broome gave two highly engaging presentations, one on one-time well-known indigenous identity 'Mulga Fred Wilson' and how some decades ago Richard had researched this man's life without the benefit of using Trove. Richard stressed that historical societies are still key repositories for information sought by researchers. Richard also presented on 'Writing to be read: writing for publications, exhibitions and on-site tours'. His 'seven step approach' to any narrative writing resonated with the audience.

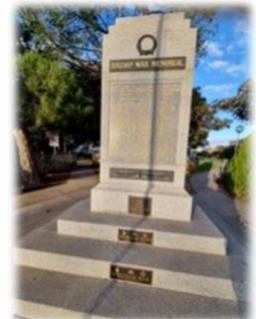
Participants also had the option of visiting the Nullawil Historical Society on the Friday and the Donald Historical Society on Sunday morning.

Sincere thanks to the Birchip Historical Society for hosting the Saturday event and for Nullawil's and Donald's involvement with the three-day program. No doubt all attendees left feeling inspired and supported by the presentations and the RHSV's commitment to rural historical societies. We certainly look forward to further much-welcome regional events.

Photos of Emeritus Professor Richard Broome, Rosemary Cameron, Paul Fearon and Helen Laffin courtesy of Tracey Potatau-Wright.



Many thanks – once again – to Tracey Potatau-Wright of the Glenthompson Historical Group for kindly sharing photos taken at Birchip during the RHSV Seminar Day.



Member Society Reports to Zone Meetings at the 2022-2023 AGM in Charlton

This is the sixth issue of *Western Historian* I have produced and I can state that the June issue is the one which affords me the greatest challenge but also the most satisfaction. Following on from each AGM in April the June issue captures the Reports given at the AGM by member societies. I spend many hours not just in editing and formatting the Reports but in reading *every one*, some quite a few times. As Newsletter Editor I am in the privileged position of gaining the 'big picture' of what our many member societies are doing, achieving and striving for in the future. I urge you to make the time to read through the enclosed Reports as many are both enlightening and inspiring. We all know that members of historical societies, museums and related bodies are highly committed and passionate – a given – but let's also acknowledge the expertise and resourcefulness, both at the individual and society level, which result in often herculean efforts to 'get things done'. I also urge everyone to spend some time visiting the websites and Facebook pages of many of these groups – I spend hours immersed in them! – which is why I devote additional time to locating and including the links for member societies. (W = Wimmera Zone; M = Midlands Zone; S = Southern Zone)

Craige Proctor, Ed.

Hopetoun and District Historical Society (W)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Local-service/Hopetoun-and-District-Historical-Society-Inc-107594888047205/>

How quickly these twelve months have passed. It gives me great pleasure in presenting my report for the year ended 2022-2023.

I would first like to acknowledge the generosity of those donors who have given monetary assistance over the year. This has allowed opportunities to continue with our archiving, assisted with ongoing expenses, helped purchase a backup external hard drive for our collection and signage for The Lake Corrong Homestead, while also providing needed funds towards upcoming projects at the Old Scout Hall and Homestead grounds.

I have been maintaining and administering our social media portal on Facebook and these past 2.5 years has seen a steep increase in activity as a result. Of the 1,400 individual posts / photographs / much conversation, comment and interaction has resulted. In the month previous to today's report for example – some 13,358 post engagements occurred, which may constitute repeat visit. However, it's a staggering number considering the medium being used. Many long hours have been spent photographing, editing, cataloguing some 6,000 photos which are now housed in our Digital Library – under categories and in sub folders for families. It's been a truly humbling privilege, having these early and original photos entrusted to us, so we can obtain high resolution photographs to edit and add to our archives. This has been testament, I believe, that we are demonstrating by example and people are selflessly sharing their own stories in order to preserve a legacy. Some of the Albums have been recreated as folders/others digitally shared.

* Grace Mill Lear

- Scott Phillips Anderson
- Lynn Gould Wise photographs
- Edelsten Album
- Rosebery / Chivell digital images as well as Bill White's contribution
- Glenys Poulton and also the Rowney Family who sent copies of Charles Poulton's album
- Bonnie Carter – Carter Powell McArthur

The Poulton Project continues to grow with the recent addition from the Rowney Family who copied their original family album given from Charles Poulton to his wife Agnes.

Our regular Tuesday archiving at the museum has seen a number of changes for the better with archiving boxes for clothing, indexing cupboards into categories, a family names section, clearances, Courier sorting and research.

The year has seen a 5 + 5 year lease signed for Lake Corrong Homestead and a 5 + 5 year lease signed for the Old Scout Hall. There are works well underway for the first exhibition at the Old Scout Hall comprising a Cropping Display, a precis of the Poulton Project, Scout and Guide Memorabilia as well as some of our collection to exhibit and share publicly.

A working bee was recently held to tidy around the Homestead and some equipment has been elevated off the ground to prevent deterioration. Thanks to the Cemetery Trust for the use of their front-end loader and to those who were able to attend in assisting.

Our Membership remains constant but it's important to recognise that we need to boost these numbers in order to continue the valuable work which is entrusted to our Society.

We recently applied for the Grant from Horsham Community and Sports, the Shared Grant (unfortunately not successful) and a Grant from ICON in the UK which we were fortunate to be successful gaining - a £2,700 Grant to restore the original Karkaroc Shire Map. Though still being finalised in detail, the map is currently at the conservator's awaiting expert repairs. It is intended to shortly learn of the exact dimensions in order to allocate a space and place of permanency at the Old School. Without these financial grants and donations we couldn't have made possible such important inroads into preservation and conservation.

Personally I'd like to give my thanks to:

- * Our Executive and Members for their contribution during the year
- Our Auditor for her kindness in fulfilling this requirement
- The Yarriambiack Shire and Tammy Smith, CEO, for their support and belief in us
- The myriad helpers along these twelve months who have offered time, energy and contribution to our collection.

Where to From Here?

Hopefully we continue to grow as a Society, maintaining the trust and respect from peers and our wider community. I value the interaction with other regional historical societies and would like to extend on this collaboration. I am very sure our place of permanency for the museum will remain within the historical school site and perhaps, in time, we might evolve to a display area as well as a separate area for research and archiving.

On a recent day trip to Tyrrell Downs, exploring extensive and vast tracts of land that was once owned by EH Lascelles, I was reminded of the importance of history and preservation, of how oral history, written history, shared, cement the pathways for our tomorrows.

As caretakers of this posterity we must be mindful and vigilant in being caregivers.

Jenn Stephens

Stawell Historical Society (W)

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~shsinc/>

We have had a busy and productive year since we last met.

We have applied for and received a Community Grant from Stawell Gold Mine to upgrade our server which has allowed us to progress with digitising and binding a large proportion of our valuable newspaper collection. In addition, Grampians Toy Club has also made a donation towards this.

On the winding up of BIARRI Genealogy Group, their Executive have generously passed on the balance in their bank account (\$14,000) to us. The full story of this and photo is in our latest Newsletter.

We have also inherited all books and records accumulated by BIARRI. Three of our active volunteers, Bev, Frank and Brett, are well on the way to combining these records with ours.

SHS have been actively involved with NGSC in the development of the Tourism Strategy Plan and a number of our members are active Ambassadors in the Visitor Information Centre next door. This is proving beneficial to both. NGSC has advised it is planning visual promotions using empty shopfronts in the main street and is relying on us for material. Three owners of premises have this week agreed to have their windows used.

Donations of items continue to roll in including a 100-year-old local telephone exchange switchboard, which is going to be set up in the Museum, books, a model wagon and many other smaller items. We are always grateful for donations.

Robert Illig, a long-time active member, has decided to retire. His contributions have been invaluable.

Our Facebook and Newspaper articles have been getting really good reviews and comments. We are working on updating our website also which should increase our broader presence.

We have had a Panorama created from glass slide images from The Hollterman Collection dated 1874. This is 5 metres long and on display. One and three metre copies are available for sale.

We currently have 70 Financial Members with several applications just approved.

Kate Van Dyck



Charlton Golden Grains Museum (M)

<https://charltongoldengrainsmuseum.webs.com/>

Our museum has had a mixed year. The October flood last year was a real concern and we packed up in readiness. Fortunately, although the water lapped at the door, it didn't inundate the building. Unfortunately, the mud underneath the floors created a very humid and smelly museum so we closed for four months until the building dried out.



On a positive note, we received a substantial grant of \$26,000 to purchase showcases and window coverings to expand our displays into the former Wesleyan Chapel, one of Charlton's oldest remaining buildings. We are still renovating the building so are not expecting to have it all set-up for some months yet.

We took part in the AMaGA digitisation project and Kylie Biltris, photographer extraordinaire, spent three days with us photographing approximately 100 items in our collection. We were also taught how to use our own digital cameras to continue the process. It was a fantastic couple of days and well worth doing.

We have purchased a Square Eftpos system which is used quite often at the museum. Not many people have cash on them these days and spontaneous purchases of our merchandise are more likely if they can pay with a card.

Our secretary, Carolyn, is working on a booklet for the centenary anniversary of our soldier cenotaph. It will contain details on the WW1 and WW2 soldiers listed on it. A special celebration is being organised by the Charlton RSL for June this year with a live music show at the Rex Theatre featuring the Dixie Belles and a commemorative service in Elliott Gardens on the Sunday morning.

Carolyn also produced the interpretive panels now located in the Sir John Monash Tribute Garden which has a water tank designed by Monash in 1913. The panels tell his life story and also feature the Battle of Hamel. Carolyn is also working on the story of Charlton's struggle to obtain a secure water supply which will be displayed on another panel in the park.

The Yeungroon History Project was launched last October for the 130th anniversary of the Yeungroon Hall. It features a war memorial and thirteen interpretive panels and is now often visited by descendants, former locals and visitors to Charlton.

We are proud partners in Charlton's newest publication, the quarterly *Cultural Magazine*. The museum provides various articles and also assists other contributors with research. We have a growing arts community and the magazine has been very well received.

Regular museum updates appear in the monthly community newsletter and Anne, our President, submits information from 100 years ago to the local newspapers.

Tour groups have started up again and we had a large group of 50 a few weeks ago with another small group coming later this month. This is easy money as they don't usually stay for long and we don't have to do much to prepare.

We have made great progress with our cataloguing and scanning with over 95% of our collection catalogued including 4,000 photos which have been digitised. This is being achieved with only 3-4 volunteers working half a day each week. You just have to keep chipping away.

Carolyn Olive, Secretary

New Member Groups

W.V.A.H.S. is very pleased to welcome two new members to the Association:

Nhill Silo Heritage Project

<https://nhillsiloheritageproject.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/NhillSiloHeritageProject/>

Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum

<https://www.lakebogaflyingboat.com/>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Catalina-Flying-Boat-Museum/100063785490753/>

Ararat and District Historical Society (W)

<https://www.facebook.com/LangiMorgalaMuseum>



I know it may sound like a cliché' but what a year it has been.

I'd like to start by thanking every committee member who helped make my first year in the role of President much easier.

I came to the role with little knowledge of how the Society or Museum operated but with a deep passion for history and a desire to see the Ararat district's history preserved for future generations.

Thanks to Sandy's guidance in how the Society operates, Fred and Jane's uncanny knack of being able to find anything I've asked for at the drop of a hat, Rhonda and Kerrin being sounding boards whenever I've needed anything, and Geoff's willingness to take on the role of Research Co-ordinator, I feel I'm making headway towards achieving the goals I set stepping into the President's job.

I can't continue without thanking Ararat Rural City Council for their support throughout the year. I know there was clear animosity between some former Society members and Council, largely due to a lack of understanding of how local government works. But I feel we have been able to establish a good working relationship with Council since the new committee took over in March. Our secretary Rhonda Holz and I have had several productive meetings with Council CEO Dr Tim Harrison. This has paved the way for the renewing of our lease of the museum building and an upgrade of our technology facilities. The Council kindly gifted us two computers and a printer which have been valuable in allowing us to step up our research services. Council has also fixed our leaking roof, providing us with peace of mind that our exhibits are once again safe from the weather.

This was the first full year the Museum has been able to remain open after the previous two years were marred by COVID and forced shutdowns.

The lifting of travel bans has had such a positive effect on the Museum. We have seen increased visitor numbers, the majority from out of town. It has made me smile every time I hear a visitor say how wonderful the Museum's displays are. The increased visitor numbers can be seen in the financial balance sheet.

Something I was keen to do when I accepted this role was to increase the Museum's presence via social media. We have built up a following of 1,300 people on Facebook and have a monthly interaction of 1,000. I want to see those figures double by this time next year, through regular posts.

One of the most exciting aspects of my time as President has been the increase in our membership numbers and, more importantly, an increase in volunteers. We have welcomed Marion McAdie who has been a godsend in helping with research. Robert Murray has returned to the Museum as a volunteer and I hope to see Anne Hogan back after a break. More recently we have gained the services of Dene Marshall who hit the ground running and hasn't stopped. Dene has brought our gardens under control and is in the process of replacing damaged skirting boards. To continue to thrive, the Society needs these types of volunteers who are willing to roll up their sleeves and put in hard work.

The Museum has relied solely on entry fees to keep the doors open and the lights on and this year we have introduced a research fee of \$25 per hour. This cost does not go anywhere near meeting the time and efforts our volunteers put into researching people, events and places for the many requests we receive on a weekly basis but it is income which means we no longer need to panic when a bill arrives. I cannot thank Geoff enough for taking on the co-ordination role for research requests.

The highlight of the year for me was celebrating the Society's 60th anniversary in October with a vintage high tea inside the Museum. The afternoon was the perfect opportunity to showcase the Museum to locals. Most of the 40 attendees hadn't stepped foot inside the Museum in decades, if at all. It was encouraging to hear their comments and read their social media posts after the event. If people are talking positively about the museum, it will likely result in other residents visiting us.

Looking ahead to 2023, my aim is to get more local residents through the Museum doors. I want to declutter the current exhibitions and incorporate a space where themed exhibits are rotated on a regular basis so things will look differently any time a visitor returns. I also want to introduce a space dedicated to children where they feel comfortable to touch certain exhibits and interact in a fun way.

Finally, I want to thank the volunteers who have worked at the Museum on Saturdays. While our numbers remain at a healthy level during the week, we continue to struggle to find people to work on Saturdays. Volunteers have lives and families outside the Museum and these Saturday positions need to be shared around to accommodate this. Hopefully we can attract new volunteers who can help ease our load.

Tammi Munro, President

Mortlake and District Historical Society (S)

<https://www.facebook.com/mdhsinc>



As must be the case with other groups, we are re-establishing some momentum following the lifting of restrictions. Sadly, we have lost some key members who have passed away and we are feeling their loss. Increasingly we have fewer and fewer senior members on whose knowledge we can draw.

We were surprised to be contacted by the Numurkah and District Historical Society who offered us an original 1850s or 1860s timber sign which once adorned the mail coach which ran between Mortlake and Warrnambool. The sign has now returned to Mortlake after perhaps 150 years. This was a welcome goodwill gesture from one historical society to another.

Our Vice-president is attending the regular History, Engagement and Preservation Partnerships webinars run through Federation University in Ballarat and these are providing participating delegates with interesting insights into what various academics and heritage groups are doing at the community level throughout Victoria. He encourages all member groups to join these webinars as they are proving to be stimulating and should, theoretically, provide historical societies with an expanded network in the future. A representative of the HEPP network is presenting at this AGM today.

In November Yours Truly was the recipient of a Royal Historical Society of Victoria Award of Merit, Dr Peter Yule, Counsellor of the RHSV and member of the Mortlake group, presenting the Award. At the same time Dr Tim Lowe, an avid collector of works by early twentieth century novelist Lindsay Russell, a long-time resident of Mortlake who spent her childhood in Nhill and Charlton before becoming a celebrity writer in the 1910s, with his complete collection of original editions which he has collected over many years. We are most appreciative of this significant donation.

Florence Charles is currently completing a new history of Dundonnell and district with Soldier Settlement in the 1920s being a key feature of this research. We are grateful to Tilt Renewables for providing a grant for the publication of this book shortly.

Special mention should be made of our Treasurer and highly-valued member Susan Potter who continues to produce our detailed and engaging newsletter. One initiative of Susan's has been to spend many hours with people still with us, capturing their recollections of life in the district. So instead of just presenting items relating to the dim past, the voices of people still living are being shared and enjoyed through these stories.

Craige Proctor, Vice-President

Arapiles Historical Society (W)

<https://arapileshistoricalsociety.org/>



The highlight for 2022 was the "Back to Natimuk" event in March, commencing with the launch of the book "Natimuk Reflections", the result of a massive effort by our talented member Keith Lockwood. Subsequent sales have been very encouraging, with costs being recovered very quickly.

A second publication was also launched during this weekend – The Sudholz family history compiled by our Research Officer Gianna Sudholz. Another huge undertaking by a dedicated author.

The weekend then saw AHS members participate in the street parade as well as open displays at the Court House, ACM and Research Centre.

Bunnings sausage sizzles have again been the mainstay of our fund-raising efforts and, despite the heat and onion fumes, they can be particularly lucrative.

Our researcher, Gianna, is still fielding a number of family research enquiries, now almost exclusively online.

Again Liz, our Grants Manager, has done an amazing job with Grant applications, being successful from HRCC and HSCC as well as PROV, and AMaGA.

The ongoing Garage Museum project has seen a bit of movement during the last twelve months with the Planning Permit now granted. We now have some estimates for costs to take us up to building commencement stage, highlighting some sizeable funding challenges.

AHS continues to quietly carry on but, as with most Historical Societies, an ageing membership and very little interest from "younger" generations must herald an uncertain future.

However, there is the hope that perhaps we may morph into something that modern society sees value in.

Peter French, President



Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum (Jeparit) (W)

<https://www.facebook.com/WMPMJeparit>

Since the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum at Jeparit has joined the W.V.A.H.S. only recently, I am pleased to present this first Report to the group.

The Museum, owned by Hindmarsh Shire Council, is in its 54th year of operation. For those who are not aware, the Museum occupies a ten-acre site and is home to a vast array of farming machinery, agricultural implements, vehicles, domestic and public buildings and an extensive collection of items relating to pioneering days in the Wimmera and Mallee. There are fourteen heritage buildings which have been relocated to the site since 1970 along with eight modern purpose-built sheds to house the heritage machinery and vehicles. The Museum is staffed purely by volunteers.

In 2022 we staged, after a two-year hiatus due to Covid, our Vintage Rally which takes place over the long weekend in June. We had around 700 visitors at the 2022 event with many exhibitors from other areas attending. One very successful innovation at last year's Rally was a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country given by a local Elder, Uncle Warren. This was very well-received by attendees and we hope it will become a feature of future Rallies.

We recently had representatives from First Peoples – State Relations visit the Museum to inspect, catalogue and record our indigenous artefacts collection. The items have now been uploaded to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register which is an achievement. We are in the throes of working with Barengi Gadjin Land Council to ascertain how we can best showcase and preserve the collection for the future.

2022 and 2023 have seen us attempt to implement some of the many recommendations of the 2021 Significance Assessment undertaken by a heritage consultant. The scope of this Assessment, along with the 2017 Interpretation Plan, is vast and all-encompassing and so we have attempted to identify a small number of manageable – but still complex and therefore challenging – goals, focussing mainly on fostering greater visitor engagement through storytelling and interpretive signage. Other priorities include digitising our photographic and documents collection, developing our vision and mission statements and relevant policy development, addressing our ongoing storage and display issues and constraints and developing risk management policies and procedures. We are also keen to source some form of curatorial expertise but so far have not been able to secure funding for this long-term goal.

We have recently been engaging with the Robert Menzies Institute at the University of Melbourne to secure funding to support the Jeparit Historical Society to have a Significance Assessment carried out but also to explore options for our own Museum to stage a Menzies-related exhibition, Sir Robert Menzies having been born in Jeparit when his family were prominent in the community.

Our Secretary Craige Proctor is participating in the regular History, Engagement and Preservation Partnerships webinars through Federation University about which we will hear more at the AGM.

We look forward to being a member group of the W.V.A.H.S. network.

Wendy Werner, President; Craige Proctor, Secretary



Goldfields Historical & Arts Society (M)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/289487515096170/>

The Dunolly Museum has been open on a regular basis which is our main source of income. Our activities outside the museum were significant these last six months.

We were heavily involved in the Dunolly Women's Art Trail. An augmented reality project honouring important local women comprising of a walk down the main street stopping at various locations and viewing artworks and stories linked to your phone.

We did a tour to Norwood Homestead and another to the ghost town of Wehla. These tours are a good social outing, fundraiser and a good source of new members. I would suggest this to other societies.

Members were active in getting the Dunolly Gold Rush Festival revived after not being held for fourteen years. We also helped in Dunolly girl Nancy Esmore's 101st birthday.

Next year we have the 150th anniversary of both the Dunolly Railway Station and the cork tree.

John Tully, President

Geelong & South Western Rail Heritage Society (S)

<https://geelongrailheritage.wordpress.com/>

Since our last report a year ago, much was planned but little delivered!

Our tours and events program for 2022 included three day trips and a 3-day long weekend tour to Murtoa and district plus a *Christmas in July* dinner. Uncertainty due to Covid-19 hindered planning for the first day tour in March and it was cancelled. We also gave up on planning the 3-day tour later in the year.

We organised and ran a popular day tour on Sunday 10 April 2022, to follow the railway from North Geelong to Ballarat to mark the 160th anniversary of its opening in 1862. Stops were made at all former (and the few current) stations and sidings. A very pleasant lunch of sandwich platters, assorted slices and fruit platters was held at the Lethbridge Winery, with most passengers purchasing a glass (or two) of wine to accompany their lunch. Afternoon tea was held in the Lal Lal Hall.

We had planned our now-annual Christmas in July dinner at our 1877 Birregurra Station headquarters. A combination of factors resulted in it being delayed for a month and we held a '*Christmas in July in August*' on Saturday 20 August. It comfortably booked out and a new caterer did a good job, given the very limited facilities. Several diners took advantage of the V/Line Warrnambool line train service to deliver them to the front door from Melbourne and Geelong. We timed the event to run from 3pm until 7pm (or later) to tie in with the train timetable. In previous years when we had hired a special vintage rail car to bring passengers to and from the event, we had run the dinner from 5pm until 9pm. Despite some concern that a two-hour earlier timing may not work, the open fire, pre-dinner drinks and nibbles, followed by the meal served from 5pm worked well and many locals were able to attend. In the past, they had to be largely excluded as we needed to fill the station with diners also travelling on the special train from Melbourne and Geelong to fill it up and pay for the significant hire cost. The new plan worked well, was far less stressful to plan and sell and we ended up with a similar or better 'profit' at the end of the evening.

Our third event was another day tour, on Sunday 18 September. The coach departed from North Geelong station at 09.30, connecting with a train from Melbourne. Morning tea was held at Birregurra Station. We then headed to nearby Irrewarra and commenced to follow the former railway from there to Beeac and Cressy. Lunch was held at the Farmers Arms Hotel in Beeac, followed by an inspection of the owner's vintage car collection. Afternoon tea was enjoyed at the Cressy History Centre while viewing their interesting displays, including an emphasis on their significant local railway history. We returned via Inverleigh to North Geelong by 17.30, connecting with a Melbourne train for those not from Geelong and district.

Planning of tours and events for 2023 commenced in late 2022 but has not progressed due to a number of factors. Some day tours and a *Christmas in July* event (in July!) should occur. All events and tours are open for public bookings. Like us and view updated event details on Face book: Birregurra Station or look at www.geelongrailheritage.org.au

Michael Menzies, President

Swan Hill Genealogical & Historical Society (M)

Our membership numbers are decreasing slightly but we have plenty of keen helpers keeping our Genie Room operating to research many enquiries.

We continue to enjoy a variety of guest speakers such as a local indigenous woman who shared stories about her life growing up living in a river camp. The local police sergeant was helpful and caring and wore casual clothes if speaking to her parents. She was late home once because she was intrigued by her friend having something new called a basketball. Her family were all searching for her, fearing she may have been taken. One very fond memory for her was enjoying new lollies called aniseed balls. Years later she studied nursing and worked at the Swan Hill Hospital with her career then taking her to work with American Indians, New Zealand Maori and with Indigenous communities in Western Australia.

Other interesting topics have been river boat building, archaeology, the local drill hall, a local family business owner plus a specialist shoemaker.

Several members put in a huge effort researching and organising an information session to celebrate 100 years of the local Woorinen Soldier Settlement with sixty very appreciative people attending.

Lyn Cunningham, President

Port Fairy Historical Society (S)

<https://portfairyhistoricalsocietyinc.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PortFairyHistoricalSociety/>

Port Fairy Museum and Archives have had a busy and productive year. Our general meetings featured four guest speakers, a show and tell and the reading of excerpts from an interesting book and in July and December we substituted luncheons.

On 10th of July several members travelled to Apollo Bay to the ninetieth year since the sinking of the *S.S. Casino*.

Two major activities were organised for the year, the first was a walk to four interesting locations where the history was read by different members and a photo portfolio was passed around.

The second was on July 30 a celebration of the 140th Anniversary of the arrival of *S.S. Casino*. Seventy people turned up at the museum where Richard Patterson introduced us to background of the ship then as our tour guide Glen Foster took the group on a walk along the wharf; the ships whistle sounded courtesy of Robert Whitehead and when we returned to King George Square the wreck bell tolled for the nine crew members lost when she sank ninety years earlier. The group then returned to the Museum where Judith Kershaw launched the book *The Casino Story* written by the late Stan Evans and edited by Richard Patterson. This event was shortlisted for an AMaGA award in October.

At the request of the Port Fairy RSL the Society took on a time-consuming project, providing the details of those Port Fairy service men and women who lost their lives during the two world wars and whose names are not included on the current memorials. Six of our members participated and the work was completed and presented to them in a book format in both digital and print.

We have published two books: *Gentlemen, Ghosts and Grand Designs* and a revised edition of *A Port Fairy Childhood*. Two small publications were printed in-house: the *Port Fairy Lighthouse and a dozen Early keepers* and *Reminiscences of our Port Fairy Childhood* with the last one becoming a best seller. Some Society members have also published their own books, Judith Kershaw with *She who Dares* and Anthony Phillips *We Dispense with Accuracy* with great success.

The Society was fortunate to obtain copies of Stan Evans' book *Fins, Scales and Sails* from the estate of Jim Crow Press in Daylesford.

During the year we were fortunate to receive a grant to digitise some tapes and films. Thanks go to Horsham for their information regarding the digitising firm.

A lovely new display case was donated to the Society in memory of our dear member Margaret Collins.

The Port Fairy Folk Festival contributed 50% of the cost of two new display boards that can be opened out and used on both sides, on castors, making them easier to store and move. The National Trust in Port Fairy and Nullawil were the recipients of several of our redundant boards.

The Museum is now closed to allow painting to take place in the main courtroom; all of the furniture was removed because of the scaffolding needed to paint the ceiling.

In closing we extend our congratulations to the WVAHS for reaching sixty years' existence, we are very happy to be part of this enthusiastic band of men and women who have believed in the importance of our museums connecting and networking for our mutual gains.

Lynda Tieman, Judith Kershaw

Carisbrook Historical Society (M)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1436750269909379/>



Carisbrook is still active. Members have been beavering away still indexing and photographing. We have finished transcribing the Inquests relevant to our district, our newspaper Births, Deaths and Marriages Index from the local paper is almost complete, only needing the new ones added as they come in. It's very handy for Family History as you get the modern ones and related family members.

"The Logs " is still something to be proud of. The members are planning to attack the myriad photos we have and are finishing the Index, for ease of access. Our new overhead scanner is up ready and the members are learning to use it. The old Rates and Waterworks books had better beware as they're on the to-do list.

Judy Healey, President



Landsborough & District Historical Group (W)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066833657529>

We have had another busy and successful year at Landsborough. The end of Covid-related restrictions has enabled our monthly meetings to proceed as normal and we continue to work on re-organising our Barkly Room with changing displays, filing away paperwork and general outdoor maintenance. Like all smaller Historical groups and societies, we continue to face challenges with attracting younger members and we have had some very low numbers at our monthly meetings, especially in the colder weather.

We have continued to research and publish local family histories in our three-times-yearly Newsletter, "The Landsborough Times" and we hope to incorporate around sixty or seventy families into our book *History of Landsborough 1862-2022* due out later in the year. We continue to receive many family-related enquiries by both email and social media (on our Facebook page) and are able to tap into our considerable resources of photos and other written material relating to old families.

In October 2022 the Landsborough Hall celebrated its centenary and the event attracted hundreds of current and many former residents to the town. It was a wonderful day and we had many visitors to the Barkly Room looking for information on their ancestors as well as a look at the displays and photos. The success of this event illustrates perfectly that we can attract families with links to Landsborough back and with the support of the community we can finally plan more events. We have had a number of personal visits from family descendants in recent months including descendants from the Wright, Work, Perry, Appelt, Palmer, Hanley and Turner families.

On the book front we have now completed a third reprint of the highly successful railway book - which is now up to 600 copies - and the final 100 are also selling steadily. We hope to support the book with some historical signage at old station sites around the district with the support of possible grants and the local councils. Work is ongoing. A book on the hotels of Landsborough and surrounds is also nearly completed, and a reprinted booklet on the history of Landsborough Hall also sold well over the centenary weekend. We look forward to continuing our work documenting the history of Landsborough and its pioneers with the support of all our members and the wider community.

Brett Leslie, President; Kaye Daly, Secretary; Diane Western, Treasurer; on behalf of the Landsborough & District Historical Group

Balmoral Historical Society (W)

<https://www.facebook.com/balmoralhistoricalsociety>



Every time I write one of these reports of late it always seems to revolve around the restoration of the Courthouse. Well, here I go again!

The building itself has now been completed ...HOORAY!!!! Furnishings and artefacts have been moved out of storage and back where they belong.

What the Society has now focussed on is the grounds and fencing around the building as these were in an unsafe state and could be a hazard for the public coming into the Courthouse. Last year's Garage Sale was an amazing success. This along with generous donations from Community groups has enabled the Society to have the side fence fully replaced. And this took a year with trade people letting us down and non-turn ups. But thankfully a local came to the rescue when what was left of the side fence collapsed during bad weather. The front fence pickets have been replaced and painted by Society members. (Never want to see cream paint again, all those hours of hand painting undercoats and topcoats).

A new member (yes that's right new members) with landscaping knowledge, along with a community minded person pooled their know-how and graded the grounds around the Courthouse. The water will be channelled away from the building ensuring it survives for another hundred years or so. Hopefully those pesky, hungry termites do not find the Courthouse appealing again. We believe they have been removed from the area. Another home for them was also removed... a shed in the back of the block that had been a storage for wood and cans.

The Easter weekend market was upon us again and is a huge drawcard in the area. Locals and holiday-makers all travel in for the morning. The Society used this again to raise funds. The Garage Sale was again a great success. But what was more astonishing was the number of people, many in family groups, who came down and went through the Courthouse and onto the Gaol at the rear.

Many gladly made a gold coin donation upon entry. Also, the Society was able to sell merchandise. There were enquires about Heritage walks so this will be on the agenda for the coming year with emphasis at the beginning being on what is around the township itself and then expanding further afield.

So, the Society can get back to gathering knowledge and enjoy what is in the area and not be worrying about correct materials, trade people or budgets and reports. FINALLY!!!

Denize Raggat, Secretary/Treasurer



Ouyen District History & Genealogy Centre (W)

<https://www.ouyen.vic.au/history/>

Our last Annual Meeting was held on 28 October 2022 with guest speaker John Burch speaking about Aboriginal Pathways through the Mallee. This was the culmination of October's History Month activities with the theme 'Ouyen- the way it was'. Various groups were invited to meet at the Centre during October.

The History Centre has become a place of social connectedness with more visitors, both local and travellers, taking the opportunity to include Ouyen in their travel plans as they come seeking family history. Others have indicated they wish to visit the Centre as they can now plan trips ahead with more confidence. When volunteers are available we have opened up on other days to accommodate travellers who cannot always be in Ouyen on a Friday between 9.30 am and 4 pm, the regular opening day. A new large 'open' flag is helping to attract more visitors to the Centre.

The final Ouyen Farmers Festival was held last Melbourne Cup Day. The History Centre set up a memorabilia display of photos, trophies, prize ribbons etc. from past Shows. This display attracted lots of visitors, including the ABC.

The Ouyen History Centre featured on the back cover of the December edition of 'Ancestor' helping further promote and encourage a greater awareness of this valuable resource and community asset.

The current display at the Centre has the theme 'Walpeup- the way it was'. Many Walpeup photos and memorabilia are now on display. This theme has been chosen as a lead up to the Centenary of the Walpeup Memorial Hall which is to be celebrated on 23rd September 2023. The Walpeup Memorial Hall was built and dedicated in 1923 as a memorial to local soldiers who lost their lives during World War 1.

A new photocopier has recently been purchased and installed at the History Centre complete with a training session.

Our Secretary Sue has just completed the huge task of transcribing the Shire of Walpeup Rate books from 1912-1940. This project has taken many years to complete.

We have applied for a Local History Grant to have the *Ouyen Mail* from 1911-1915 and from 1918-1931 digitised on Trove. In February I sent a letter to the Minister for the Arts, Tony Burke, to express concern about reports of the perilous state of Trove so the invaluable work of NLA and Trove is protected and supported.

Facebook continues to be an efficient and cost-free way to reach out to a wider audience and keep followers up to date with what is happening on the history front.

Merle Pole, President

Terang & District Historical Society (S)

<https://www.teranghistory.org.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/teranghistoricalsociety/>



The Terang & District Historical Society Inc. has really enjoyed the time since the last W.V.A.H.S. Meeting.

Our meetings on the third Monday evening usually have 25 – 35 members attend and contribute to the meeting, along with a 'Show and Tell' segment prior to supper. No one is in a hurry to leave.

One of our highlights is the construction of a Fuller Windmill adjacent to the main street, and a second one which we have obtained will be situated at the Warrnambool entrance to the town. Fuller windmills were constructed in Terang at a windmill factory in Grey Street and dispatched throughout Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. The former Factory site was then used for Housing Commission Homes, all of which are now privately owned.

Our Society is undergoing significant updates. We have a grant to purchase newspaper storage boxes and additional photo pockets.

Our Newsletter is published every three months and goes to all our extensive membership as well as to new residents in our town, some of whom have already now paid membership.

Thank you for the opportunity that we have to share with each other through the Zone Meetings of the W.V.A.H.S.

Roybert McIntosh, President

Pyramid Hill & District Historical Society (M)

<https://www.pyramidhill.net.au/pyramid-hill-museum/>

The research for the plaques to be placed around the town with a history of the buildings has been completed and plaques are attached to buildings. It has been rather interesting but very time consuming. The *Pyramid Hill Advertiser* has been a great help in researching the previous businesses in the town. A Grant was received from FRRR and a donation from the Op Shop to finance the project.

A Grant has been received to extend the storage and working area and into the Annex and this is almost completed. A working bee will be held to rearrange objects in the Annex.

We continue to receive interesting objects to be catalogued. A large spanner stamped with J. H. Kelly on the handle has been donated. Kelly was the blacksmith on the site where the Museum is now. He was also a Shire Councillor of Swan Hill Shire then Gordon Shire and involved in many activities in the young town such as the Mounted Rifles and Fire Brigade.

Relatives of Mounted Constable Lang presented the Museum with a riding whip and silver spurs gifted to Mtd Const Lang, housed in a glass case. He resided in Pyramid Hill from 1903 -1906.

Another interesting object is a silver cup presented during the 1930s by the Agricultural & Pastoral Society for a cropping competition with winning farmers names engraved on it.

We have received a book on the history of Kevin Sarre who broke his shearing record in Harrison's shearing shed at Gladfield. Harrison's have donated the seven-stand shearing plant he used in their shed to be placed in our new complex. The record was 327 in one day, recorded by the local policeman.

There have been several descendants of migrants visiting the Museum wanting to find out more information about where they lived and where the quarry was. These migrants were called the 'Balts' and came from the Baltic countries in the late 1940s and spent two years working at the Pyramid Quarry.

Research into the Caledonian Society and Pyramid Hill Pipe Band history has been printed. Our launch was planned but had to be cancelled due to COVID so most copies ordered have been collected. In the 1920s there were Caledonian Societies in many towns where there were members of Scottish heritage. There were meetings in towns around Victoria with Caledonian societies. where delegates from these societies met. Pipe Bands were also formed. Pyramid Hill Pipe Band was active until the mid-1960s.

It is Interesting to note that Pyramid Hill now has many Filipinos meeting and holding functions with delicious food and Filipino dancing. I suppose many of you would have seen the *Back Roads* programme featuring Pyramid Hill and Nhill.

Dr Jennifer Jones from Latrobe campus at Albury had been doing research into early settlement of our area and visited the Museum a few months ago. She went to Mt Hope to view scar trees etc .and over to Boort to see Paul Haw's display of Aboriginal artifacts. She came back to Pyramid Hill a week ago and an afternoon was arranged for her to tell of her findings regarding early settlement and how Aborigines coped. A number were employed on Mt Hope Station and she found employment records. Afternoon tea was had and then Dr Rod Boucher, a geological consultant at Latrobe University, Bendigo gave a presentation on the geological formation of Pyramid Hill, the Terrick Ridge and Kow Swamp. To finish the afternoon the "Lake of Scars" documentary produced for SBS over five months was screened.



Helen Stevens

Wedderburn Historical Records Museum (M)

<https://wedderburnhistorical.com.au>

As usual Darryl and I have been busy scanning and referencing documents into the database and have now processed over 91,000 records. We are both currently working on the *Wedderburn Express* newspapers. Darryl started from the last publication in 1996 and has worked back to 1957, and I started from its beginning in 1888 and have reached 1909. Sooner or later we'll meet in the middle!

A few weeks ago we gave a presentation for the aged care residents at Inglewood hospital where, with the aid of a large screen TV, we were able to display records from the system relative to the twenty or so residents and staff who attended. Many residents were amazed to see photos of themselves at school, including a couple of ladies dressed in their debutante ball outfits.

The first stage of our QR code project at the Wedderburn Cemetery has now been completed with 75 grave stones receiving a QR code which links to an audio slideshow presentation showing photos and detailing the life of some of our pioneers from the 1850s onwards.

The second stage is to receive requests from the town's residents to add more QR codes on gravestones that they feel deserve to be recognised. We can also produce the audio slideshows and QR codes for the grave sites of loved ones other than pioneers (and even for grave sites other than Wedderburn Cemetery). The cost of producing the pioneers QR codes is covered by the Historical Records Museum and the cost for non-pioneers is \$49, the proceeds of which help to fund our operation.

You may want to scan the QR code shown here to take a look at one of the presentations. A complete list of all of the pioneers whom we have covered can be seen on our website at <https://wedderburnhistorical.com.au> – click on the *Pioneers* link at the top of the page.

From there you can also print out a map of the cemetery which shows the exact location of each grave site, plus details on how to arrange the production of a QR Code.

4. Joseph Morecroft



Darryl Arnott, President
Alan Mulraney, Secretary

Nhill and District Historical Society (W)

<https://visitwimmeramallee.com.au/business-listing/nhill-district-historical-society/>

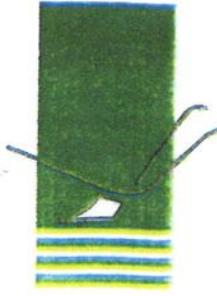
Hindmarsh Shire Council taking over responsibilities of our old Lowan Shire building. Following a visit from DELWP, the owners of the building, it was suggested that the building should be demolished and the land sold. A visit to Hindmarsh Shire led to them taking a different point of view and they agreed to take on the committee of management of the building. NDHS now lease the building from Hindmarsh Shire Council.

NDHS Researcher doing many searches for people calling in and by email. We thank our researcher Colleen Forbes for handling the many requests and providing quality information which has been well appreciated by our members and clients.

Original Lowan Shire Council Chairs. Two old Lowan Shire Council chairs were discovered in the Nhill library in good condition and are now in our building. The search then began for the remaining six chairs. The chairs were found at the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum at Jeparit and have now been relocated back to our premises in Nhill. The six chairs need to be repaired, so we have applied for a sponsorship from Horsham Sport and Community Club to have them re-upholstered. We already had the original Council table and president's chair so we will be able to recreate the scene of the Lowan Council meetings for public display.

Painting John Webster Lawson Lorquon East, 'Devils Corner'. The painting is originally from Nhill Library and dated 1898. Lawson was the principal of the Art School in Nhill at the time. Isla Dart researched the artist and painting and found it to be the oldest painting in the district.

Ross Barker, Secretary/Treasurer



Warracknabeal & District Historical Society (W)

<https://www.warracknabealhistory.org.au/>

Both of our Museums were very slow to recover visitor numbers following Covid. However, our Warehouse bounced back fairly quickly, people making up for previously lost opportunities.

We have found a structural problem with the Historical Centre's building and, as the Shire owns the building, we are working with them to solve the problem.

We continue to receive many research requests, most of which we are able to assist with.

For the Queen's Jubilee we had a special display which was well received by the locals and we continued this when she died. The front gate has been removed from the Centre, opening up the entrance. We received a donation from a Queensland couple, of a set of cups and saucers featuring the Post Office. We have since found a matching plate. Members have sorted through boxes of items stored in the bank vault making much more room for items we need to keep. Photos are also being added to our collection. Old blinds have been replaced by UV blinds which look really good.

We were able to hold a Rally last year at the Museum. Though hastily organised, it was a great success with a musical event happening on the Sunday afternoon. We received two small grants for advertising and gate keeping which assisted us greatly to organise the Rally. The new "old shearing shed" was opened and demonstrations of blade and machine shearing took place. Since then a shadow board of shearing gear has been added.

Over Easter we held the 2023 Rally which again was a great success. Exhibitors took part in Saturday's Street Parade, and there were demonstrations of chaff cutting, baling and starting some of the very old tractors. We featured McDonald tractors, our 1913 McDonald being highlighted. We again held a concert on Sunday which was enjoyed by all who attended. Crowds had food, drink & craft stalls to peruse and children had a zoo, face painting and Lego to keep them occupied.

Plumbing of storm water at the Museum is ongoing and hopefully will be completed soon.

Members have attended rallies at Jeparit, Wedderburn, Lockington, Korumburra and several others.

Ongoing restoration continues with several tractors, engines and a saw bench being restored. Last year we purchased a new ride-on mower to cope with the grass growth. We also purchased a container to store it in.

Geoff Lovel donated Official Weights and Measures liquid measures that he used when Health Inspector. We now have full sets of weights, liquid, length and grain measures. Geoff was Guest Speaker at a general meeting, telling us how these measures were used throughout the Wimmera and Mallee. In future these will be displayed in two large cabinets at the Museum.

We have also recently added to the Museum's collection, a beautiful display of hand-carved horses, carts & wagons all done by one of Warracknabeal's very talented residents.

The Warehouse continues to be well used by locals and travellers. We have recently introduced an EFTPOS machine which is proving very popular, though initially challenging for staff. A new sign has been placed on the east side of the building. Volunteers also completed a defibrillator refresher course which was very much appreciated. Presently the Warehouse is well stocked, but not quite bursting at the seams! So feel free to visit.

We held a Christmas function at Glenwillan homestead, gathering members from all our sections together to celebrate the season. In February all our sections held their AGMs. Next weekend we will celebrate fifty years since the opening of our Machinery Museum.

Best wishes to all other Societies for a successful 2023.



Lesley Stephan, Secretary

Nullawil Historical Society (M)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100054448721590>

The last twelve months have been topsy turvy for the Nullawil Historical Society.

April 2022

We opened the museum on Easter Monday to the public. Several members were there doing odd jobs during the day. We had a few people drop in so that was good.

May 2022

May was a very busy month. We had four different groups, from Probus groups to car clubs. These groups attend for varying amounts of time from one and a half hours including morning tea or a whole day including morning tea and lunch. Many of the groups are restricted by timetables which the organisers of the trip have put together. The hour and a half is not long enough and people often comment "Oh we wish we could have stayed longer."

The museum is only open by appointment and people ring up and say, "There is only a couple of people, is that alright?" Of course it is, we say, we don't mind at all.

We also hosted the Nullawil football club progressive tea main meal. We were able to seat around a hundred people. It was a great night with a great atmosphere.

June was very quiet and July we had one group.

August 2022

We hosted the Buloke Tourism board Annual General Meeting. We were able to give them a conducted tour and show them what our museum has to offer.

September 2022

This month was probably the highlight of our year. We hosted the Knox Photographic Club for a whole day. They were very enthusiastic and took lots of photos as well as videos and they even put up a drone. The group were very generous to us and sent us over a hundred photos from their day with which we are able to do what we want. Some photos are water marked but we are happy to advertise their photography. We have used a couple of their photos in our revamped and reprinted brochure.

October 2022

Well, what a month this was. We welcomed a trade travel group early in the month and had four other groups booked in including the WVAHS zone meeting. It started to rain and rain some more, so much that everything for the next two months had to be cancelled.

December 2022

We hosted a children's ecumenical service in early December which was the hottest day for the

whole summer, around 40 degrees. It was a very well-attended day and we were able to supply morning tea thanks to the Buloke Shire bounce back grant. The Nullawil Progress Association held a Christmas evening with Santa as the attraction. It is normally held in O'Brien Park but this year they accepted our offer to hold the evening at the Museum. It was a well-attended evening and the consensus was it was a great place to have it and the atmosphere was fantastic.

2023

We hold monthly meetings at the Museum on the last Sunday of the month and these often entail a working bee first. Because of Covid-19 the members BYO lunch and then we hold our meeting.

We decided to start the year with something different. On the last Sunday in January we went to the Catalina Flying Boat Museum and were the tourists for a change. We had over twenty people attend and Steve Pentreath, the new manager at the Museum, was a wonderful host. There was an area where we were able to have lunch and hold our meeting. A great day as had by all.

February and March 2023

The last two months have been very busy at the Museum. Throughout March we had five groups including Trade Travel, Probus, Lions and car clubs.

At our February meeting it was noticed that the ceiling in the kitchen in our house was starting to fall. The members galvanised into action. With the help of a building contact we were able to get on to a plasterer who would put a new ceiling in. The members worked hard to pull the old ceiling down and while they were at it make repairs to the roof. This was part of the reason why the ceiling had fallen as the roof was leaking. The ceiling has not only been replaced but painted as well. This was a huge job by all concerned as we had to empty the kitchen and then put it back together. This was the start of a total clean from top to bottom of Auchmore House. It is now sparkling.

We are hosting a Watson family reunion on April 16th and this family were very prominent in the Nullawil district. There will be over 160 attendees and we wanted our museum to be well presented for this event.

Some other jobs that the Historical Society has undertaken are the building of a new shed to look old to house the many wagons we have. Our half school portable has been turned into a Room of Remembrance where we are putting all our war memorabilia.

We were able to get many of our photos scanned through the Horsham Camera House and a 6x4 version printed which gives us a fantastic resource now for the future.

People are still willing to donate or loan us items. We had a cabinet with glass fronts that has now been filled with a doll collection.

All in all, we find plenty to keep us busy and in the back of our minds recognise that we still have a long way to go to put a story to items and to catalogue our vast collection.

We are very grateful for all the hard work of not only our members but members of the community that pitch in when we need extra hands.

We are willing to put our hands up to host the Zone Meeting later in the year and we would love as many people as possible to come and visit our Museum.

Kaylene James, Assistant Secretary

Colac & District Historical Society (S)

<https://colachistoricalsociety.org.au/>

The past year has been one of progress, but seemingly in slow motion as we have emerged from the Covid lockdowns. Many of our members are involved in multiple organisations requiring volunteers.

Our opening hours three days a week rarely requires members to be available more than once a month and we welcomed some new names to the roster, while the depth of local knowledge by our senior members is a great benefit to visitors to the History Centre.

Activities have included a visit to the Camperdown Heritage Centre in June and a visit to the clubrooms and museum of the Colac Rifle Club in November.

Meeting programs included contributions by both members and visiting guests.

AGM	Norman Houghton Centennial Businesses of Colac
Michael Menzies	South West Railways
Dr Heather Threadgold	Gulidjan Stones & Stories
Dr Leon Bren	Researching Lake Corangamite
Helen Paatsch	Joseph Paatsch – A German Catholic Immigrant to Colac in 1855

Our February meeting took the form of a BBQ at 'Balnagowan' where our hosts Leigh and Jan Rich spoke of the history of the imposing home and their work in its ongoing restoration.

The quarterly newsletter has continued to produce excellent in-depth articles of historic interest and there has been excellent contribution from members in hosting primary school visits. I believe that this is an important role for the Society at a time when the study of our history seems to be increasingly squeezed out of school curriculums.

We continue to receive a steady flow of research inquiries, as well as donated items and artefacts of local interest which can't always be properly displayed or stored.

The installation of a shipping container in a secure and accessible location, the Shire Works Depot, has been an ongoing saga. It was delayed for a year by shortage of containers and the time lag in gaining the necessary Shire permits. It is now finally in position, ready for fitting out and transfer of historic artefacts, from another container situated out of town on an elderly member's property.

Book sales are a regular source of income and we are indebted to members who have written local histories which are sold through the History Centre. 'Historic Homes of Colac' is out of print. It is currently being revised for a reprint, together with 'Street Names of Colac'. These projects are time consuming.

We have supported efforts to re-open the Information Centre and revitalise the Sculpture Park.

Window displays continue to be a feature, and we have utilized the resources of both the co-tenants to showcase our collections as well as significant milestones and events.

A small team has continued sorting, re-cataloguing and boxing our bulging collection of clothing..

We are fortunate to have a local resident keep our website current. However, a blockage or danger warnings which appeared when people tried to access the website late last year has been the cause of much frustration. Considerable time, energy and cost has been expended in finding a solution.

Last year I mentioned that we seemed to have become embroiled in a dispute between Eastern Maar Nation, who sought photocopies of all our documents, and the Gulidjan Tribe descendants. We have recently met with John Clark from Eastern Maar to clarify the matter. He informed us that they were developing a Memorandum of Understanding so that there is uniformity of understanding in their dealings with all Historical Societies.

Robert Missen, President



Glenthompson Historical Group (S)

<https://www.facebook.com/glenthompsonhistory/>



The Glenthompson History Centre, as many of you know, had to completely close down for serious structural repairs back in 2019. Then just when we were hoping to re-open, COVID hit, and while it initially didn't affect us in the form of lockdowns, it did affect our ability to finish off the last few upgrades due to the relevant groups and organisation we had applied to for funding, being unable to hold meetings to give approval. But we are pleased to say, we were finally able to re-open over the Queen's Birthday long weekend in 2022. The new display cases and shelving have made a huge difference to the manner in which we are displaying some of our collection and they have also made a big difference to the room inside the centre. We hope to have a computer set up soon with a slideshow of much of the collections.

In 2022 we approached Services Australia about the possibility of becoming a volunteer organisation for people who are required to do volunteer work to meet their Centrelink requirements. I'm happy to say we were approved and now have two people on our books in this capacity. One is focused primarily on researching and scanning, while the other is working on maintenance and refurbishment. This is a great help to us while minimising the amount of travel these people need to do, as previously, the closest businesses approved were a minimum of 50km away.

We are also working closely with the local cemetery committee to try to move towards getting our cemetery online with a company called Chronicle. Ouyen, Boort, Warracknabeal, Apsley, Narrawong, Warrnambool and Tooram are already some of the cemeteries online with this company. All our records are currently handwritten, so we need to create an Excel spreadsheet first. If all goes well, we may be online by the end of the year. Fingers crossed. It has been a slow road forward, but we are finally getting there and we invite anyone to drop in for a visit when in the area. We are open monthly on the second Sunday from 12-2pm or by appointment, simply by giving me a call on 0438 774 215

Tracey Potatau-Wright, Secretary

Horsham Historical Society (W)

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hhs/>



Some activities Horsham members have participated in include the AGM last July at the Exchange Hotel followed by a pub crawl through the building, a visit to Horsham's Military Museum and a visit to the Fire Brigade Museum, an historical street walk, a guest speaker, a former teacher at State School 298 and a visit to the Lapidary Club in Horsham's old Jail behind the old Police station which also houses Community Radio Station HHH.

The Christmas breakup lunch was held at the Historic Longerenong Homestead and gardens where the Horsham Brass band performed for us.

Our monthly meetings are now held at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. We are open to the public every Tuesday and Wednesday between 1.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. Up to a dozen members are often working in the rooms when we are open and the Secretary is busy three mornings a week.

Monthly articles in the *Wimmera Mail Times* have covered the hotels and now the history of local hospitals. Two members have scanned and typed from a several hundred-page handwritten book on Horsham Hotels by Doreen Righetti and donated a number of the updated books to the Society, which makes these easier to read and research than the working with the original handwritten book.

Adding to our collection of museum items and photos is constrained by space limitations. We were given a glass display case that now houses a collection of memorabilia from the well-known Toy's Restaurant.

Successful grant applications in the last twelve months were used for binding loose copies of the *Wimmera Mail Times* to help preserve them for future generations. The Horsham Rural City Council grant helped this to happen. Other grants from the Greyhound Club and the Horsham Sports and Community Club went towards mounting Honour boards from the Italian Social Club in the Historical Society passageway, restoring the external Historical Society sign and replacing all the computer keyboards and mice. Current grant applications are for binding the *Horsham Times* newspapers and more *Wimmera Mail Times* newspapers as well as upgrading all the computers to Windows 11. We have also applied for grants to replace a negative and slide scanner that has ceased to function properly.

The Council-owned building we use, formerly the Mechanics' Institute, has had an external face lift with a fresh paint job in heritage colours and gold leaf lettering. This was long overdue and the proximity to high voltage power lines had been a factor.

Rod Jenkinson, President

Birchip Historical Society (M)

<https://www.birchip.vic.au/history-museum>



Birchip Historical Society has weathered the storm of Covid 19 with fewer meetings, emailed correspondence and meetings when possible with lots of research being done, articles written for *The Buloke Times* and a regular column titled 'Birchip 100 years ago', which has now been joined by Donald and Charlton who also have looked back to see what happened when the Spanish Flu came to Australia and continued on.

We lost a good member when Mrs Betty Connelly died but fortunately have gained three more members recently. Monthly meetings have been held when possible and members have had displays for the two Mali Heart Festivals held on the long weekends of March in 2022 and 2023 at which photos of the town and street buildings were showcased at the Museum to fit in with the changes that have been made in Cumming Avenue, the main Street. Much research was done for artists involved with the street wall Art for both years to provide accurate pictures of heritage machines, flora and fauna of the area.

Our Archivist Elaine has spent many months indexing papers again to fit in with the computer programme now being used.

Several historic artefacts were removed from the median strip and although several were not planned on being returned, we have seen that they will certainly return, better than ever with the help of the Men's Shed and some other keen helpers. The stump jump plough has been repaired and is ready to return as soon as a suitable base can be constructed. The Centenary Clock is being worked on while the Original Bills Trough is being repaired and we have a beautiful new piece of wall art on the south wall of our museum showing two horses drinking from a Bills Trough. Birchip was one of only a few towns to once have two Bills Troughs, possibly because we have five roads coming into the town at one end and two from the other end. We have also been involved in plans to retain some heritage buildings that were marked for demolition. The quest continues there with continued and new use of some.

We also had a photo display of school photos from the 1960s and some books from former teachers and clothing on display this year.

I have translated a small pencil soldier's diary of the late Roger Hogan who died in 1917, a day after World War 1 ended. He was a stretcher bearer in the Army and wrote about his training days in Salisbury England, the many flat races he won and the trip on the troop ship to England. His very tiny writing was hard to read, very faint and the script, although excellent, could not be read by present students.

I have also worked with a student doing training at the Birchip Learning Centre on projects about interesting monuments in the town.

Research by members has been done for Scanlons, Clothing for Catherine Gay, a PHD student, the Small Family, Paton, Easdale, McBurney, Wilson, Peverill, Peck, Affleck, Carnegie, Marmion, Bull, Adcock, Richmond families and the Football, Hockey, Netball and Bowls Clubs. All are time consuming but appreciated and add some much-needed funds.

Articles for the *Buloke Times* have included the plan for a Consolidated School in 1914, Arthur Duncan (A.D.) Hillgrove, Birchip Hospital Auxiliary History, Tracking Down a Best Street in Birchip Trophy and the weekly 100 years in Birchip column.

Several articles and cuttings and photos have been received, the latest being a little box of photos from a Les Brooks from Wales who worked in the district from 1945 to 1955 and sent letters and photos home. The result was that many of his family members came to Australia from the unhealthy mines they worked in.

Research into the Madonna Tree for a Warracknabeal writer resulted in photos and an article in his latest book.

A useful file of maps was received from the family of a former keen family researcher who grew up in the area and we were able to gift on a set of baby scales and school desk.

One member was able to attend the Donald Christmas dinner and we have been able to share knowledge between that society and Nullawil, which has been very useful.

Like all societies, we would love some more members, some more funds and some more time to do all the work we need to do but we will plod on ever hopeful and thankful for those who encourage us.

Maureen Donnellon, Secretary



Maryborough Midlands Historical Society (M)

<https://mmhs.net.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Maryborough-Midlands-Historical-Society-Inc/100064704275091/>



It's been a year of highs and lows and waiting ... and more waiting. Three years after the damaged Worsley Cottage south wall was braced and we were instructed by Council not to allow volunteers or visitors to enter the building, the renovations to walls and foundations are finally about to begin. Packing and relocating the displays and furniture from the Cottage in January was an enormous task. Committee members packed boxes and washed curtains and bedspreads, two Rotary members spent a morning helping to move furniture, and our dedicated garden volunteers cleared the build-up of weeds and pruned back bushes and trees close to the work area. Special thanks to MMHS Treasurer Rod Nielsen, who coordinated the whole process and packed and shifted many of the boxes, items of furniture, photographs and artefacts. Unfortunately permits and power company issues have delayed the starting date by another six weeks. We're hoping that the Cottage, which has always been the focal point of our publicity, may be open to visitors later this year and that normal operations in our Research Centre can also resume.

Now for some high points:

In the latest round of grants announced by the Central Goldfields Shire, our Society was awarded funding for a computer and scanner, which are to be used by the volunteers working on our historic photograph collection.

With the co-operation of the Maryborough District Health Service, our Society has recently added to its collection photographs and a set of leadlight windows that formed part of the Clarendon Street 1930s house which was demolished to make way for medical student accommodation. We also have in our collection the foundation stone for the 1930 Baby Health Centre (later VicRoads office), demolished in July 2022 to allow space for the new hospital building. Our volunteers have photographed the building's exterior and stages of demolition.

Generous donors continue to offer contributions to our collection, providing a wide range of Maryborough-related items, ranging from books to complete 1960s school uniforms to an impressive set of scales and weights formerly used in a Maryborough bank.

Society member and computer expert Craig Roberts, who has recently researched the history of mining on Bristol Hill, has constructed our new web page, which has been frustratingly out of date for years. We're grateful that Tom Woolman continues to maintain our Facebook page, imparting his vast knowledge of Maryborough history.

Although our Research Centre will be closed to visitors and volunteers until the Cottage renovations are completed, we've relocated our email service, and continue to respond to a constant stream of email enquiries. Some also arrive via our website and Facebook page. The queries range from family history issues to street name searches to media enquiries (for example the story of Tilly Aston, after whom the Aston electorate – soon to hold a by election- is named). We've carried out research for the local council, run history walks around town, and one of our committee members is taking part in meetings of the Maryborough Heritage Review Reference Group.

The highlight for the Society this year has been the publication of Craig Roberts' meticulously researched *Quartz Hill*. When Craig moved to a home adjacent to Bristol Hill and took his dog for walks, he was struck by the fact that "although thousands of tons of quartz were extracted from the many mine shafts that dotted the hill, no buildings, foundations, or rusted equipment remain" The detailed bibliography and reference list reveal the enormous amount of time that Craig has spent locating material on line, in old newspapers and reports, and at the Public Record Office. The index includes the names of many well-known Maryborough residents whose main claim to fame was in other areas of public life, for example Dr Robert Henry Dunn, surgeon at the Maryborough Hospital from 1857 to 1901, who was also financially involved in mining companies.

A very successful author talk and book signing took place at the Maryborough Library on March 7. The Society owes a huge debt of gratitude to Craig, firstly because of his contribution to Maryborough's written history, but secondly because he has donated the proceeds of book sales to MMHS.

Barbara Nielsen, President

Dimboola and District Historical Society (W)

<https://www.dimboolahistory.org.au/>



The little Courthouse Museum has been having its fair share of the tourist trade here in Dimboola, partly because we are in the thick of the shopping area and have a few specialty shops surrounding us, and partly due to people's interest in history, which is very refreshing. Over Easter we had sixty people through, some having ties with our district through their ancestors and so forth. It's bemusing when people come in and say their great-great-great-whatever lived, worked, and made a mark here in Dimboola and you go searching through the archive resulting in the room looking like a storm has passed through only to find they rethink it through later and we find they were in towns and even states away.

Our inheritance through a deceased estate now ten years past is still an ongoing issue as the Solicitor in charge has failed miserably to do his duty and finalise the estate which continues to drain the estate's funds and ours. Every single avenue known has been pursued by DDHS as the major beneficiary to have the bequest honoured. The story is quite unbelievable that a person's last wishes in a simple uncomplicated will, after ten years cannot be resolved because the legal system is so flawed.

In March the Dimboola Tower Park was officially opened. A huge crowd of past and present residents came to witness the rebirth of the site as a community space where the once magnificent Dimboola Hotel stood. The site's redevelopment, accomplished solely by volunteers, is a credit to all involved.

The Hotel was destroyed by fire in 2003. The structure was significant to the very origins of Dimboola, as it sat on the site of the first wine shanty and store erected in 1859 by Mathew Ternan, a young Irishman, and saw the last Dimboola Hotel, a magnificent brick structure built in 1930, destroyed by fire in 2003. There were earlier wooden Dimboola Hotels on the site that were renovated through the

years to keep up with the times. The Hotel's iconic tower has been re-created with historic interpretation and photographs of the hotel through the years. The society provided the historical content as well as facilitating with information for the short film that local film maker Tracey Rigney produced on the history of the Hotel. A continuing Pergola made from the former huge timbers of the old Wimmera River bridge run around the edges of the park and paths have been laid with pavers bearing the names of families past and present, individuals, groups, etc. Lawn and seating provide rest and relaxation. The old adjoining brick wall that formed the south side of the hotel has a large black and white shadowed sign as a memorial to the hotel, painted by graphic artist Travis Price who, incidentally, is the son of one of the former proprietors of the very hotel. Other structures represent symbolic gestures to the hotel's memory.

Now we are busy getting organised for the big steampunk event for Dimboola and will have the rooms open over the weekend as well as the Print Museum. Estimates are now over 5,000 people coming for the event. Good grief! We have created a new display in the window of the former Westfields Holden Dealership, of Past Dimboola Blacksmiths. This will complement the local agricultural plough display in the adjoining car yard space. At the courthouse we will have a display of Steampunk-type items reflecting the theme of the event, The Time Traveler's Soiree. It should be a fun time with all the dress ups; we can go nuts on that theme.

We are currently searching for an insurance company that will take on asset protection for our print museum and IT equipment owned by the society. And at this stage we are waiting on a response from Ansvar Insurance, working with RHSV after we submitted further information required for suitability. It's been over a month since we have heard that we were rejected along with thirty-seven other groups and our print building is not insured at this present time. Insurance is a nightmare for all organisations, more so in the rural sector, and it only takes the fallout from one major serious event being global or national that affects premiums. RHSV has been able to provide Public Liability and personal accident cover and we are very grateful for that. We will have to seek local insurance if we fail to meet the stringent criteria. Unfortunately, old buildings don't fare well and we are definitely not confident. We would be interested in knowing how others are getting on.

Evelyn King, Secretary

Camperdown and District Historical Society (S)

<https://camperdownhistory.org.au/>



2022/23 has seen a welcome return to normal for us after two years of Covid disruptions. Highlights for 2022/23 include:

Two very interesting talks by members Pat Walsh AM in February 2022 on researching and writing his book *Milking our Memories* about the Walsh family of South Purrumbete and Laura Flanagan in July 2022 on *Talkie Silence: The Changing Soundscape of Camperdown's Mechanics' Theatre*.

The Covid-delayed *Aboriginal and Culture Workshop and Bus Tour* (March 2022) and *European Settlement Seminar and Tour* (November 2022) were finally held. Thanks to our Vice-President Bob Lambell for arranging these very successful events in conjunction with Emily Mercer from Camperdown Community House.

A special concert by Ted Egan in May 2022. Ted, whose parents were married in Camperdown in 1922, has a keen interest in history and enthralled us with his songs and stories as he celebrated the strength and diversity of Australia's cultural mix.

The Robert Burns Festival finally returned to Camperdown in July 2022 after Covid cancellations in 2020 and 2021. Our Society organised both the Gala Dinner on Friday evening and the Saturday lectures. The speakers were Dr Andrew Lemon; Dr Iain Buckland; Dr Ruth Pullin; David Jellie and Dr Ian Clark. Thanks to Bob Lambell for arranging these lectures.

In October 2022 Victoria's Heritage Council included the Wombeetch Puyuun Grave Monument and Dawson Family Grave at the Camperdown Cemetery on the Victorian Heritage Register. The listing gives long overdue recognition to the importance of the monument as a powerful statement on the devastating impact of colonisation on the Aboriginal people. The listing also recognises the lives of three remarkable people in the history of Aboriginal-European relations in nineteenth-century

western Victoria – Wombeetch Puyuun, James Dawson and his daughter Isabella.

Grants of \$1,500 from the Bendigo Bank towards the digitization of our 1875 and 1876 hardcopies of the *Camperdown Chronicle* and \$5,024.25 from the Victorian Government's Local History Grants Program to digitize our holdings of the *Western Press* and *Hampden Guardian* from 1866-77. These newspapers are in the process of being uploaded to the National Library of Australia's Trove website. Well done to our Secretary Maree Belyea for successfully applying for these grants. We also received a \$2,000 grant from the Shire of Corangamite towards the purchase of a laptop computer and data projector.

Rob Wuchatsch, President

Donald History Society (M)

<http://donaldhistory.org.au>



Our guest speakers during the year were Allison Cashin from Jasper and Co.; Andrew Borg, Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network; Anne Walsh, the Caine family history, John Kumm, *A Life Fulfilled*, Allan Postlethwaite, *Agriculture Through Time* and Kelvin Clark, *Kooka's Country Cookies*. Guest speaker at our annual dinner was Professor Barry Golding AM, who spoke on the Dja Dja Wurrung nation.

In April 2022 Laurie Moore from Ballarat gave an excellent presentation on the establishment of the Avon Plains Mining Co. Following this meeting members and several visitors travelled out to the site of the old Avon Plains goldmine on land now owned by Warakirri Cropping.

In May 2022 we visited Natimuk where fourteen members met with members of their Historical Society who showed us around various sites of interest. We then travelled out to Mt Arapiles before heading home past the wind turbines at Murra Warra.

In August, instead of holding a meeting at the Court House Museum, Karen and Sam Goldsmith made their home on the banks of Lake Gil Gil available. Karen spoke about establishing her plant nursery, "Goldy's Patch", before inviting members to look through.

In September we again arranged to hold a meeting away from town, meeting at the rebuilt shearing quarters at Guthrie's. Chris Guthrie spoke about his project to showcase the history of *Rich Avon* station before showing us the various outbuildings and historic woolshed.

Our Antique and Collectables shop, open when the Archives are open, continued to raise funds for the Group. We had a profitable day during the Whole of Town Garage Sale in September 2022.

Thanks to the Courthouse Museum and our comprehensive photograph collection, an excellent display was provided for the 140th Donald Show. We also took the opportunity to offer our publications for sale. The Agricultural Museum opened for Show Day and attracted a good number of visitors, the engines that were operating proving popular.

Our October meeting saw the final steps taken to merge the Donald History and Natural History Group Incorporated and the Donald Music, Literature and Arts Society Incorporated, the merged body to be known as the Donald History Society Incorporated.

The Archives were kept busy with a variety of inquiries and requests. Visitors were most appreciative of the members who offered to show them the blocks of land where their ancestors lived and farmed. During October 2022 a Year 10 work experience student spent a few days at the Archives helping with indexing and cataloguing. We also began to digitise the microfilms of the Donald newspapers.

Our first excursion for 2023 was to *Swanwater Homestead* where current owner Patrick O'Shannessy was host for the day. The O'Shannessy family are at present restoring some of the outbuildings originally built by previous owners, Harrison, and then Mogg.

Our website at <http://donaldhistory.org.au> detailed reports in *The Buloke Times* and our monthly newsletter *The Buloke Bulletin* continues to highlight the work we do promoting and preserving our local history.

Ann Dunstan, President

Warrnambool and District Historical Society (S)

<https://warrnamboolhistory.org.au/contact/>



Some highlights of the year:

The new shared City & TAFE library opened in November. Back in 2021 preparations for activation of the new space led to an invitation to our group hosting a monthly activity session, 'Exploring Our Past'. This has continued throughout this year with a couple of months off in the middle of last year. The session, usually held on the third Thursday of the month, varies; we do walks, talks, film sessions; next week's is films while the May session will be a joint presentation on archival care of books, documents, photos & textiles.

In March we participated in the Regional Digitisation Project run by AMaGa with funding from Creative Victoria. Basically, it consisted of 2½ days of onsite training and digitisation assistance. Our Society uses the Victorian Collections online catalogue, which has had several upgrades and overhauls to make it more useful to libraries and art galleries as well as the small museums who were the main users initially. We found the workshop well run and very worthwhile. There were about ten of us, plus a couple of people from Flagstaff Hill who attended.

Consequently, our Community Development Fund grant request, submitted to City of Warrnambool was for the purchase of studio lighting, stands, paper and camera equipment. They were to assess them this week, so we should know soon.

ABC radio talks, which began way back in 2018, continue on Mondays at 6.50 a.m.

Our AGM held in October was in the Reading Room of the new library, formerly the gun room of the Drill Hall. Guest speaker was Dr Roy Hay, whose recent books are on Indigenous footballers in the nineteenth century (*They Did Not Come From Nowhere*), and also another, a biography of Poorne Yarriwarri (aka Pompey Austin).

Our membership is currently at 138 (including four life members, a handful in the 'friends' category and five corporate/school).

And now for the bad news: Our research centre, HeritageWorks, which we share with the Family History Group, is still on the Council's risk register. Our joint management committee has come up with a preferred option for a move to suitable nearby premises. However, negotiations continue and it looks less likely that our plan for that space will be realised. We continue to work under a cloud of restrictions and are unable to plan for the future until our accommodation problem is resolved.

Janet Macdonald, President

East Loddon Historical Society (M)

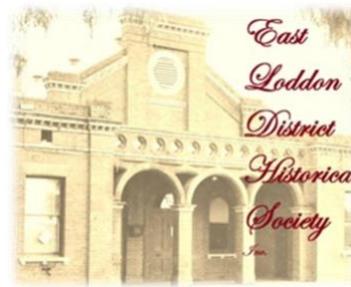
The past few years have been hectic for ELHS.

At long last the long-awaited Serpentine Air Race celebrating the Centenary of Australia's first official Air Race Serpentine to Melbourne (part of the promotion of the Second Peace Loan, Commonwealth Government 10-year bond offer) was held on 20 March 2022 at Serpentine. The RAAF joined us with their Heritage Squadron of vintage airplanes and balloon and the Roulettes. This event capped off their delayed Centenary Celebration also. Over 4,000 patrons witnessed the RAAF and Paul Bennet airshows fill the sky with adrenalin-packed, death-defying aerobatics either side of the running of the long-awaited Tiger Moth Serpentine Air Race. Nine planes participated in the handicapped race in a circuitous route leaving Serpentine for Boort Airport, Mitiamo Graincorp site and returning to Serpentine. The eventual winner was Graham Bunn and Murray Gerraty flying VH-GAV. For their efforts they were presented with an inscribed silver cup designed and made by Renown Silverware of Melbourne.

In 1920 the East Loddon Community raised £40 to purchase and inscribe a magnificent large silver cup to present to the Race winner, Lt 'Harry' W. H. Treloar. This cup was located at RAAF Museum Point Cook. With assistance from the Museum staff and RAAF pilot Wing Commander Philip Beanland, the Cup was flown to Serpentine to be in prime position as part of the East Loddon Historical Society exhibition. It was a long and drawn-out process filling in forms and phone calls with many ups and downs to find a way of getting the Cup from the back storeroom to be cleaned and flown to Serpentine. Hopefully now it will be on display at Point Cook with other aviation items of Treloar's. After all expenses were allocated, Bendigo Legacy was presented with a cheque for \$4,081.32 as the beneficiary of the Centenary Serpentine Air Race celebration.

The pandemic shutdown created an opportunity for a much fuller and detailed story of the original Air Race and contestants and subsequent commemoration events at Serpentine to be brought together in a standalone ninety-page book. It was released on 11 November 2020 at the unveiling of the Centenary Air Race brass plaque at Serpentine, another event coordinated and hosted by East Loddon Historical Society. The date fell in the window of opportunity for small crowds to gather. In fact, there were only ten official guests at the event, the remaining crowd being 'spectators practising social distancing'. It was challenging indeed. There was a break in the drizzle and low clouds for two aeroplanes to fly over the Australian flag and monument at Serpentine following the formal Armistice Day commemoration. This

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064563254809>



event was added to the Historical Society Facebook page to be streamed live for those who couldn't attend, in particular descendants of Lt Harry Treloar.

It was thought the Historical Society could now pack away that project and move on to the next overdue project. This was not to be. The 2022 event and Historical Society exhibition impressed the organisers of Australia's International Air show so much that an invitation was extended to bring the exhibition to Avalon in 2023. It was the first time in Australia's aviation history that the story of the Second Peace Loan aviation promotion had been recognised.

What an event. It was huge, loud and amazing. East Loddon Historical Society shared a very large marquee with the Cressy aerodrome historical display. Two Tiger Moth airplanes were part of the joint site. The first and second placegetter planes of the 2022 Serpentine Air race, VH-GAV and VH-CXV, attracted a lot of attention from the moving sea of public. It was a very interesting experience, definitely not one to consider having merchandise for sale except for food and drink!

Upcoming in May, Mary, who has spent untold hours reading and researching the original 1920 Serpentine Air Race contestants, has been invited to address the Western Front Association in Bendigo.

Then we might look at archiving all the Serpentine Air Race posters, papers, photos etc. gathered over the past few years and seek a grant to assist with the preservation of approximately forty or fifty photos of the original event and the 1995 75th commemoration and a large montage of fourteen photos created by Jack Tresise in 1920.

July to November 2021 we had Conservator of Objects, Jude Schahinger, doing conservation and preservation work on five of the Memorial Boards hanging in the Dingee Memorial Hall. Once again, Covid restrictions limited time to spend with Jude to understand the processes involved. The end result was brilliant. Two of the boards, Tandara Red Cross Society World War 1 and World War 2, are photo boards. The photos were removed while the timber, artwork and French polish was cleaned, tidied up,

cracks sealed and foreign paint removed, etc. The photos were digitally copied and enhanced to remove some blemishes. The originals are now stored at the Historical Society and the new images now show what the boys looked like when the photos were originally framed. This project cost in excess of \$20,000, supported by both a grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs for restoring Memorials and local donations.

On the day of unveiling the completed project, 11 November 2021, guests received a small Remembrance Day booklet produced by East Loddon Historical Society recording the full names of the service men and women listed on the Dingee and Tandara memorial boards, their family connection to the community, where they enlisted, the unit attached to, where the unit went and when they returned home.

11 November 2022. Yes, it is an annual project of the Historical Society. This time we all gathered at an extremely large Sugar Gum at Dalziel and Perry Road, Bears Lagoon, known locally by some older members of the Bears Lagoon community as 'Memorial Tree', planted by George Mossop prior to him leaving for service during World War 1. Until now this tree had not been officially recognised. On 11 November the community unveiled a brass plaque attached to a granite rock at the base of the tree. This plaque lists the names of six close Bears Lagoon boys who enlisted together, with three not returning. The haunting sound of the bagpipes resonated amongst the roadside trees while floral tributes were placed, and the plaque unveiled. Local piper Glen Ray was joined by his grandson Hayden Ray, for his debut appearance. Hayden's fellow East Loddon P12 Year 9 students arrived by bus to witness this momentous occasion. Once again, East Loddon Historical Society produced and presented each guest with a small Remembrance Day booklet recording the full names of the service men and women listed on the Bears Lagoon Memorial Boards, their family connection to the community, where they enlisted, the unit attached to, where the unit went and when they returned home.

October flooding. The overflowing Loddon River spread across the Northern plains again. The heavy rain put pressure on the roofing system of our home, the previous Mitiamo Hall. Water was filmed running down the inside wall. This building is on DEECA (formerly DEWLP) land. We had received earlier quotes to replace the guttering to support applications for a grant.

Late last year we heard of Eaglehawk Heritage Society going into recess and disposing of all their historical items and display equipment. A few dedicated volunteers will continue to operate from home offering 'research only'. East Loddon was able to add glass bench top display cases and male and female mannequins to the ELHS collection.

While all this has been going on, transcribing, cataloguing and archiving of 100 years' administration records of the Dingee Bush Nursing service had been happening quietly. It is now full on to complete in time. Only sixty years of handwritten Minute books that exist have been transcribed. The 1980s brought typewritten then computer-generated Minutes. A Centenary history book is being collated alongside the digitisation process of the records. Interviews with previous nurses, committee members and the community who utilised the services is filling in the gaps and providing anecdotal stories. This book is being released as part of the Centenary celebration on 19 November 2023. The narrative reflects the significance of the Bush Nursing Centre as a critical health service in a rural landscape including the financial ups and downs through tough times with the fundraising to keep the service available.

A successful \$7,000 grant was received last year to purchase a fireproof safe to hold the original records at ELHS, archival materials and items to assist with digitising i.e., book rests, photography stand, etc.

Interesting story. Approximately two years ago an East Loddon Mitiamo RSL receipt book was purchased for \$40 at a second-hand shop in Inglewood. Through another person this receipt book was donated to the East Loddon Historical Society and we dutifully catalogued and archived it. The purchaser of the book, June Illingworth, came looking for it. The donation had been a mistake. Her father Darby was one of the names mentioned in the book. She wanted to show her 99-year-old father and take some photographs. We had a copy so returned the book to June. She has returned the Receipt book for safekeeping. Why do community items and family items end up in second-hand shops? With that, June learned of a silver tureen for sale in Bendigo. The tureen was gifted to David McCauley by the Tandara residents on 22 March 1926. June connected the local significance and purchased and donated it to the East Loddon Historical Society at the 2022 AGM. It has a place in the Tandara trophy cabinet that used to hang on the wall of the Tandara community hall, long since gone. Thank you June for your generosity.

Loddon Herald. For the Loddon community, Chris Earle has been a shining light. When the pandemic closed everything, so it did the regional newspapers that serviced the Loddon districts. Chris Earle had an idea of starting a newspaper. Two years on the *Loddon Herald* is still keeping the wider Loddon community connected. Late last year the *Loddon Herald* was nominated for and received the Regional Newspaper of the Year Award. Congratulations Chris.

2023 has had a rollicking start. Confirmation came through early this year of the upgraded status of the East Loddon Historical Society Inc. Donor Gift Recipient to a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission.

150 years at Mitiamo (new township)

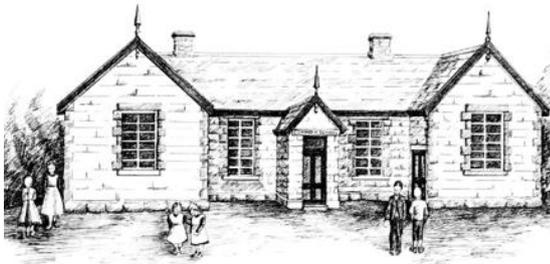
planning begins. A date has been set for this celebration over the first weekend of October 2025. How the event is to run is still in infancy. Helen Stevens' very popular book *Mitiamo Reflections* will hopefully be reprinted with an additional book of the last twenty-five years to be produced.

ABC Statewide 24 hours live outdoor broadcast record attempt, March 2023. Dingee was chosen as one of the sites to host an outdoor broadcast. Fiona Parker and Rebecca Norman set up under the verandah of the Dingee Railway hotel at 6.30 a.m. ELHS was among the guests invited to speak on the radio. Questions included the history of the Dingee White clover, township names, history of the Dingee Hotel, and the murder in 1902 of Edward Woods with

the resulting trial and outcome.

A frequent visitor to ELHS is 93-year-old Graham Carnegie, a retired stock agent who worked with Wallace and Bramley many years ago and successive agencies. He is a fabulous source of family histories of many district residents and farming trends. On his last visit we were able to coordinate his visit with Historian Dr Karen Twigg and photographer Ponch Hawke researching their latest project, 'Droughts and the social impacts', a La Trobe and Melbourne University joint project. Graham was able to share much information on the Stock and Station agency operations during the drought periods and how districts coped.

Robyn Brown and Mary Davidson



Koroit and District Historical Society (S)

<https://www.facebook.com/koroithistoricalsociety/>

Koroit is growing in size, and we have had several requests for the history of houses that have been purchased by newcomers. We have also been asked for family research as people endeavour to track the past.

2023 has started quite busily. Aside from opening for visitors on the second Sunday of each month, we have opened for events taking place in Victoria Park and have been rewarded with many visitors to our Museum. The Annual Truck Show is held in late January at which there is a large display of trucks of all sizes. In March a Swap, Show & Shine Meet takes place and the last weekend in April is the Koroit Irish Festival which this year attracted around 4,000 people to a weekend of activities and music. I thank our members who have been available to help and guide and try to answer many queries about Koroit on these occasions. We also took part in the Anzac Service at the War Memorial.

Another enquiry has been made about the Mechanics' Institute which was demolished many years ago and yesterday we were asked about the history of the Koroit Agricultural show. If anyone reading this can help with knowledge of their house, family history or events in Koroit we would love to hear from you and if you have any photos we may scan to add to our collection, these would be gratefully received.

I'm pleased to say we have attracted a couple of new members who have indicated that they are keen to be "hands on" members. Our meetings are quite well attended for a small group such as ours and we usually see around 10 – 12 members.

A grant has enabled us to update our computers and our photocopier and we took this opportunity to reorganise our office space. It is now much easier to move around.

Next year we celebrate our 40th Anniversary so we are deciding how we will commemorate this milestone. We may have a dinner or community event or we could produce a small booklet on an aspect of the town history to mark the occasion so we have a few options to explore. The members are currently coming up with their preference.

Thank you to Gerard Gleeson who is now editor of our newsletter and to Kathy who has digitised several of past Koroit newspapers allowing us to revisit years ago.

Andrea Lowenthal, President; Margaret Trotter, Vice President

Kooreh Memorial Hall Centenary

On 6 April 1923 members of the Kooreh community, east of St Arnaud, formally opened its Memorial Hall in commemoration of the district's men who had served in the Great War. On 4 April 2023 the local community came together to commemorate the Hall's Centenary, around 200 people attending. Ms Martha Haylett MLA, Member for Ripon, addressed the gathering which featured the St Arnaud Brass Band and Pipe Band, a treat for all attending.

The Hall, situated beside Campbell's Creek, has been ravaged by floods at least four times, the last time being in 2011. This devastation resulted in the vigorous Hall Committee working tirelessly to secure funding to carry out extensive restoration to the Hall.

Among the people attending the Centenary were descendants of the families who had worked to establish the Hall in 1923 including the McNally, Rinaldi, Proctor, McNaulty and Dohnt families.

Two plaques were unveiled on the day and, a sign of the times, a drone captured images of those attending.

Back in 1927, almost a decade after the end of the Great War, the Hall 'hit the headlines' around Australia when the Committee purchased a new piano for the Hall; a German-made piano. This earned the wrath of the St Arnaud branch of the R.S.L. which demanded that if the piano was not removed forthwith then the Hall must be renamed 'Kooreh Hall' rather than 'Kooreh Memorial Hall'.

Today the Hall, still very much a well-utilised and vibrant hub for the Kooreh community, is also a favoured spot for caravaners and campers to spend the night in the lovely bush setting by the creek and, indeed, during the Centenary event some campers were pleased to join in, most unexpectedly, the celebrations.



Craige Proctor

The official opening of the
Kooreh Memorial Hall,
6 April 1923.

Not only is the Hall a memorial to those from the district who served during the First World War, but it is an extremely well-equipped venue and the committee has established an excellent collection of sporting and other photographs and memorabilia relating to the Kooreh district.



Upcoming Events

Wimmera Mallee PIONEER MUSEUM

Jeparit

2023 Vintage Rally

King's Birthday Long Weekend

10-11 June

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

*Working machinery - Heritage
buildings & displays - Tours &
Talks - Demonstrations -
Food stalls - Crafts - Plants*



Something for everyone!



Adults - \$15

Concessions/Students - \$10

Family - \$30

Children 12 & under - free



Dimboola Road, Jeparit

<https://www.facebook.com/WMPMJeparit> Enquiries: 0408 822 355

CAMPERDOWN ROBERT BURNS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL 2023

LECTURE PROGRAM

Four wonderful speakers. Please give this event your support!

Saturday 1st July, 10.30 am - 3.30 pm, Killara Centre, Camperdown

Day ticket \$20.00 - on sale soon

For further information:

Website: <https://camperdownburnsfestival.com.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RobertBurnsFestival/>

10.30 am: Fiona Ross - Burns as Songwriter and Collector

Robert Burns is thought of primarily as Scotland's National Poet. However, he considered himself to be first and foremost a songwriter. This lecture explores Burns' approach to songwriting and discusses some of his better and lesser-known compositions.

Fiona Ross grew up in Partick, in the west end of Glasgow, also spending time at her family home on the Isle of Lewis during her teenage years. She inherited a love of Scottish music from her dad and began singing popular Scottish songs from a young age. It was in the 1980s that Fiona truly embraced the Scots song tradition, immersing herself in Edinburgh's vibrant folk scene and serving her apprenticeship in the folk clubs and memorable singing sessions of the time.



11.30 am: Stewart McArthur - Waltzing Matilda

This lecture explores the history and local Scottish connection to the origins of Australia's most famous and best loved folk song. A key player in the story was Christina McPherson, the sister of Stewart McArthur's grandmother. In April 1894 during a stay at 'Meningoort', Christina went to the Warrnambool races. There she heard a band play a march based on an old Scottish song "Thou Bonnie Wood O' Craigielea". Later, back home at Dagworth Station near Winton Qld, Christina played the tune to house guest, AB (Banjo) Paterson. Banjo wrote some lyrics to accompany it and Waltzing Matilda was born.



1.30 pm: Dr Rosalie Triolo - Scots as 'sodgers' in the School Paper and as teacher-enlistees from Camperdown district's State schools, 1914-18

Victoria's Education Department called on its school communities to contribute in every possible way to Australia's effort in the Great War, including that male teachers of eligible age present themselves for overseas service. Some calls catered directly to the 'other' identity of many Australians and, as this presentation will demonstrate, some appealed patriotically to the Scottishness of Scottish-Australians. Some Camperdown and district male teachers of Scottish descent gave themselves to whatever fate would make of their active service. Surely no-one who returned was unchanged; still others never returned, and the accounts of those men's passing indicate that the grief was deep and enduring.

Dr Rosalie Triolo FRHSV is RHSV's Vice-President and Chair of its Historical Societies Support Committee.



2.30 pm: Allan Willingham - 'Portraits, Panoramas and Landscapes'. The Artistic Endeavours of Peter Taylor (1756-1788) in Scotland and Major James Taylor (1772-1829) in Spain and Australia: A Visual Survey

This illustrated paper will first chart the short life and artistic endeavours of Burn's friend Peter Taylor in Edinburgh, and then those of Major James Taylor, both during his military campaigns on the Iberian Peninsula, and as a member of the 48th Regiment of Foot in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. This art history presentation to the 2023 Robert Burns Scottish Festival will broach new ground in a comprehensive visual survey which links the families of Peter and James Taylor for the first time.





Geelong Museum Association Inc.

2023 'Last Sunday Series' at the National Wool Museum

1.30 pm - 3 pm

Free entry. Afternoon cuppa provided; gold coin donation. Details of talks are updated on the Geelong Museum Association Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/geelongmuseum>

Sunday 25 June: Fromelles, Naming the Dead.

The Battle of Fromelles on 19 July 1916 was a bloody disaster. Soldiers of the 5th Australian Division, together with the British 61st Division, were ordered to attack a strongly fortified German front line. Over 5,500 Australians became casualties, with almost 2,000 killed in action or dying of wounds. This is believed to be the greatest loss by a single division in 24 hours during the entire First World War. 1,335 Australians soldiers remained 'missing' with no known grave. In 2007, following persistent research by Lambis Englezos, archaeological investigations began to uncover the remains of some Australian and British soldiers.

Lambis Englezos is a retired Melbourne teacher. He undertook persistent research and became convinced that many of the 'missing' could be located, some identified and reinterred in the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery. His book, *Fromelles, Naming the Dead* will be for sale after his talk.

Sunday 30 July: They Once Raced Here - The lost racecourses of Victoria.

Many years of research has been devoted to locating documentary records and physical evidence of the once numerous racecourses scattered around Victoria. Some were relatively short lived, but many others survived for decades until racing rationalisation and economics resulted in their closure.

Chris Ganly has researched and written about a number of Geelong based topics. This project has spread his activity to all corners of the state. He has so far published two volumes as a result of his racecourse research. The first volume included racecourse in our district and the second, the Loddon, Campaspe and Mallee regions. Copies of these books will be available for purchase after his talk.

Sunday 27 August: The Conquerors – 100 Geelong Region All-Time International Sports Greats and Brownlow Medalists.

The Conquerors embraces 33 sports and gives fascinatingly-stunning insights into the lives and careers of 100 of the Geelong Region's greatest all-time international sporting luminaries – in the studious opinion of the award-winning journalist and promoter, John Craven, an unashamed Geelong patriot.

John Craven is one of Australia's most decorated sports journalists and promoters. Five decades of experience has gone into choosing, researching and writing about the Geelong Region's Top 100 All-time Great International Sports Stars and Brownlow Medalists.

Topics and speakers to be confirmed for 24 September, 29 October and 26 November. Further details in the September issue of *Western Historian*.

Submitted by **Michael Menzies**, President, Geelong Museum Association Inc.

Ouyen District History & Genealogy Centre

Centenary of Walpeup Memorial Hall

Sat. 23 September

Dedication of outside
remembrance site



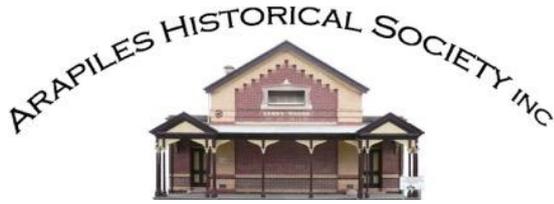
For details contact Merle Pole
poles7@bigpond.com

Unveiling of plaque
Historical displays
Dryland Memorial
Garden Tour
Afternoon Tea
Dinner

The Ouyen District History
& Genealogy Centre
currently has a display
entitled
'Walpeup...the way it
was'.

Fridays 9.30 – 4.00
Old Courthouse
Oke Street, Ouyen

Publications



P.O. Box 199, Natimuk 3409

Email: arapileshistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website: <https://arapileshistoricalsociety.org/>

President: Peter French 0427 340488

Treasurer: Jennette Sudholz 0439 871215

Secretary: Elizabeth Both 0400 531950

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE: Available by email / phone orders or by purchase in various Natimuk and Horsham retail outlets, as well as AHS Research Centre on Tuesday afternoons 2-4pm.

NATIMUK REFLECTIONS

Compiled by Keith Lockwood for Arapiles Historical Society 2022. **\$50 plus P&P**

A pictorial focus on the life of Natimuk, concentrates on the sesquicentenary of settlement 1872-2022, resulting from discovery of a treasure chest full of glass-plate negatives on a district farm, thus producing The Woolmer Collection. Unseen for over a century, inspiration and basis for this publication was thus formed.

Within Natimuk reflections, significant images from a variety of sources flesh out richness and diversity of Natimuk's past 150 years, opening a picture window and giving pause to reflect on a wonderfully unique corner of western Victoria. Inclusive of this story is acknowledgement of Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk traditional owners and their lands, through which Major Mitchell passed in 1836.

In early days recordings, squatters and later settler stories are incorporated, drawing on the Act of 1869 which allowed Natimuk's first settlers (many of whom were religious and political refugees from Germany) to claim land in the 1870's. Life on the land forged the character of Natimuk and district as an area based on agriculture, which continues to underpin their progress, as for the past 150 years. Natimuk Reflections depict evolution in farming equipment, methodology and education, with nature's challenges included.

Such records begin with horse power, when mainly Clydesdale horse teams played an essential role on farms until tractors and cars became known as 'horseless carriages'. Evolving transportation adds to this theme, with vivid recordings of rail links included. Many of these precious records stem from the Woolmer Collection, aptly named by Horace Woolmer's descendants who donated their findings to AHS. Horace is valued for building Woolmer Power Poles, a carriage-building business from 1902-1920, opening Natimuk's first motor garage, pioneering the town's first electricity supply, conducting the Brass Band and being secretary of Natimuk Bush Nursing Hospital.

Pictures show a bustling village as additional enterprise grew, with Natimuk and district people proving to be resourceful, industrious, proactive and fun loving. Settlers not only built illustrated classic thatched farm barns (unique to the district), dug wells and built dwellings (including pug and seal construction), but also supported industries and services such as foundries, wheelwrights, flour mill, creamery, blacksmith, saddler and coach builder to name a few, with Natimuk boasting over 70 businesses at the turn of the 20th century.

Such fascinating village history is shown in local records of West Wimmera Mail and Natimuk Advertiser from 1887, with reins now being taken over by Horsham publishers and our local Progress Press Newspaper. Authors originating from Natimuk are recognised, including descendant Mr Keith Lockwood, who diligently steered production of Natimuk Reflections, on behalf of Arapiles Historical Society. Natimuk's thriving community is also honoured within Natimuk Reflections, including notable dignitaries. Without dedicated volunteers, Natimuk would simply grind to a halt. They are involved in all aspects of community life and are never undervalued.

Natimuk District Pioneers

compiled by Colin Haustorfer 2022. **\$40 plus P&P**

Celebrating 150 years from First Land Selection in the Natimuk District on 21st September 1871.

Historical Calendars

Assorted years including 2023 by Arapiles Historical Society. **\$20 plus P&P**

Natimuk Self Guide Walking Tour Book

Arapiles Historical Society. **\$10 plus P&P**

ABOUT TIME – SUDHOLZ FAMILY HISTORY BOOK

by Gianna Sudholz. \$100 plus P&P

The SUDHOLZ Family History Book began when Gianna invited senior Ancestor Genealogist, Paul A. SCHMIDT, to locate the earliest SUDHOLZ member in their family tree somewhere in Germany. He discovered Berend Snr SUDHOLZ, occupation recorded as a farmer in Sudholz/Drentwede, Germany, 1562.

Eight generations later, in 1846, the first SUDHOLZ family member arrived in Australia, farmer Johann Wilhelm Albrecht (JWA) SUDHOLZ. Six nephews and a niece followed, and it is these family members who are focused on this book, with particular attention given to the life stories of farmer Henrich Friedrich (Heiny) SUDHOLZ and his eleven children who lived in Natimuk, Victoria, proving that farming is in the SUDHOLZ genes.

In over 700 pages of *About Time*, Gianna included information on the history of Natimuk, various facts about general matters, personal accounts, newspaper articles, lineage charts, certificates, maps and many photographic records.

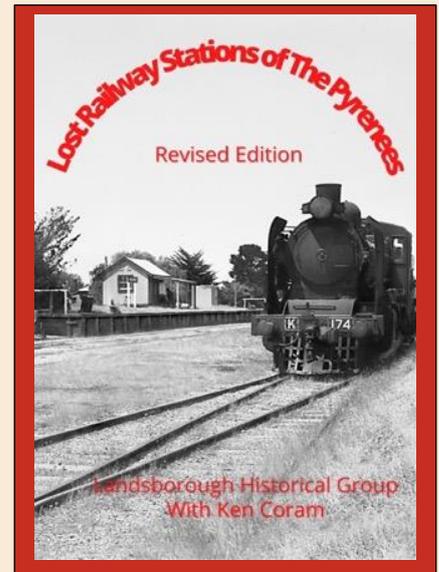
Meredith PATTERSON spent a number of years compiling a chapter on Johann Friedrich 5 SUDHOLZ, for which Gianna expresses gratitude for her time and effort.

Gianna states – “I have been working on the SUDHOLZ Family History Book for over 20 years, on and off, but most recently, intensely for the past five years. Many, many hours have been spent sitting at the computer. I am glad I did it and I am glad it is done”.

Landsborough and District Historical Group

As we head into another year at the Landsborough Historical Group, we are pleased to announce a reprint of the popular and sold-out **Lost Railway Stations Of The Pyrenees** (Revised Edition).

Unfortunately, the never-ending rising costs of printing and production have necessitated a price rise of \$5.00 to the book which will now retail for \$45.00. Given the 29 extra pages from the very first brown-covered edition first printed back in 2019, and how quickly the revised edition sold out back in 2021, we think this is still very good value for 255 pages of wonderful railway history. A secondhand copy of this revised edition recently sold on E-Bay for over \$100.00 so be sure not to miss out this time. There will be only 100 copies available and you can order one by messaging us on our Facebook page, or contacting Brett at bleslie@bigpond.net.au or Diane at dwestern3@gmail.com. We can organise pick up or delivery in the region, or postage can be arranged at \$11.40 (or \$14.40 express post) to anywhere within Australia.



Books planned for later in 2023:

The Pubs and Publicans of Landsborough (Phil Waring)
A History of Landsborough 1862 – 2022 (Landsborough Historical Group)

Other titles still in print:

Landsborough Hall – A History \$5.00
Lost Schools Of The Pyrenees \$30.00 (only one copy left)
School On The Hill (History of Landsborough State School) \$20.00
Dummys Ditties - Now Reduced to \$5.00
No Honey No Money (Max Jeffery) - \$15.00 (limited stock)