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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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Join us at
<https://www.facebook.com/WVAHS/>

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

| | | |
|--|--------------|--|
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| 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, wvahsinc@gmail.com

Member Groups

at November 2023

Arapiles (Natimuk) Ararat
 Balmoral Barham-Koondrook
 Birchip Boort Camperdown
 Carisbrook Casterton
 Charlton Golden Grains
 Museum
 Cobden Cohuna Colac
 Coleraine Dimboola Donald
 Derrinallum/Lismore Dunkeld
 East Loddon (Mitiamo)
 Edenhope
 Geelong & South Western
 Rail Heritage Society
 Glenthompson
 Goldfields (Dunolly)
 Halls Gap and Grampians
 Harrow Heytesbury
 Horsham Hopetoun
 Inglewood Kerang Koroit
 Landsborough
 Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum
 Maryborough Midlands
 Minyip Mortlake Nhill
 Nhill Silo Heritage Project
 Nullawil Ouyen Port Fairy
 Pyramid Hill Rainbow
 St Arnaud Stawell
 Swan Hill Trang
 Warracknabeal
 Warrnambool Wedderburn
 Wimmera Mallee Pioneer
 Museum (Jeparit)
 Wycheproof

President's Post

Our 60th birthday gathering and three Zone Meetings

A lunch was held in Horsham on Wednesday 27th September to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the meeting held there on 28th September 1963 to establish our Association. At the time of the lunch, we had been unable to discover where in Horsham that first meeting had been held, so that we may have been able to gather there. We have subsequently learned more details of that first meeting and its venue.



We held the 60th birthday lunch at West Side racing facility and it was well attended. Despite the efforts of those organising the lunch to spell out in detail what we required, the venue did not exactly deliver an impressive outcome. However, a display of interesting images from our history had been compiled by Craig Proctor and projected at the back of the room. Local Nationals' MP Emma Kealy gave a short but encouraging talk about the value of local history societies such as ours and her support for any approaches seeking funding or other assistance required by our members. Emma is the Member for Lowan, a huge electorate covering many of our Wimmera and Southern Zone members. Following lunch there was an optional bus tour of Horsham and most stayed to travel on it. Overall, despite some catering shortcomings, the day was well planned and provided a fitting way to start what will hopefully be our next sixty years!

The Wimmera Zone meeting was held prior to the lunch and was also well attended. Member societies updated all on their activities and discussed a lot of issues. I enjoyed attending both functions at Horsham.

The Midlands Zone meeting and Executive meeting had been held at Nullawil on the previous Sunday, 24th September. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend those meetings due to a prior commitment but I gather that the Nullawil Historical Society did a good job as hosts.

On Saturday 21st October, the Camperdown & District Historical Society hosted the Southern Zone meeting. It was well attended and it was great to see representatives of Cobden Historical Society again attending our meetings after an absence of many years. Several matters were raised that most members require assistance with and will be taken up by the Executive.

An excellent relaxing lunch was held in the newly established garden area behind the Camperdown Heritage Centre. Following lunch, many took up the offer of a guided tour of the wide main street, looking at the many old and interesting buildings lining both sides. I was among several that dropped out of the tour at the clock tower when one of its caretakers spotted our group. He offered to take us up the 100 plus steep steps and show us the clock mechanism, plus the views north, south, east and west from the top. I had ventured up there about 25 years ago, but it was well worth the exercise again, particularly with first hand advice regarding repairs made to the mechanism in recent years and its ongoing maintenance.

Best wishes for the remainder of 2023 and a great 2024.

Michael Menzies, President

Advance notice of 2024 AGM and Zone Meetings

The Annual General Meeting will be held in **Nhill** on **6-7 April** and will be hosted by the **Nhill Silo Heritage Project**. Wimmera, Southern and Midlands Zone Meetings will also take place on **6 April** at Nhill.

Further details will be provided via email, on our [Facebook page](#) and in the March issue of *Western Historian*.

W.V.A.H.S.'s 60th Anniversary

On 27 September we marked the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the W.V.A.H.S. Months in the planning, Helen Curkpatrick oversaw every detail in the organisation of the event which was held at West Side in Horsham. There were three guest speakers: Emma Kealy, Member for Lowan and Deputy Leader of the National Party in Victoria (pictured); Dr Rosalie Triolo, Vice President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria who spoke on her role as Chair of the Historical Societies Support Committee; and Ted Stephens spoke about his new publication, *The Langlands*, the story of a Horsham family. The event was combined with the Wimmera Zone half-yearly meeting with representatives from the Nhill Silo Heritage Project, Nhill, Stawell, Ararat, Warracknabeal, Dimboola, Minyip, Halls Gap and Grampians, Horsham, Landsborough and Arapiles Historical Societies and the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum. We were also joined by representatives of Historical Societies in other Zones, namely Port Fairy, Charlton, Donald, Goldfields, Carisbrook, Glenthompson and the Geelong and South Western Rail Heritage Society. The Anniversary cake was cut by Russell McKenzie of Horsham, grandson of the first Secretary/Treasurer of the W.V.A.H.S., Mrs T. Lillian McKenzie who also served as President for seven years. Dr Rosalie Triolo spoke of the amazing effort of volunteers in all heritage groups to preserve local history and, given the challenges facing many groups, she charged all present with the goal of acquiring at least one new member for their group in the next twelve months! Following the lunch attendees boarded a bus for a tour of Horsham and surrounding areas. What a great day! See the following pages for a 'snapshot' history of the W.V.A.H.S.'s inception.



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 member groups 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

Zone Meetings, September and October

The Midlands Zone Meeting was held on Sunday 24 September, hosted by the Nullawil Historical Society at their wonderful Museum. Representatives from the Nullawil, Birchip, Carisbrook, Donald, Horsham, Inglewood, Landsborough, Stawell, Pyramid Hill, Swan Hill, Mortlake, Glenthompson and Wycheproof Historical Societies attended along with representatives of Charlton's Golden Grains Museum, the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum at Jeparit and the Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum. We were also very happy to have the Royal Historical Society's Vice President Dr Rosalie Triolo join us for the day. Rosalie also attended the Executive Meeting and we were grateful for her contributions and insights. The meeting took place in the old church on the museum site. We are most appreciative of the Nullawil Historical Society hosting a successful day.

[Nullawil Historical Society's Facebook page](#)



On 21 October the Camperdown and District Historical Society hosted the Southern Zone Meeting with 32 attendees from Camperdown, Cobden, Colac, Derrinallum-Lismore, Glenthompson, Koroit, Mortlake, Port Fairy, Terang, Warrnambool and Geelong South West Rail Heritage Societies.

[Camperdown & District Historical Society's website](#)

[C&DHS's Facebook page](#)



Following the Zone Meeting and Lunch, attendees had the opportunity to climb Camperdown's iconic clock tower (1897) led by John Hulm and each participant was able to 'have a go' at winding the clock.

Photos at top courtesy of C&DHS while the photos of and from the tower are courtesy of Tracey Potatau-Wright, Glenthompson Historical Group.



W.V.A.H.S.'s origins: a potted history

Screenshots of the Powerpoint presentation produced for the 60th Anniversary lunch in Horsham, focussing on the origins of the W.V.A.H.S. Presentation produced by Craige Proctor.

We have begun a movement which is important and may give fresh impetus to the study of local history.

Les Blake, inaugural President and first editor of *Western Historian*, 1963

Purpose

The purpose of the W.V.A.H.S. may be briefly stated as mutual assistance in the field of local history. By means of Newsletter it will be possible to avoid overlapping of research and to extend the resources of each society. History is not static; its end-on progression through time is accompanied by what may be termed a lateral progression through different districts, regions and states. An investigation begun at Warracknabeal may easily lead back to Portland or Geelong and beyond.

W.V.A.H.S. Founding Committee

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| G. Hicks | President, Kaniva District Historical Society |
| B. A. Dodd | President, Arapiles District Historical Society |
| K. Robb | President, Nhill District Historical Society |
| G. Stephens | President, Hamilton & Western District Historical Society |
| M. Robson | President, Stawell and District Historical Society |
| M. Smale | President, Warracknabeal and District Historical Society |
| R. A. Blachford | President, Ararat and District Historical Society |
| R. Falla | President, History and Natural History Group, Donald |
| L. J. Blake | President, Horsham and District Historical Society |

Western Historian Editors : 240 issues

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Les Blake (Horsham) | 5 issues |
| Lorna Banfield BEM (Ararat) | 23 issues |
| Horsham Historical Society | 8 issues |
| Eric Muir (Dimboola) | 38 issues |
| Stan Williams & Mary O'Callaghan (W'bool) | 3 issues |
| Mary O'Callaghan (Warrnambool) | 52 issues |
| Ian Ballinger (Horsham) | 3 issues |
| Lindsay Smith (Horsham) | 21 issues |
| Noel Fields (Maryborough) | 46 issues |
| Bob McIntosh (Terang) | 14 issues |
| Robin Parker (Carisbrook) | 20 issues |
| Craige Proctor (Mortlake and Jeparit) | 7 issues |

Despite concerted efforts to identify the precise venue for the inaugural W.V.A.H.S. meeting in September 1963, the search proved futile until Andrea Cross, Executive Officer of the Horsham Agricultural Society, provided several photos of McGenniskien Hall which we have confirmed was where the meeting was held.

Formation of W.V.A.H.S.

An enthusiastic meeting of delegates and observers from historical societies at Hamilton, Ararat, Warracknabeal, Kaniva, Horsham, Nhill, Arapiles, Donald and Beaufort was held at Horsham on Saturday 28 September 1963. On the motion of representatives from Nhill and Donald the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies was formed. Mr L. J. Blake, Horsham president, was elected inaugural president of the Association; Mrs T. L. McKenzie of Horsham was elected Secretary/Treasurer and Messrs. Geoff Stephens, president of Hamilton & Western District Historical Society, R. G. Hicks and Basil Dodd, president of the Arapiles society were elected as executive members.

Founding Member Groups

Arapiles
Ararat
Beaufort
Donald
Hamilton
Horsham
Kaniva
Nhill
Warracknabeal

Membership growth

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1963: 11 | 1978: 41 |
| 1967: 20 | 1992: 46 |
| 1973: 26 | 2003: 57 |
| 1976: 34 | 2023: 51+ |

The Zones

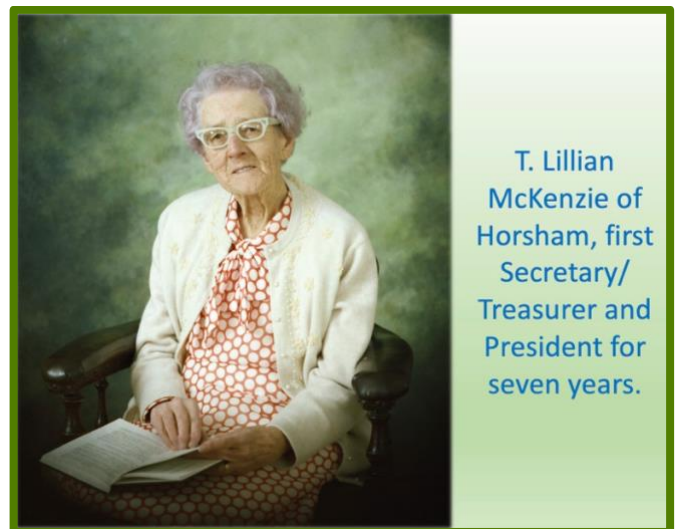
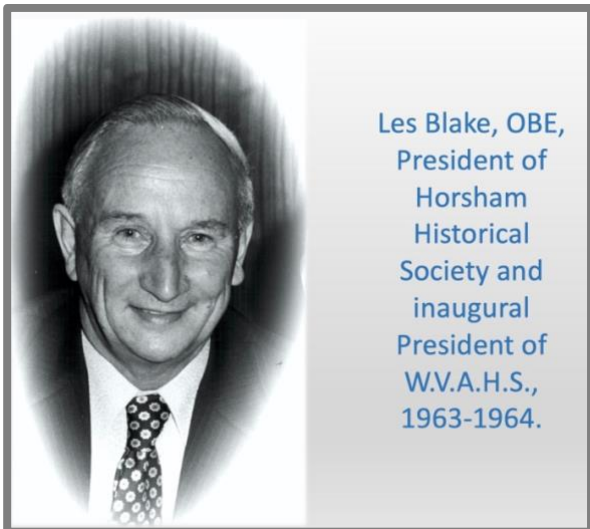
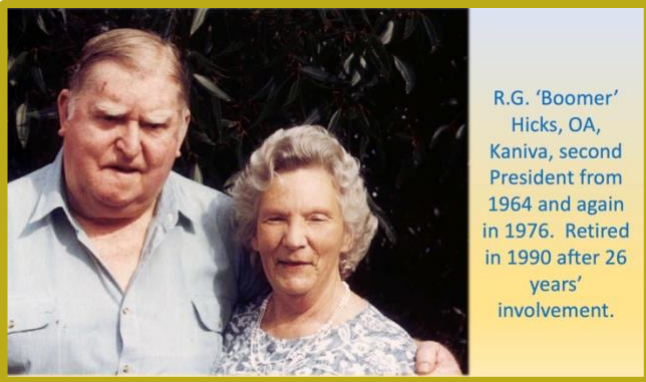
Zones were adopted at AGM in Rainbow in 1976.

Wimmera: Dimboola; Kaniva; Nhill; Jeparit; Rainbow; Murtoa; Hopetoun; Warracknabeal; Horsham; Natimuk; Harrow; Minyip; Rupanyup; Balmoral.

Central: Maryborough; Dunolly; Kerang; St Arnaud; Donald; Ararat; Pyramid Hill; Swan Hill; Lake Goldsmith Steam Engines.

Southern: Warrnambool; Colac; Camperdown; Port Fairy; Portland; Hamilton; Mount Rouse; Timboon; Willaura; Coleraine; Casterton.





Big milestone for the Wedderburn Historical Records Museum

Submitted by Alan Mulraney

[WHRM website](#)

In 2016 when Historical Records Museum secretary Alan Mulraney wrote the software to digitise its vast collection of documents, he allowed for a 5-digit record number, thinking that 99,999 records would be more than enough capacity for the system.

A few weeks ago Alan had to upgrade the software to allow for a 6-digit record number so that President Darryl Arnott and he could download their “work from home” data into the system, which tipped the scales at 100,157 records.

Number of records on D: drive = 100,157

Darryl and Alan, plus a few helpers along the way, work from home averaging around 300-400 digitised records each week.

The database now houses records for around 2,500 local families, all known honour boards in the district, rate book entries going back to the 1860s and a vast collection of newspapers.

The *Wedderburn Express* newspaper has been digitised from its start in 1888 up to its closure in 1996. The paper is now in the process of being indexed with the names of people that appear in every article on every page. Darryl started from 1996 and has worked back to 1957 and Alan started from 1888 and has currently reached 1917.

Every page of every edition of the local *Scuttlebutt* paper has been indexed from when it started in 2014 to the present. With the provision of a special editable edition supplied by Chris Earl, relevant articles from the *Loddon Herald* have been indexed and included in the database from the very first edition (*today's news is tomorrow's history!*).

Darryl is also working on the now defunct *Loddon Times*.

It doesn't stop there – newspaper sports results are also included for every type of sport along with photographs of every gravestone in every cemetery within the Loddon Shire, class photographs of school children at the various schools in the region going back to the early 1900s, gold prospecting records plus a whole lot more.

When asked if the system would ever need to be modified to accept 7-digit records Alan said “Not in my lifetime!”

Do take the time to check out the Wedderburn Historical Records Museum's excellent website (link above). Ed.

Reminder!

Looking for our most recent issues of *Western Historian*? Our website manager, Carolyn Olive of Charlton's Golden Grains Museum, uploads the last two years' issues to the dedicated WVAHS/*Western Historian* page:

[Western Historian website](#)

Please consider submitting historical articles, news about your group, tributes to past members, event and publication promotions for inclusion in *Western Historian*. Submissions for the March issue should be received by mid-February.

Craig Proctor, Ed.

RHSV's Historical Societies Support Committee

On 17 October members of the HSSC, convened by RHSV Vice President Dr Rosalie Triolo, participated in a Zoom meeting. Attendees included Emeritus Professor Richard Broome, President of the RHSV, Associate Professor Don Garden, formerly RHSV President and now President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, George Fernando, Graham Goulding, Pauline Hitchins, Helen Laffin, Dr Peter Yule and Craig Proctor.

We had a wide-ranging discussion about how best to provide ongoing support especially to regional Historical Societies, specifically the regional Seminar Days, in the next year or two so stay tuned for further details. Exciting times! The next HSSC Meeting will be on 28 November.

[RHSV HSSC's webpage with link to Resources](#)



Seven of the nine members of the W.V.A.H.S. Executive at Nullawil on 24 September. From left: **Kate van Dyck** (Stawell); **Carolyn Olive** (Webpage manager, Charlton); **Robin Parker** (Carisbrook); **Craige Proctor** (Newsletter Editor and Facebook page manager, Mortlake & Jeparit); **Tracey Potatau-Wright** (Glenthompson); **Brett Leslie** (Vice President, Landsborough); **Helen Curkpatrick** (Horsham, Secretary). Photo courtesy of Dr Rosalie Triolo, RHSV.

Directory of Member Groups' online presence

If you are interested in looking at other groups' websites or Facebook pages, simply click on the appropriate links below. Note that some groups have both a website and a Facebook page but for now these are listed separately. This Directory will appear in subsequent editions of our newsletter.

Websites (32):

[Arapiles \(Natimuk\)](#)
[Barham Koondrook](#)
[Birchip](#)
[Camperdown](#)
[Charlton Golden Grains Museum](#)
[Cohuna](#)
[Colac](#)
[Derrinallum Lismore](#)
[Dimboola](#)
[Donald](#)
[Dunkeld](#)
[Edenhope](#)
[Geelong South West Rail Heritage Society](#)
[Halls Gap & Grampians](#)
[Harrow](#)
[Horsham](#)
[Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum](#)
[Maryborough Midlands](#)
[Mount Rouse \(Penshurst\)](#)
[Nhill Silo Heritage Project](#)
[Ouyen](#)
[Port Fairy](#)
[Pyramid Hill](#)
[RHSV History News](#)
[St Arnaud](#)

Stawell

[Swan Hill](#)

[Terang](#)

[Warracknabeal](#)

[Warrnambool](#)

[Wedderburn](#)

[Wycheproof](#)

[WVAHS](#)

Facebook pages (42):

[Arapiles \(Natimuk\)](#)

[Ararat](#)

[Balmoral](#)

[Barham Koondrook](#)

[Boort](#)

[Camperdown](#)

[Casterton](#)

[Carisbrook](#)

[Charlton Golden Grains Museum](#)

[Cobden](#)

[Cohuna](#)

[Donald](#)

[Dunkeld](#)

[Dunolly](#)

[East Loddon \(Mitiamo\)](#)

[Edenhope](#)

[Geelong Museum Association](#)

Glenthompson

[Halls Gap & Grampians](#)

[Hopetoun](#)

[Inglewood](#)

[Kerang](#)

[Koroit](#)

[Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum](#)

[Landsborough](#)

[Maryborough Midlands](#)

[Minyip](#)

[Mortlake](#)

[Mount Rouse \(Penshurst\)](#)

[Nhill Silo Heritage Project](#)

[Nullawil](#)

[Ouyen](#)

[Port Fairy](#)

[Pyramid Hill](#)

[Rainbow](#)

[St Arnaud](#)

[Stawell](#)

[Swan Hill](#)

[Terang](#)

[Warrnambool](#)

[Wimmera Mallee Pioneer](#)

[Museum Jeparit](#)

[WVAHS](#)

Member Group Reports submitted at Zone Meetings in September and October at Nullawil, Horsham and Camperdown

Swan Hill Genealogical and Historical Society (M)

[SHG&HS Facebook page](#)

Another year seems to be rapidly disappearing. Thank you again to all those members who help out diligently week after week with many varied jobs and assistance with Genie Room duty or extra out of hours research and organising etc.

Guest speakers or information nights for the year have varied from:

- History and use of the Drill Hall
- Quiz on Victorian town names
- Centenary of Guiding in Swan Hill
- Trip to Moulamein
- Cemetery walk and information
- Favourite family member.....which

brought out plenty of interesting stories.

A huge thanks again to Jan and Wes who continue their efforts to produce the *Mallee Roots* newsletter, full of never-ending interesting articles, information and photos.

Each year our Sunday afternoon meetings for Winter become a pleasant change and are well attended.

Our group is very fortunate to have such a wonderful library of books, magazines, CDs and fiche and we continue to receive generous donations of photo collections which are then scanned.

The variety of research continues to keep our volunteers busy with enquiries ranging from family history to general local history and buildings.

Work continues to keep the Swan Hill Cemetery records up to date with the co-operation of the Cemetery Trust. The latest CD of Cemetery burials and inscriptions was produced in 2020 and is still available. A further six books have been added to the list of those that have been indexed and entered onto our computer, making a total of over 105 in this list.

October will see the next of our Cemetery tours which will focus on the graves of selected pioneer women interred from the 1860s through to the 1950s. Assistance will also be available to anyone wishing to locate graves of relatives.

[Lyn Cunningham, President 2022-23](#)
[Leone Walbran, Incoming President 2023-24](#)

Rainbow Archive and Historical Society (W)

[RA&HS Facebook page](#)

Another year gone by since my last report and, as always, it seems the more we sort, catalogue, research and file away, the bigger the task becomes. The requests for information about local history and former residents arrive on a regular basis: by mail, email, Facebook and in person visits to Rainbow.

Our Facebook page has generated a lot of interest and comment. A huge thank you to Peter Ralph for the research for the articles in the *Rainbow Argus* and to Jan Edelsten for posting said items on our Facebook page.

The requests for information have generated the launch of our Land Ownership Project. The aim is to track ownership of farm land blocks from the initial grants to the present day. In many cases the transfers are many and others have stayed in the same family from the initial allocation. We have maps of the different counties within the North Riding of the Shire and Shire Rate information at the Archive to assist in the search. Three gentlemen have undertaken an area each – Werrap, Kurnbrunin and Albacutya – which leaves several more areas to be allocated – Pullet, Kenmare, Hindmarsh, Wirmbool and Pigick. A great project for a retired or semi-retired ex-farmer.

We have ordered a reprint of the “Kenmare” book compiled by Mr Ian Wood. Our stocks had run low and the books still sell quite well to visitors to the town.

Another welcome addition to our collection was the receipt of a memoir written by Mr Max Newton of his childhood and growing up in Rainbow. We treasure these personal stories of the past, along with published family histories people are kind enough to donate to our collection.

The Rainbow A&P Society Rainbow Show is scheduled soon and we will have a presence there. A big thank you to Peter and Denise Ralph for manning a book display last year.

Earlier this year, we held a plant stall in Federal Street. Thanks to the amazing selection of plants supplied by Ann Simms, this was a very successful fundraiser.

Our most recent event was the Eckerman Slide afternoon. The slides featured the movement of Paul Eckerman and his family, from South Australia to Pella, west of Rainbow, and over the years following. Ruth Eckerman, who came to Rainbow as a bride after marrying Paul's oldest son Kevin, very ably spoke about all the changes over the years to the present day. This was a very enjoyable and well attended afternoon.

I wish to thank all the members of the Archive team for their efforts and cooperation during the past year and the public for their support for the Archive. However, we desperately need some more people to get involved for the Archive to continue and to prosper. You don't have to be an original local to volunteer or become a member. There are many ways to contribute in this modern era.

[Diane Wall, Honorary President and Research Officer](#)

Birchip Historical Society (M)

[BHS YouTube link](#)

Birchip Historical Society celebrated its 40th Birthday in August. We have come a long way since our first intrepid foray into the old Court House which was a condemned building which we begged for and with the help of our Birchip town councillors, several of whom were historically minded, we gained access to the building which the Birchip Council eventually bought for us. That old Courthouse celebrates its 110th birthday in 2024 and has lasted an extra forty years and looks set to last for at least that much longer again.



We have been lobbying to have artefacts restored and returned to our town median strip. Finally things are happening and several items are now in Watchem for repairs by the top stone mason there. We hope to have all returned to their rightful places in time for the Mali Heart festival next March or possibly prior to that.

The stone lion, one of two which once adorned a Birchip shop but were destroyed in a storm, has been rescued from its pile of rubble and also sent to Watchem. On its return it is hoped that we can have it restored and placed in a small garden area at the museum with an urn and harp from the roof of the former Shamrock Hotel, so some more of our history can be visible once again. The Campbell's Tank monument was also vandalised but is now being repaired by our Birchip Men's Shed so it can be placed back at the former Campbell's Tank site.

We had a very successful R.H.S.V. Conference together with Nullawil and Donald Historical Societies organised by Rosalie Triolo and chaired by R.H.S.V. representatives. It was a great weekend.

We have had visits from some Year 7/8 students from the P12 School who are studying local history after their visit to the cemetery and they had a wonderful two sessions looking through the archives and museum following up information on their various projects and checking their own family files. They enjoyed the Shepherd's Hut, old implements, telephone exchange and all sorts of ancient articles and were very respectful learning about the many local soldiers who were involved in World Wars 1 and 2 and whose stories are told in the museum War Room.

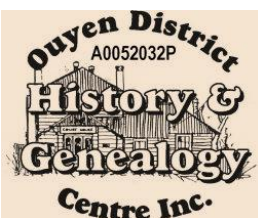
A lot of information has been found and collated on the history of the Infant Welfare Centre and Kindergarten. Unfortunately, the building which contained those activities was demolished this year after only less than seventy years. A large space remains as there isn't money any more for the planned "Splash Park".

Lots of research has been continual throughout the rest of the year with a diary of activities from the Senior Citizens being donated, several family researches completed as well as information for two Life Memberships, Football reunions for 1973 Premiership winners in Reserves, the history of a house that was once Sister Duster's Private hospital once called St. Burford's Hospital. The same Sister Duster also opened a cottage hospital under the same name in Stawell.

We are working with the Buloke Tourism Board to have two channel ditchers become part of a planned Mounted Machinery Trail. The Tourism Board missed out on a grant for these but will apply again. The ditchers are very important to us as the town would not be there, let alone other towns exist, without the channel system which brought water to the area.

Our archivist Elaine has continued to index the newspapers and has reached the 1990s, a painstaking task. Some framed embroidery has been donated to us and will be prepared for display. We have welcomed a new member and have had new interest shown by the school; both are very welcome as we head into our 41st year still needing more members but rejoicing in our small achievements.

Maureen Donnellon, Secretary



Ouyen District History and Genealogy Centre (W)

[ODHGC website](#)

[ODHGC Facebook page](#)

The History Centre recently had a successful application for the Local History Grants Program for \$10,000 to digitise two of Ouyen's earliest newspapers, through Trove, with assistance from the State Library of Victoria and the National Library of Australia.

Recently we signed a memorandum of understanding with Mildura Rural City Council and are currently working on a lease agreement with Council.

Our current display is 'Walpeup.... the way it was' to tie in with the Walpeup Memorial Hall Centenary Celebrations held on 23 September. Research and displays for the occasion were enhanced through records held at the Centre. October 6 has been advertised as a day for Seniors to visit this display.

Reorganising and sorting the archives has been undertaken.

Our small group continues to reply to requests and enquiries from visitors, emails and Facebook.

Merle Pole, President

Donald History Society Inc. (M)

[DHS website](#)

[DHS Facebook page](#)

Since April we have been very fortunate to have three exceptional speakers.

Peter Clark spoke on his time as a meat inspector at the Donald Meatworks. Peter's well researched presentation published in *The Buloke Times* bought many replies from those who had worked there.

James Burke from BB Harvesting spoke on his family's harvest contracting business.

Geoff Park, field naturalist and nature photographer from Newstead, gave a presentation on 'The Birds of our Catchment'. Geoff's blog 'Natural Newstead' is well worth a look.

All our speakers are recorded and the record kept at our archives. These talks, along with our monthly newsletter 'The Buloke Bulletin', can be found on our website <https://donaldhistory.org.au>

We continue to hold some monthly meetings out of town and around our district. This has created interest and attracted visitors.

In May we were taken on a tour of the Banyena area by some of the locals before meeting back at the Banyena Hall for afternoon tea and much reminiscing of their growing up in the 1950s and '60s. Hopefully we have encouraged them to record their memories and send a copy into our archives.

Our September meeting was held at "Grassy Vale", Batyo Catyo, the home of the Campbell family ancestors since selection in 1872. The owners also run an Airbnb from "Argyle House", another residence on the property. They spoke on their business venture and the origins of the Airbnb company and its expansion worldwide.

In October we will be holding our meeting in the Jeffcott fire shed before travelling to view the recently installed memorial plaques at the sites of the Coats and Pearse families' original selections.

In May three members travelled to Birchip to a conference run by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. The following day we opened our Court House Museum for conference attendees.

The Archives open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 4 pm and is kept busy with a variety of requests. Most recently the Donald State School has asked us to help with material for their 150th year celebrations. We have also been invited to participate in the Centenary celebrations of the B. M. Basset buildings in October.

Our Antique and Collectables shop at 58 Woods Street continues to raise much needed funds. We opened again during Donald's "All Town Garage Sale" held on Father's Day. Valued member Peter Pendlebury, who over the years kindly stored a large volume of donated material for us, organised a highly successful auction which raised over \$5,000 for our Society.

After missing out on grants to have our old microfilm copies of *The Donald Times* (1883-1946), *Donald Express* (1883-1894) and the *Donald Mail* (1913-1917) digitised, we decided to pay to have them done ourselves. This has made our research easier and more efficient. Bound copies of the local newspaper from 1947 to 2022 are available in our reading room at the Archives and indexing has been completed up to March 1986.

Thank you to *The Buloke Times* which regularly publishes articles sent in by three of our member societies - Donald, Birchip and Charlton - highlighting the work we do promoting and preserving our local history.

Ann Dunstan, President

Landsborough and District Historical Group (W)

[LDHS Facebook page](#)



We have had a busy period of activity in Landsborough with both the new Landsborough Larder and expanded post office/shop opening up in recent months. The Larder is stocking our new publication *The Pubs and Publicans of Landsborough 1862-2000* which was released in June and has been selling well. This is a really interesting history of the early pioneering days of the town, and our thanks go to member Phil Waring for all his work on this project.

Another time capsule has been buried at the site of the hall, to be opened in 2048. The Historical Group made a contribution of our 25th anniversary newsletter, a collection of images from the town's 150th anniversary celebrations taken in 2012 and some notes from our President made in 2023.

Some upcoming grant applications have been made with the Pyrenees Council as work is required on our access ramp to the Barkly Room including the replacement of wooden boards that have been rotting away in the weather. The Crowlands Wind Farm grant applications open in October and we will again be discussing the railway signage project in conjunction with the tourism officers of the three councils involved. We have been pleased with the support given to us from Adam Boyle at the Pyrenees Shire in order to progress these projects.

We have engaged a local handy-man, Harry, to fit picture railing around the Barkly Room to help us display more framed photos passed onto us in recent years. We have been rapidly running out of room for our displays.

Visitor numbers have been encouraging; we open only on request but continue to receive many enquiries, mainly relating to local families, and we encourage this work with our articles on Social Media, the local *Pyrenees Advocate* and the *Landsborough News*.

Brett Leslie, President

Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum, Jeparit (W)

[WMPM Facebook page](#)



It has been a busy year not without its challenges as we continue to act on the Masterplan for the Museum, initiated by Hindmarsh Shire.

Upgrades to current information signs which are fading has been successfully completed. We are continuing to install storyboards and QR codes around the facility. A further twelve story boards have been installed. This was a collaboration between Craige Proctor (content), Jeff Woodward (graphic design) and Peter Pumpa (frames). Well done to all involved!

I attended a digitisation workshop with NAHC which led to the purchase of professional photographic equipment in readiness for updating the domestic catalogue this coming year.

We decided to hold a 2-day Rally in the face of waning enthusiasm amongst committee members. The weekend was very successful with 665 visitors over the two days. We thank the Maldon Vintage Engine Club for their generous donation of a commercial coffee machine for future events. We again welcomed many exhibitors who generously donated their time to help make our weekend successful.

In addition, this year we formed collaborations with:

[First Peoples State Relations](#) to register and catalogue our indigenous artefacts.

[The Menzies Institute](#) to bring a stronger presence to our longest serving Prime Minister's humble origins.

[Federation University](#), hopefully to develop a curriculum which may bring history students in to help with much-needed research and curatorial efforts in our organisation in the future.

[Royal Historical Society of Victoria](#) and the [Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies](#) to bring a higher profile to our Museum amongst Historical Societies in the western region of our state.

[Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre](#) and [Nhill Historical Society](#) to foster closer relationships and exchange of knowledge.

Early in 2023 the Committee opted to run a series of smaller events with themed pop-up displays rather than holding a 2-day Rally in 2024. This decision was largely made due to the limited number of committee members and volunteers in the organisation of the Rally and the conflicting timeframe with cropping taking farmers away from organisational activities in the weeks leading up to the Rally. The organisation of such a large event has taken our focus away from our primary role of the day-to-day running and upgrades to the Museum, specifically the difficulty in finding time to devote to the execution of the Masterplan. This announcement has mobilised the community and we were pleased to welcome four new committee members and a working group of a further four community members to organise next year's event.

This year has seen a continued stream of donations offered to the museum to improve our visitor experience, with a rare straw baler (chaff cutter), tractor, organ, children's clothing and wedding attire, multiple historical publications and a cash donation from the Jeparit Lions Club which will be used for a cabinet to protect our army uniform display.

Visitor numbers continue to rise since COVID, up 4% over last year's visitors and 22% over 2019 visitors which is encouraging.

I am proud to commend the boundless energy of Mary-Anne Paech (Treasurer) and Craige Proctor (Secretary) who have both been a joy to work with, ready to step in and volunteer wherever needed but especially on the front desk at a moment's notice, engaging with our customers and diligently working toward a better organisation working toward a higher standard of exhibits for our customers.

Wendy Werner, President/Chair

Balmoral Historical Society (W)

[BHS Facebook page](#)

It certainly is nice to be able to open up to the public again.

The Easter Market here is a great happening in the area and its return benefits many local businesses, clubs etc. The Society holds its major fund raiser for the year at this time and has a 'Garage Sale' on the Saturday morning. Now, with the Courthouse restored it can also be opened for the public to visit.

To be able to experience the journey of the accused the Society is now restoring the 2-celled Iron Stone Lock-up at the rear of the Courthouse. Funding has been obtained for some works: namely the replacement of the guttering and downpipes from the Southern Grampians Community Partnership Grant.

So! On we go raising funds and restoring.....



Denize Raggatt, Secretary/Treasurer



(W)



[SHS website](#)

A discussion was held re the ongoing auditing and checking of financial records which until now have been carried out annually. It is no longer a requirement of Victorian Consumer Affairs to conduct an audit if our annual turnover is less than \$250,000. It was moved and accepted at our recent AGM that we no longer proceed with audits of our Financial Statements.

Greg Robson, Treasurer/Secretary, approached several well-known businesses in Stawell re potential sponsorship of our quarterly Newsletter. As a result, eight businesses have agreed to financial sponsorship.

All current Office Bearers have been re-elected.

We have worked with Northern Grampians Shire Council to develop material for the creation of Art Panels and historic stories for installation in empty shopfronts. Three Landlords agreed to this and, as a main street (photos available to view).

We continue to receive generous donations of items, documents and photos. The most recent offer is the original timber spire from Stawell 502 Primary School. The school and spire were erected in 1865 and the spire is being replaced with a steel replica as it is considered to be in poor condition.



We have recently applied for several grants for binding and digitising. The latest one was declined on the grounds that it was not a new project but already underway. This is worth remembering when applying for grants. We continue digitising our vast photo collection.

I have been investigating websites promoting Stawell and finding many errors. Many of these websites are privately owned and have not been fact checked. I have found old information on our operating days and hours. Some have responded, some have not. This includes Visit Victoria. I would suggest searching for errors on websites which promote your town and Society.

The Stawell Visitor Information Centre is now well-established next door to our premises and is proving very beneficial to increasing visitor numbers to our Museum. Several of our team also volunteer in the VIC and we have been able to provide the Council with a lot of information for publicity purposes.

It is interesting to note that some Societies are having trouble attracting volunteers. We seem to have the opposite problem and have had to decline some applications unless specific skills are available.

Kate van Dyck, Member Executive Committee,
Publicity Officer, Museum Curator

Pyramid Hill and District Historical Society (M)

[PHDHS webpage](#)

[PHDHS Facebook page](#)

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

Work is progressing in Barber St where the Ruston Hornsby from the Butter Factory is to be re-sited as the first project there.

A visitor from Tasmania brought a Ruby glass with clear scalloped base to donate to the Museum. Written on it was Pyramid Hill Show 1912. Her family had this but she had never been told any details about it so we are hoping to find out by researching *Pyramid Hill Advertiser* reports of the 1912 A & P Society Show.

A security system has been installed by Aussie Surveillance, Echuca.

The Historic Plaque project has been completed with installation of the location sign.

Proof-reading of our latest book – *Floods, Droughts, Rabbits and Hares* – is in progress.

Work has been restricted at the Museum due to landscaping by the Loddon Shire.



Helen Stevens



Warracknabeal & District Historical Society (W)

[WDHS website](#)

All sections of the Society have had a busy year and it doesn't seem to be slowing down yet!

We were donated a John Glover painting of the creek which was commissioned by a doctor who used to practise in Warracknabeal. It will hang in the Museum. In the Banking Chamber at the Historical Centre we have two new "workers." We had been donated State Savings Bank uniforms and we have now placed them on life-sized models.

We continue to receive many requests for information, some very difficult, but most of which we can accommodate. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club which enabled us to purchase a new cupboard to store more copies of the *Warracknabeal Herald*. Unfortunately our photocopier died and we had to purchase a new one which was a big expense. One of our members placed locks on many of our cabinets providing much-needed security.

The Agricultural Museum members have also been very busy. The ongoing saga of the plumbing around the building is, hopefully, coming to a close soon.

We received two substantial grants to redevelop the grounds to the north of the Museum. We have already knocked down trees, many of which were in a dangerous state. We plan to put in a new BBQ area with seating and a playground. While planning for these was underway, the sale of the old Secondary College bus shelter came up. So we tendered for it and were fortunate to purchase it. Moving it to the Museum was quite a task as it was broken into three pieces, placed on trucks and transported. We are now re-thinking our plans to include the shelter.

We were donated a potato planter from the Daylesford Historical Society. A couple of members restored it and we held a potato planting afternoon open to the public. The plants are being irrigated and have been mulched. We now have to restore the potato digger in time to harvest them – hopefully!

Planning is underway for the 2024 Rally featuring John Deere and English engines. A Waterloo Boy engine and Model D tractor are in the workshop at present. Our Foyer display will soon change to the green and gold of John Deere.

We received an interesting invitation to the Triennial Agricultural Machinery Congress being held in India. We had never heard of this world-wide event so replied with interest and sent copies of our brochures which were gratefully received.

Our Warehouse continues to grow with about 2,000 vendors. An unusual query was "Do we have any 1970s leather football boots and jumpers?" Answer: No! There are approximately twenty volunteers who work well together to staff the shop. At present it is packed with "goodies" so come and visit. It is nearly 25 years since the opening of the Warehouse and this will be celebrated with a dinner for all volunteers.

In September President Lorraine organised a Kid's Activity Day at the Museum. Activities included working with an engine, woodworking with the Men's Shed, butter making and cooking scones, jigsaws, Lego and pre-Show preparations with the Show committee. About 100 children and adults attended and enjoyed all the activities.

Finally, best wishes to all Societies for Christmas and the coming year.

Lesley Stephan

Nhill and District Historical Society (W)

Hindmarsh Shire Council have taken over the responsibilities of our old Lowan Shire building. We have found them to be very obliging and their maintenance man is always available with a phone call. We have been advised that funds have been allocated to our building in their maintenance budget.

The Model Rules and Collection Policies were accepted at the August Annual General Meeting.

Our research officer, Colleen, continues to be busy with research in general and family enquiries.

Of the eight original Old Lowan Shire chairs we now have six re-upholstered thanks to a Horsham Sport and Community sponsorship and a donation from a Society member.

During the King's Birthday weekend we attended the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum in Jeparit and set up a school display in the Detpa school they have on site.

Work is coming together for our 2024 calendar featuring one hundred years of brides, 1870 to 1970. Twelve frocks through these years have been photographed and the calendar will feature one per month with the collection on the cover. They will be on sale later in the year at \$25 each.

Kay Scott, President; Ross Barker, Secretary and Treasurer

Dimboola and District Historical Society (W)

[DDHS website](#)

First, Dimboola wishes to congratulate the WVAHS on sixty years of continual service and support to all the history related groups throughout the Wimmera, Midland and Southern Zones. It hasn't been easy but the love and importance of preserving and sharing history has managed to keep the Association going and we are extremely grateful to the hard work of all the past and present executives. Congratulations also extends to all the groups that have stuck firm and supported the WVAHS. Well done everyone, Happy Birthday.

Our society is the recipient of a significant bequest and we will finally see the estate concluded after many years in limbo. Financially the bequest is extremely generous and will allow the courthouse and print museum the attention they desperately need.

Mr Marvan Haby, our benefactor, had a love of history and was a member in the early years of the Dimboola Historical Society. He had a great sense of community and we were not the only beneficiaries of his Will. Marvan ran the local picture theatre as well as running the adjoining confectionary shop. He and his father Tottie were also mariners (used bottle collectors); their blocks of land represent years of glass and bottle collection. As an aside they also bred and sold eggs and poultry. The group considers itself very fortunate and we owe Marvan a huge debt of gratitude.

Dimboola has some milestones coming up in 2024 with preparations all well underway. May will see the centenary of the Higher Elementary School, now Dimboola Memorial Secondary College, the only secondary school in Victoria built as a town memorial to the soldiers and nurses of the First World War. DDHS has been asked to stage a display of school related items for the commemoration. The Victoria Hotel, built in 1924 of red brick, is having a birthday as well and Stoph and Merran are planning a birthday celebration; again we have been asked to become involved. The Picture theatre, now in private ownership is also 100. At this stage we are unsure of any plans to recognise this mile-stone but we are hoping that something will be done and we can facilitate the owners in some capacity.

Hindmarsh Shire Council has recently conducted a heritage study, not the Gold Standard one that other Shires have commissioned but a reasonable start nonetheless. DDHS was initially contacted by the consultant and we agreed to research and compile histories on some sites to be considered for local inclusion in the heritage overlay. The old Dimboola Power House, now part of the Council outdoor staff headquarters, has sadly lacked maintenance over the years and was under real threat of demolition.

Fortunately we were able to produce enough evidence to give it a reprieve with Council now considering keeping the brick Art Deco facade and part of the building while adding new to the rear. The Printing Museum has never figured in any Shire heritage overlay and this is something we have lobbied for over the years. We have been unable to apply for heritage funding because it was



not deemed a place of even local significance. However, it now is to be included and we will be aiming at not only local but state recognition in the near future. Interestingly the consultant suggested we pursue both the building and contents for recognition. Council has given us a copy of the recommendations and we are happy in principle although we wait to see the inclusion finalised and will be pursuing this outcome if they dally.

Evelyn King, Secretary

Halls Gap & Grampians Historical Society (W)

[HG&GHS Facebook page](#)

[HG&GHS website](#)

My report on the Halls Gap and Grampians Historical Society this year is not one filled with celebration as we do here today for the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies. Indeed, our society came near to closing our doors (literally and figuratively) after forty years. We had to make some serious changes in how we could stay afloat.

With four members moving away (including our Treasurer) our membership is now down to five. With no one volunteering to be Treasurer we approached the Community Association of Halls Gap which is an incorporated body. Our request was to come under their umbrella (as do five other community organisations). They agreed and their Treasurer now looks after our finances. But let me assure you that what belongs to our Society is kept separate and for our use only.

However there is one bright light in relation to money matters and that is our bank balance is very healthy. This is due to the many visitors who come to our rooms and obviously appreciate the displays as they do chatting to Chas Mangle who opens the rooms every afternoon except Tuesday.

Our major problem is attracting more locals to join our Society and share the workload. But here's the rub: we are a tourist town and those in business tend to be absorbed in their work. For that we can't complain as their customers are the very people who keep our donation box in such a healthy condition. However, we do have some generous community volunteers, one of whom recently restored the plaque and stonework on Sullivan's Seat.

Meanwhile, in the 'back room' Jenni O'Donoghue and I meet every Thursday afternoon to continue the unfinished cataloguing, create further displays indoors, replace interpretive signs outdoors and give some time and thought as to how we can keep our Society afloat for (at least) another few years.

Janet Witham, President



(M)

[LBFBM website](#) [LBFBM Facebook page](#)

In the absence of representation from the LBFBM at the Midlands Zone Meeting at Nullawil, I took the opportunity to provide the following brief update.

The Lake Boga Lions Club, which runs the Museum, is currently working towards a fly-in on Sunday of the March Labour Day weekend in 2024. This will also tie-in with Swan Hill's annual Food and Wine Festival which attracts many patrons. More details will be available in the future.

Along with two volunteers I attended the AMAGA digitisation workshop held for six days over two weeks. This was a very rewarding and enlightening workshop which hopefully will reflect on the museum's collection. Participants were also from the Regional Library, Pioneer Settlement and Genealogical & Historical Society who learnt the art of professional handling, photographing, scanning and cataloguing of artefacts, ephemera and text format such as newspapers. Plans are underway to collaborate resources to help each other with digitisation.

Personally, the research conducted for Museum patrons is very rewarding; to bring people in contact with National Archives documents and then for them to see what parents and grandparents were flying in (Catalinas) during the war years is gratifying. Many children never heard of their parent's experiences as they were reluctant to talk of their experiences.

One of the most intriguing enquiries was on Fred Wong who, as a director of Asian Airways after World War II, was involved in purchasing Catalinas and subsequently drowned in Lake Boga in 1948. This enquiry also led to me learning more about the Dalfram Dispute (pig iron exports to Japan pre-World War II), Chinese immigration and the Independence of Indonesia.

Steve Pentreath

Charlton Golden Grains Museum (M)

[CGGM website](#) [CGGM Facebook page](#)



Our museum has had a very productive six months. We have been making progress on our renovation of the former Wesleyan Chapel which will be unveiled at our 50th Anniversary celebration on 17th November this year. The renovations cost a lot more than expected but our local community, including the Charlton Uniting Church, has contributed significant funds towards it. The new display will include several organs from various local churches that have closed, historical items from all of Charlton's current and former churches as well as a series of interpretive panels telling the story of the churches and their congregations in Charlton and district over the last 160 years.

We received a Local History Grant to conserve a bird taxidermy display. We were unsuccessful the first time we applied to them for funding for this project so our perseverance paid off. We are pleased that this program has had its funding continued by the State Government; our lobbying must have worked. It has paid for numerous projects in our museum and the town over the years totaling over \$50,000.

We also received a \$3,500 grant from our local Bendigo Community Bank to purchase a digital SLR camera, light boxes and other equipment to assist with photographing our collection.

I was asked to sit on the judging panel for several of the AMaGA awards this year. This highlights the esteem with which our museum is held by AMaGA.

We currently have an active volunteer workforce of eleven with most aged in their sixties or early seventies, so a relatively young group. This means we have lots of skilled and capable people to work on all aspects of our museum operations.

I produced a booklet for our Cenotaph Centenary which contains details on the World Wars 1 and 2 soldiers listed on it. This was well received and was given out free of charge.

Our regular museum updates appear in the monthly community newsletter and Anne, our President, submits information from 100 years ago to the local newspapers. Content for the quarterly *Cultural Magazine* is well received as is the whole magazine.

Research requests have slowed down a bit now that life has returned to normal; they certainly increased during Covid. But we don't mind as it allows more time for other activities.

Carolyn Olive, Secretary

Ararat and District Historical Society (W)

[ADHS Facebook page](#)



Until earlier this month, Ararat and District Historical Society was on track for its best year ever.

Somehow we'd made it onto bus tour schedules and were hosting tour groups regularly.

We were fortunate to be chosen as one of six locations to participate in AMaGA Victoria's 2023 Collections and Community Resilience Project. During the six days of onsite training, we received hands-on practice in digitisation, cataloguing, object handling and cleaning of collection material. The training we received has made us realise how poor the efforts of our predecessors were in cataloguing our collection. We are slowly but surely making our way through cataloguing our collection of more than 100,000 items.

Just when we thought we'd gotten over the two years of COVID interruptions and started welcoming visitors back to Langi Morgala Museum, fate dealt us the cruellest blow of all and has set us back further than any pandemic lockdown ever could.

Our volunteers arrived at the museum on September 14 to the shocking discovery that thieves had broken in overnight. Glass from smashed display cabinets covered the floor and, when police finally let us enter, we discovered three handguns, jewellery and our cash box had been stolen. It was a targeted attack. Thieves knew exactly what they were after and police agree with us that at least one of the offenders had visited the museum in the past to suss out the place with the intention of robbing us.

We had always thought our museum was impenetrable. The building is 150 years old with windows up high under the roof line and doors so thick they'd stop a zombie apocalypse. How wrong we were.

The break in proved what we've been telling Ararat Rural City Council, our landlords, for years – the fences surrounding the building are pathetic and leave us at the mercy of criminals. A simple Colour-bond fence would have given us some protection but our Council doesn't care. After a call for help, they sent down two workers to patch the window and secure the rear door which were badly damaged in the break in. Their idea of repairs is obviously very different from ours! A sheet of corrugated iron over

the window and two screws in the back door is hardly a long-term solution and means we can't open to the public until the building is safe.

We missed the school holiday trade and had to cancel a bus tour group booked for late October. The bus tour itself would have netted us hundreds of dollars.

However, the break-in has had a silver lining. When news broke we received an outpouring of messages of support from local residents wanting to help. They told us how important the museum was to the town and many have followed up with donations of money which will allow us to repair our cabinets.

But best of all, J Ward, which we once considered our opposition, have offered to pay for security cameras. We are hopeful this will bring both parties together and, instead of fighting for visitor dollars, see us working to maintain and care for our town's history.

Tammi Munro, President

Inglewood & District Historical Society (M)

[IDHS Facebook page](#)



This report is for the full 2022-23 year as presented at our recent AGM.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Inglewood & District Historical Society during the 2022/23 year. It has been a big year.

We opened the Court House doors each Sunday during October for Victorian History Month with visitors enjoying a range of items from our collection that were on display. We also hosted a Court Re-enactment as part of the Loddon Shire's Senior Week activities. October saw severe floods across the district with Inglewood isolated for several days when roads were closed. The Loddon River at Newbridge, Bridgewater, Serpentine and beyond burst her banks and flood waters spread out across the plains north of Inglewood.

November was a bit quiet as people were recovering from the flooding.

We had a small Christmas gathering in December at the Inglewood Court House.

As usual, we didn't hold a meeting in January but we did reach out to our younger community members to come along to see what our Society does and to encourage them to form a junior committee.

We had good interest and have begun to slowly introduce ideas and activities to encourage that group more.

At our February meeting we had a visitor all the way from Chicago – Mindy who, visiting with her cousin Robyn, gave us a talk on their research into James Wynne who was a Surveyor at Inglewood in the early 1860s.

Our March meeting was very enjoyable with a visit by Judith and Susan Rochester who spent a day walking the town with our member Howard and visiting sites relating to the Rochester Family. They kindly donated items relating to George and Merlin Rochester. Also in March we hosted a walk and talk of Brooke Street for the Sun Country Historic Vehicle and Machinery Club. At the end of March we gave a history talk to a group visiting from Mornington Peninsula and surrounds. Unfortunately, we couldn't perform a Court Re-enactment for them due to lack of volunteer availability. Sadly it looks like our Court Re-enactments have come to their end due to a range of factors.

Our guest speaker at the April meeting was one of our newer members Lynda who gave us a run down on her newly established business researching family history and genealogy. It was a very interesting presentation and fascinating to learn of what she has found for people using her services. On ANZAC Day my brother David and I gave a talk to the service gathering about the boys from Inglewood who served in World War 1 and what an impact it had on the town. The Society presented the Inglewood-Bridgewater RSL Sub-Branch with the Merlin Rochester medals frame donated to us in March. It will be displayed in their museum.

In April we had a visit from Mark who is producing the ABC program Restoration Australia episode on Nimmitabel (Tivey's House). Mark scanned photos from our collection of the Tivey family and other related photos to be part of the story. Nimmiabel may make Series 6 of Restoration Australia next year or Series 7 the year after. Series 5 aired on ABC in July.

In May we combined with Russell from the Goldfields Library to host a reminiscing event based on Family Fun over the times. We shared some of our collection and had some fantastic conversations with those who attended. We also auspiced the Inglewood-Bridgewater RSL Sub-Branch in its application for the restoration of the Rheola Memorial Archway. Our Society was successful in obtaining a \$4,000 grant from the Inglewood Community Bank for the purchase of a digital microfilm reader and digitisation of our *Inglewood Advertiser* microfilm (1860-1960). The Society is very thankful for the grant and to Baden who is doing the digitisation for us.

Unfortunately, in June part of the Court Room roof above the Jury Box fell in. The building has been calling out for a little attention with a water leak fixed, power switch checks and poor water pressure in the toilet. But she still stands.

July and August were quiet in terms of activities but we did move map drawers from Kevin's shed to the container behind the Court House.

Family enquiries have been coming in regularly with Kevin and me helping two or three people a week.

Our Facebook page continues to be popular with many likes and comments on posts.

Book sales are steady with a reprint of the popular *A Brief History of Inglewood* publication planned. Other publications are in the pipeline when time and funding allow.

Wendy Murphy, President

Terang & District Historical Society (S)



[TDHS website](#)

[TDHS Facebook page](#)

Our meetings on the fourth Monday evening still have around 25 members attending who enjoy participating in active decisions. Prior to supper, a Show and Tell segment always presents us with exceptional articles.

Our museum complex is now open on Thursdays where sorting, indexing and cataloguing is done by some of our volunteers. We also open on the third Sunday afternoon as well as by appointment.

We have had quite a few donations, some of which we didn't know anything about.

Continuing research queries keep the research team very active.

With grants we purchased newspaper boxes and archival photo pockets.

We have also received \$6,173 to purchase and set up an historical society touch screen, with local history, as well as interviews with locals speaking from an historical perspective. This will be set up in the windows of the Josie Black Community Centre in High Street and locals and visitors will be able to access it at any time.

One of our members turned 100 earlier in the year and a Life Member passed away recently.

Our book sales keep ticking over, adding to our coffers.

Bob McIntosh, President

Glenthompson Historical Group (S)

[GHG Facebook page](#)



Our group has recently had a working bee to tidy up some of our property. The council is good enough to mow our lawns, but their worker doesn't really care about how he goes about doing this and we end up with a lot of grass cuttings thrown up into our garden bed and all over the few items and plaques we have around our grounds. Add to this all the weeds growing up under trees and shrubs and the place was starting to take on a neglected appearance. Our shrubs have now, mostly, been trimmed, much of the weeds pulled out or poisoned and the various items and plaques cleared of rubbish. As we all know, it's a never-ending job trying to keep our grounds clean and well-tended, especially when we have a large, grassed block.

Work has also finally started on sorting our collections into some sort of order so that in the coming year we can seriously get down to the task of cataloguing and archiving our collections into a simple and searchable database.

For the first time ever, the Hamilton Social Services group recently brought two minibus loads of their participants out to Glenthompson for lunch and a history tour. Week 1 saw a group of ladies come out and enjoy lunch at MJ's Roadhouse before jumping back on the bus for a tour of different areas of Glenthompson. One of the ladies was a former resident of many years' standing and she added to the information being shared as well as noting the four different residences she had lived in. The Week 2 group were all male and did and saw much the same as the first group, although we were a little better organised for this group. One of the participants was a former resident (5th or 6th generation) and Mt Rouse Shire Councillor. Because of his contributions to the community, we have a shed in our local Lions Park that is named for him. The bus group were quite keen to all get out and have a photo taken with this gentleman at this shed, and the feedback we got about both trips was very positive. Now we just need to write up all of this info we were sharing in a friendlier format so that anyone is capable of taking a group like this out in the future.

While we will have to wait until next month's Community Association meeting before being able to confirm the following idea, the history group is looking to combine the usual Australia Day get-together with a "BBQ & Yarn" session. This would hopefully bring back to Glenthompson for the afternoon, former older residents so we can sit around and listen to them share their memories of growing up here. It is hoped to tape these stories for posterity, adding to the knowledge base of Glenthompson in days gone by. As the Community Association usually plans and runs the Australia Day event, we need its support if we want to do it then.

Currently, there is around eight separate research requests being attended to by our single researcher. This is a huge job and is challenging in such a small community because of the amount of natural overlap between many of the families. It is also made more difficult due to the history centre having no clear cataloguing system to refer to. Much of the research is being done for the first time from tiny scraps of information that may be found in some small corner of our collections. Problems like this are just some of what we hope to improve as time goes on.

At the WVAHS AGM I became a committee member of the WVAHS. As such, I have been getting out to a number of history-based meetings and events, which is then allowing me to learn from many of you and explore different methods of running events. Maybe in the next few years Glenthompson will be able to host some of these types of things for you to come to.

We are still trying to track down plans of our centre which is in the old railway station. Victrack and local council have both been contacted, but both seem to think the other should be the one with the information. Typical bureaucrats. Next step might be to see if we can track down the home of the former Mt Rouse Shire records. Maybe, somewhere in them we will either find what we are looking for or at very least, gain some idea of who/where to go next.

Our visitor numbers are still low, but due to our low member participation, we are only able to open for a few hours once a month or by appointment, but please, feel free to give us a call and we will more than happily open up for you, your family or a group to share our lovely little centre and our knowledge. To contact us for a town tour or a visit to our centre, call me on 0438 774 215.

Tracey Potatau-Wright, Secretary

Mortlake and District Historical Society (S)

[MDHS Facebook page](#)



Like other local history societies, Mortlake is still recovering from Covid lockdowns, so this year has mainly been about getting back in to a regular routine of face-to-face meetings. As the Southern Zone meeting was cancelled last year, this report covers part of the previous year as well.

One of our highlights has been the publication of the book on the Mt Violet Soldier Settlement Scheme. This was prompted by a suggestion from Mary West (née Royal) in the UK, whose parents were part of the settlement, and had many documents relating to their time at Mt Violet. The book was compiled/authored by Florence Charles and Joanne Jackson. 2024 will be the centenary of this and other World War 1 settlements in the district.

Sadly, we lost Joanne at the end 2021; she was a wonderful member of our society and is sorely missed. We have also lost a few of our older long-standing members as well over the last year. It is a struggle to catch all the memories of these people before they pass away.

Another highlight was our Vice President, Craige Proctor receiving the Order of Merit award from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. We had a lovely presentation day, with Dr Peter Yule presenting Craige with his award. Also on this day, we had Dr Tim Lowe present us with his collection of Lindsay Russell books. Lindsay Russell was a notorious author in the early 1920s and lived in Mortlake as Mrs Dr Scott in later life.

We have also had our leaflet on the Walking Trail of Mortlake updated. The Mortlake Heritage Trail leaflet highlights notable buildings and places in Mortlake and was kindly reprinted by the Port Fairy Information Centre after receiving a grant to update their collection of information leaflets.

We are hoping to do a lot more in the upcoming year, some walking tours, driving tours and talk events are proposed. We also have an update and reprint of the booklet *Dundonnell and its History* which will be finalised soon and a launch event planned for early 2024.

Jillian Clingan, Secretary

Geelong & South Western Rail Heritage Society Inc. (S)

[GRH website](#)

[GSRHS Facebook page](#)

We had planned our annual Christmas in July dinner at our 1877 Birregurra Station headquarters. As occurred last year, a combination of factors resulted in time running out to hold it in July. Frequent rail line closures on the Warrnambool line meant that there were many dates on which we could hold the event but trains would not be running, hindering attendance, as many take advantage of travel by train from Melbourne and Geelong to enjoy the dinner without having to worry about drink driving restraints.

We eventually held a 'Christmas in Winter Dinner' on Saturday 20 August. A new caterer suggested the revised name due to the event being held in August, not July. They supplied an excellent meal and the main station room was full with 40 patrons enjoying the warming open fire, food and drinks. A third of those attending took advantage of the V/Line Warrnambool line train service to deliver them to the front door. We timed the event to run from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. (or later) to tie in with the train timetable. Many indicated that they will book again for next year so we had better hold one! We made a comfortable surplus that will assist with our rent and public liability insurance payments for the year.

Planning of our usual Coach Day and extended tours for 2023 commenced but none have proceeded so far. One may be held prior to the end of the year but we will gear up for several in 2024. Most visit and view remains of closed railway lines and occasionally railways which are still operating. In most cases, we try to include some rail travel as well as on the coach. All events and tours are open for public bookings. Like us and view updated event details on our Birregurra Station Facebook page or visit our website (both links above).

Regular working bees are held at Birregurra Station every second Friday from 10.30 a.m. until about 1 p.m. when most head down to the main street for a coffee and lunch. Several new volunteers have joined in this year with the variety of tasks required to keep the station and its grounds attractive. There is always lots of grass cutting and gardening to be done plus cleaning and maintaining the station. The main work this year has been the laborious cleaning down, repairing and priming of the lengthy timber picket fence along the station platform. When warm dry weather arrives the top coat will be applied to the fence. More volunteers are always welcome.

Michael Menzies, President

Derrinallum Lismore Community Association: History Group (S)

[DLHG website](#)

Since regrouping in February 2023 post-Covid, we have managed to contribute to and enjoy the social and historic fabric of our communities. We continue to open the first Sunday of the month, 1-4 pm, or manage visits by appointment which works well.

A longstanding and committed member, Tony Hodson, was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in 2022 although the presentation did not take place until the February 2023 meeting. Tony has contributed much to our Group over the years since our early days. (The DLCA History Group was established as a 'Local History' sub-committee in 2002. With funding for building in February 2005 via the Helen McPherson Smith Trust and with massive community input and donations, the Local History Rooms were opened in April 2007).

In February we supported the Western Plains Machinery Preservation Group with a display of local photos and merchandise over the 2-day event. There was a great variety of machinery and collectors. We sold publications and generated history connections that were followed up at a later date.

We were invited to support the Bradvale Hall site plaque unveiling in April, Bradvale being a small community north of Lismore. Well over 200 people attended and lots of friendships were rekindled and history discussed. The History Group supported with photos and visually recorded the day which is now archived for future generations.

We were very pleased to be able to host the ANZAC morning tea which followed the service held at the Derrinallum Cenotaph. On a warm, sunny morning the crowd wandered over to the garden behind the History Rooms to enjoy some Anzac biscuits and a get together. Something we had missed during Covid times.

Our next outing late in April was a visit to Max Kerr's Museum which is in a state of expansion. Although we had eleven apologies, the eight who attended were enthralled by Max's eclectic collection of historic artifacts; agricultural, lifestyle, kitchenalia, shearing, transport, signage; so vast it is difficult to describe. All agreed another visit was a great idea as the collection is so vast, with many items to still be unpacked and displayed. Max is a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.



At our AGM in August John Hulm spoke about the Camperdown Clock Tower, built in 1896 and completed in 1897; another passionate and entertaining speaker with fascinating stories to tell. In September members visited "Yellangip", a magnificent homestead complex, over the Emu Creek from "Jellalabad" homestead at Darlington. We wandered around the garden and down to the small cemetery. Recent owners are doing some incredible restorations to the property.

Our November event will be a Speaker from the Darlington Art Group, Carmel O'Connor, featuring 'The Daisy Cumming - Collage Project', inspired by an article found in The Daisy Cumming Scrapbook. Titled 'The Race Ball', the article from a 1902 newspaper brings alive the names of local women from that year in history, into the present day in an interesting visual format. Twenty DAG members contributed their creativity to produce the project in 2018. This amazing project which will be on display at the History Rooms. Carmel is an inspiring and interesting speaker.

We have interesting and varied window displays which continue to attract attention: NAIDOC Week, Calendar photos, relevant and historic newspaper cuttings, Remembrance and Anzac displays.

The small band of active volunteers continues to gather material (paper-based and digital) and assist visitors and researchers, responding to email inquiries and connecting people near and far with their history. We are presently sorting a vast donated collection of local newspapers and cuttings for our files. Maintenance on our facility is a constant: mowing, birds, garden etc. Strategies for retaining membership, volunteers, storage, community engagement and succession planning are a priority. We are living in changing and challenging times.

Avon Buchholz, DLCA History Group Committee

Arapiles Historical Society (W)

[AHS website](#)



[AHS Facebook](#)

Arapiles Historical Society's most exciting development is the introduction of QR coding by Arapiles Multimedia for a selection of Heritage Trail signages which are listed in the AHS publication *Natimuk Self-Guided Walking Tour* booklets. Visitors following this trail can now connect to historical videos, thanks to the Horsham Rural City Council Community Development Grant awarded to AHS. Arapiles Multimedia has now been nominated for a national NBN award as a result of this successful project which AHS hopes will result in more Heritage Trail sites.

The AHS Research Centre is our busiest meeting space for supporting family research activities, volunteering to meet the needs of the Society and meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m.

For History Month, AHS opened a new exhibition in the historic Natimuk Court House of *Parklands*, depicting life for Roy Schmidt in this historic building on Lake Avenue, built by Heinrich Sudholz before building the old stage-coach Natimuk Hotel in 1876. This exhibition is available for viewing on Tuesday afternoons during the Research Centre open hour or by appointment.

Working bees in the old Garage Museum are occurring weekly with positive results emerging thanks to our keen volunteers. Fundraising through Bunning's Sausage Sizzles continues and memberships are increasing markedly, with exciting new skill sets to match.

We welcome everyone to our meetings, with our next meeting to begin with Christmas themed socialisation from 3 p.m. before meeting at 4 p.m., where there is always much to discuss.

Our new coffee machine will be ready for all to enjoy.

Elizabeth Both, Secretary and Grants Officer

Colac and District Historical Society (S)

[CDHS website](#)



Since the AGM at Charlton we have been saddened by the death of Life Member Liz Chambers and five other elderly members who, although no longer active, have been in the past.

With several other older members in failing health we have had to revise the opening hours rosters. Although we have several keen newer and younger members, the ability to service all aspects of Society activities is becoming more difficult.

The AGM in May saw all positions filled despite the departure of our hard-working newsletter editor. An excellent address on the 'Butchers of Colac' by member Alan Doyle was enjoyed by those present. In July we travelled to Camperdown for a joint meeting to hear Norman Houghton speak on the 140th anniversary of the Colac – Camperdown Railway extension.

In September Doug Kirkman's topic was 'A Lifetime of Plasterboard Business in Colac'.

In October John and Liz McKenzie spoke on two Colac Businesses, A. K. McKenzie Motors and Ball & Croft.

A highlight has been revising and reprinting of the book *Historic Homes of Colac* with fourteen additional homes featured.

We have just upgraded our computers with additional storage and are working towards making access to our records more user-friendly for our computer-shy members.

A new display case, courtesy of a grant from Acciona, is about to arrive.

Five members are about to take part in an initiative by the Geelong Regional Library to assist groups like ours to digitise more of their collections. Finding members with sufficient time to curate our collections and process all our records is our biggest handicap.

Co-operation with the Family History Group is continuing to gather pace with consolidation of the Family Files, integration of the two libraries and excellent window displays incorporating the resources of both groups.

Robert Missen, President

Port Fairy Historical Society (S)

[PFHS website](#)

[PFHS Facebook page](#)

The Port Fairy Museum and Archives have been occupied for most of the early part of the year with the painting and refurbishment of the Courthouse. This required furniture being moved, exhibitions dismantled and scaffolding being erected. We were unable to find any cleaners who would tackle our linoleum floor so we got out the mops and buckets and the members did it themselves. It looks great.



This year we decided to forego general meetings and provide events such as a guest speaker or walks. The first was a talk by a Dutch immigrant and his family's journey to Port Fairy which was very successful with quite a lot of interest from the public as well.

A history walk was put together by our events organisers visiting four of our iconic buildings instead of a General Meeting and despite the rainy conditions many more of our members attended than would normally attend a meeting. Several members spoke about each of the icons and the walk ended at the Caledonian Hotel.

We moved everything back into the Museum and opened again in August with an exhibition on the Couta boats, a paper-based display of indigenous people and a change of characters in our prominent ladies of Port Fairy.

A young student requested being able to film a small story for his VCE and he brought a small film crew in on a Sunday and they had it made in an afternoon. We are looking forward to seeing it when he is able to show it.

We have hosted quite a few tours since reopening and arranged one for an all-abilities group who were interested in sketching and drawing some of the cottages. We provided them all with some little booklets which they appreciated.

Small booklets are still being printed by the publishing committee, the latest being 'Snapshots of Port Fairy'. Our next booklet will be launched hopefully at the APH show in November, another booklet of stories from people who grew up in Port Fairy. Our first booklet *Reminiscences* has sold very well so let's hope this one will too.

We received a lovely donation of two large ship models from a young man in Geelong which are currently on display at the Museum; the rigging has to be seen to be believed.

In September three members went to Terang to see how the Scan Pro machine works to digitise microfilm. We are now working our way through either having our microfilms digitised professionally or using the Scan Pro system. Our Scan Pro is almost at the stage where the manufacturers will no longer support it. They have offered us two more years' maintenance which we will take up while we make decisions. New technology is so hard to keep up with!

Our Facebook page is very popular and Carol is working her way through the main streets giving the history as she goes and happily accepting the photographs that come out of the woodwork, some of which we have not set eyes on before.

Lynda Tieman, Collection Manager

Minyip and District Historical Society (W)

[MDHS Facebook page](#)



The MDHS is focusing on updating its information technology equipment to enable Society members and the community in general to access information held locally and on various public access websites. The Rupanyup Minyip Finance Group through its Community Benefits program has agreed to fund the purchase of new computers and appropriate software along with a large television for presentations. The Society thanks sincerely the Finance Group for its support of this project.

2024 marks the 40th anniversary since the commencement of filming *The Flying Doctors* series in the town. On 24 February the town will hold its 'Show and Shine' event at which this anniversary will be recognised with the Historical Society being heavily involved.

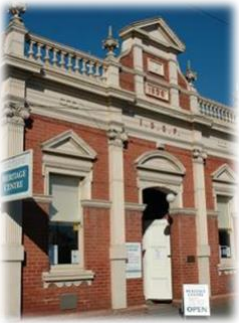
Each year an historical project with the Minyip Primary School is conducted. This year we are looking at the town's large number of historic buildings and their importance. Students are invited to depict their favorite building in artwork that will be placed on display in the town.

Wayne Jackson, President

Camperdown and District Historical Society (S)

[CDHS website](#)

[CDHS Facebook page](#)



Bob Lambell, who has served the Camperdown and District Historical Society since 1988, including twelve years as President, was presented with his RHSV Award of Merit by RHSV Vice-President Rosalie Triolo at the recent 2023 Robert Burns Lectures. Bob's award was for exceptional service to history in Victoria over the past 35 years.

The 2023 Robert Burns Festival in July was a great success. Our Society helped arrange the Gala Dinner on the Friday evening and also organised the Saturday lectures. Speakers were Fiona Ross, who explored Burns' approach to songwriting; Stewart McArthur, who spoke about his grandmother's sister Christina McPherson and her role in the creation of the song *Waltzing Matilda*; Dr Rosalie Triolo, whose subject was the Victorian Education Department's School Papers during the First World War and Camperdown's teacher enlistees; and Allan Willingham, whose subject was the Taylor family, the Scottish family responsible for Camperdown's Robert Burns Statue. We had three very interesting talks to packed audiences at the Camperdown Heritage Centre. In April Pat Walsh AM spoke about his uncle Cyril Augustine Walsh from South Purrumbete who was killed in 1943 when his RAAF 460 Squadron Lancaster bomber was shot down over Denmark. At the conclusion of Pat's talk his brother John presented our Society with the Cyril Walsh Archive, records collected by the Walsh family in the eighty years since Cyril's death. In July Norm Houghton OAM spoke about the Colac-Camperdown railway to mark the 140th Anniversary of its opening. Then in August at our AGM, Alistair Tune entertained us with his experiences over twenty years in the trade of dry-stone walling.

Our technology and cataloguing team are working steadily towards moving our digital archive collection from Maxus to Victorian Collections. Those familiar with such matters will appreciate how much work is involved.

The *Camperdown Chronicle* for 1875 and 1876 has been digitised and uploaded to Trove thanks to a \$1,500 grant from the Bendigo Bank and the *Western Press* and *Hampden Guardian* from 1866-77 have also been also digitised for Trove with a \$5,024.25 grant from the Victorian Government's Local History Grants Program.

Since our AGM in August we have a new president – Lyle Tune - following my decision to retire after five years. Thanks Lyle for stepping up.

Rob Wuchatsch

Koroit and District Historical Society (S)

[KDHS Facebook page](#)



We have had a sad year.

Andrea Lowenthal, our President, passed away in May. She had a vision and was always aware of moves we could make to keep the Museum vibrant and work that needed to be completed for the Society. We appreciate all she did for us as President and as newsletter editor and as a dedicated member.

Our biggest change in 2023 was the rearrangement of the room. We purchased a new photocopier and computer with a Moyne Shire assistance grant which has led to a rearrangement of our workroom for easy movement which also led to updating two other computers.

We also purchased a much lighter banner to carry at the Irish Festival Parade and to use when we are out and about.

In May Moyne Shire asked for assistance with the Moyne Shire Heritage Citation Report which it was looking to update and we were able to help here.

As a result of this I must thank Kathy Baulch who digitised the Rate Books that we hold for Moyne Shire as well as digitising past newspapers which are on microfilm. This involves a trip and time spent in Warrnambool for which we are most grateful.

This year we have enjoyed a couple of occasions when we drove or walked with a couple of local identities to recall past shops, buildings and houses in Commercial Road, High Street and Station Street to add to work done by Henry Gardiner in the late 1900s on the history of the business part of town.

We continue to open and be involved in the activities at Victoria Park and Koroit, opening for the Agricultural Show, Lake School, Truck Show, Swap Meet, Irish Festival and Remembrance and Anzac Days as well as staff the Museum on the second Sunday each month and try to answer research queries even with our small number of volunteers.

Next month we are forty years old and we hope to celebrate in the new year.

Margaret Trotter, President

Cobden and District Historical Society (S)

[CDHS Facebook page](#)



After being in the doldrums and losing our member Alma MacDonald, our club stayed stagnant. However, we are fortunate to have had three younger members join and they have totally rejuvenated our group. We operate under the banner of Progressing Cobden organisation, covering our insurance.

Members are cataloguing our paper information, photos, and memorabilia. A member also began a website, proving most successful in promoting us to the wider community.

We provide a search library for family history queries; this has been very successful and keeps us busy.

Our hall is small but by utilising every space we are able to use our grant to house under glass a model with full regalia of the Cobden Pipe Band Major.

A photo collection from deceased member and Cobden doctor, Bill Barrett, has been hung on our wall creating a good deal of interest.

We have been fortunate enough to gain a grant from the Public Record Office of Victoria to have our Orton collection of glass negatives restored, digitised and printed.

Fonterra gave us a grant to purchase a glass cabinet to house valuable ledgers from the 1888 commencement of the Cobden and District Cooperative Cheese and Butter Company factory, the first cooperative milk factory to open in Victoria.

Corangamite Shire granted us money to restore a window in the hall.

We received a grant from Australia Post to buy a computer and are waiting for other grants; if lucky enough to receive it will make us fully digital.

Our Society has had further donations from individuals and residents in Cobden.

Every two months we have a changing display in the hall to interest visitors and dress a vacant window in the main street to create interest in our district's history. This has been well received by the community.

We have visited with the Heytesbury Historical Society and the Camperdown to Timboon Rail Trail, exchanging ideas and view their museums.

Delia Kerr, Secretary

Warrnambool and District Historical Society (S)



[W&DHS website](#)
[HeritageWorks](#)

[W&DHS Facebook page](#)

It has been business as usual at our research centre, HeritageWorks, despite the lingering cloud of our building woes. In July we received a good hearing at a meeting with Warrnambool City Councillors and officers at which we presented our pitch for their assistance with relocating our operation to suitable premises, centrally located and with guarantee of long-term tenure. In the meantime, we remain in our 'non-compliant' building awaiting constructive suggestions as to solutions to our accommodation problem.

Our collections committee members have been working on a comprehensive audit of our textile collection. We are continuing to add items to the Victorian Collections catalogue (3,000+) while simultaneously endeavouring to address the problem of the 'poor health scores' of the early items placed on that database when we began ten years ago: the goalposts keep moving! Following our participation in the AMA GA sponsored digitisation workshop in March, we applied for and received a WCC Community Development Fund grant for camera and studio lighting equipment to enable us to improve the online presentation of our collection.

In May we received an offer of assistance from the Grimwade Centre, a group of four MA students offering to carry out a project on our behalf, as part of their coursework for Melbourne University. We chose to have them investigate the process of digitisation of the *Warrnambool Standards* for Trove. The students then wrote a funding submission which has been submitted to the Holdsworth Foundation and will be used as a basis for further submissions over ensuing years. We envisage the digitisation in batches beginning with the 1872 editions and moving towards 1914.

Our monthly 'Exploring our Past' sessions have continued in the Library and Learning centre – walks, talks, film and slide shows – and we have begun making plans for next year.

Our resident war historian James 'Bim' Affleck has had a busy year and his sixth book in the Soldier Settlement series on the *Yalla-Y-Poora* settlement will be launched in that community on November 12. 'Bim' is currently working on interviews for his next book on *Injemira & Maes-y-Porth* settlements at Cooramook.

Janet Macdonald, President

Upcoming Events



[GMA Facebook page](#)

Geelong Museum Association Inc.

2024 '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.

Sunday 24* March:

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 racecourses in our district and the second, the Loddon, Campaspe and Mallee regions. Copies of these books will be available for purchase after his talk. * One week early due to Easter Sunday falling on the Last Sunday of March.

Sunday 28 April:

Topic and speaker to be confirmed.

Sunday 26 May:

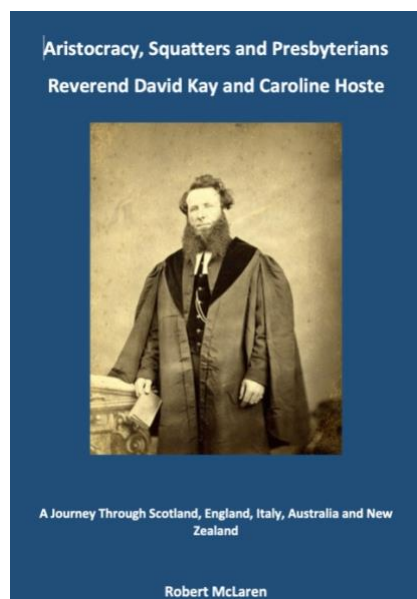
Woollen mills of Geelong. For more than 100 years Geelong was a centre of wool processing. Many large industrial facilities were built to house wool scouring, spinning, dyeing and weaving establishments. Most have closed during recent decades but some remain and their buildings and chimneys are prominent sites around Geelong. Their history and the lives of their numerous employees make for a fascinating story.

Colin Mockett is a writer, historian, broadcaster, entertainer, editor and tour guide. He's a graduate of both Geelong's Gordon Institute and Deakin University. He regularly hosts walking tours of the Geelong Waterfront and is a step-on guide to coach parties visiting the Geelong region. He writes and produces monthly Morning Showtimes for the CoGG's Potato Shed venue and co-presents *The Sustainable Hour* weekly podcast and radio program.

The schedules for the June, July, August, September and October presentations will be published in future issues.

David Mann, Secretary GMA

Publications



\$35 plus postage

Contact Robert McLaren
mclaren55@bigpond.com
 0407 530 030

Aristocracy, Squatters and Presbyterians: Reverend David Kay and Caroline Hoste

By Robert McLaren

(President, Mortlake & District Historical Society)

The Rev. David Kay and his wife Caroline Hoste were the original odd couple. Kay was the son of a Scottish shoemaker but studied in Edinburgh to become a minister of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Rev. Kay's first position was in Genoa, Italy, in 1852 to provide a church for Scottish workers in the port city.

Caroline Hoste was the daughter of a famous Royal Navy captain, Sir William Hoste. The couple married in Paris in 1857. They had very different backgrounds; one lived among the common people while the other had rubbed shoulders with the aristocracies of Britain and Europe. The Kays witnessed first-hand the struggle and wars that were to lead to a united Italy that we know today.

In 1863 the Kays left Italy for Victoria where Rev. Kay was appointed by the Presbyterian Church to the Wickliffe Charge in Western Victoria which included the Hexham and Chatsworth Churches. At Wickliffe the Kays were leaders in their new community for ten years. They were part of the Royal Tour of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh in 1867. The Kays endured a public fallout and court case against John Moffatt of Chatsworth in 1868.

After Caroline's death in Italy Rev. Kay retired, moving to Melbourne and then to Milton, New Zealand. In his retirement Rev. Kay travelled extensively to Europe, Asia and North America.

Publication date: December 2023

ABORIGINES OF NORTH WEST VICTORIA



By John Tully

New book by John Tully



A companion book to John's earlier
Aborigines of Central Victoria

This book covers 26 Aboriginal clans, their moiety, placenames, people, boundaries and what makes them unique. 146 pages, A4, comb binding, soft cover.

\$25 plus \$10 P. & H.

Contact John at: weilapublishing@bigpond.com

Landsborough and District Historical Group

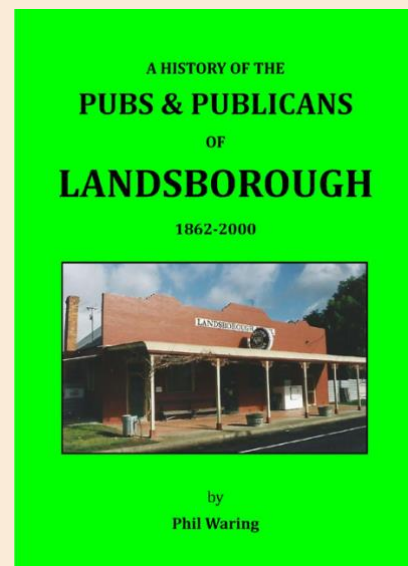
[Landsborough and District Historical Group's Facebook page](#)

Pubs & Publicans of Landsborough 1862 – 2000

by
Phil Waring

We are pleased to announce the publication of our latest book with thanks to Phil Waring who has spent many years researching and compiling the information which has culminated in the release of this wonderful piece of early Landsborough History. Full of anecdotes and stories, there is much to enjoy here as a snapshot of life in Landsborough including the early days of the rush when there were dozens of pubs operating. Of course only one pub now remains, and there is a detailed history covering all the publicans and licensees up to the 2000s.

The book is 73 pages and the cost is \$20.00. Postage can be arranged to anywhere in Australia for \$5.20.



Books planned for later in 2023:

A History of Landsborough 1862 – 2022 (Landsborough Historical Group)

Other titles still in print:

Lost Railway Stations of the Pyrenees (Revised edition) \$45.00

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

No Honey No Money (Max Jeffery) - \$15.00 (limited stock)