

Hello members

May 2018

Another busy month has whizzed by with plenty going on at HeritageWorks and beyond. The highlight of the past few weeks was definitely “D” (for departure) day – Tuesday 15 May, when the Pioneer Board headed off to Melbourne for restoration. The small crowd which gathered to observe the packing & removal process watched with bated breath as the specialist art removers worked, doubting they would get such a big object out the door, much less into their seemingly tiny van. Those two blokes must have done work like this a time or two before. Unfazed by the audience and traffic through their work area, they had the board de-framed, wrapped & loaded in under an hour and were off to Melbourne, leaving us pondering a large framed expanse of white wall.

We are gratified by the support for this project from our community, particularly donations from local philanthropic groups and from individuals who have contributed to our “Adopt a Pioneer Appeal”. The money raised so far has enabled us to begin the restoration process. We are still seeking donations for the second stage, the publication of a book of biographies of the 204 pioneers & creators of the board. All contributions are welcome, and tax deductible.

The new Autumn edition of *Warnimble* accompanies this bulletin and, among other interesting articles and images, this issue includes photos of the removal of the board from HeritageWorks. Barbara McLeod, the journal co-ordinator and contributors are to be commended for another interesting edition. We often receive feedback following a new issue of *Warnimble*, and welcome suggestions, ideas and also submissions of items for upcoming issues.



Ione Birney-Seafoams
batswoman

The recently published *Silent Lives* is reaching audiences far and wide. A couple of weeks ago the BBC contacted Elizabeth O’Callaghan for an interview regarding the ladies’ cricket teams whose pioneering exploits on the field are described in her book. The *Nirranda Seafoams*, *Allansford Forget-me-nots* and the *Garvoc Snowflakes* may have had a short life as competitive teams in the 1890s, but through the BBC World Service, cricket fans are now hearing about them. The interview appears in the middle of an hour long program ‘Stumped’, first broadcast 27 May, 2018. A podcast of the interview is accessible at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p067zkyn>. (Look for the podcast with the photo of AB De Villiers on the webpage).



Lily Wilson –Forget-me-nots
Vice Capt & bowler

This month we have hosted two school visits from students of the Special Development School, one of our member schools. We participated in the *Day on the Hill* on 27 May, the WCC organized celebration of the centenary of Warrnambool achieving city status in 1918. Our contribution was a display of historical memorabilia and photographs from our collection. Meanwhile our research centre and History House were pressed into the service of the eisteddfod committee. The City of Warrnambool Aria competition, held over that weekend at Mozart Hall attracted a record number of entries, so we helped out by making our facilities available for use as dressing and warm-up rooms.

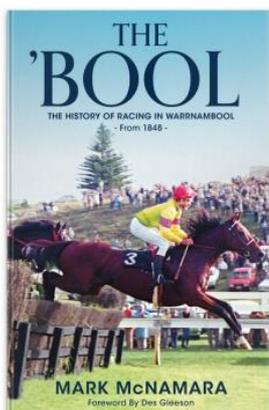
Invitation: Ripening Sunbeams

Attached to this bulletin is an invitation to the upcoming exhibition at the Warrnambool Art Gallery of the paintings of George Lance, Warrnambool plumber, artist, inventor, writer, bandmaster and founder of our art gallery. The exhibition will bring together George Lance paintings from the WAG collection and those held by descendants. This body of work was last exhibited here in 1980, though some paintings in the upcoming show have not been shown before. George Lance's oil and watercolour sea and landscapes are visually attractive and historically important to Warrnambool as many show aspects of the Warrnambool harbor and the early township.



The exhibition title is a reference to one of two of Lance's paintings which was painted on to an ornamental screen presented to Lady Madden, wife of the Chief Justice of Victoria, at the opening of the 1896-7 Industrial and Art Exhibition held in Warrnambool. The yacht *Sunbeam* belonged to Lord Brassey, Governor of Victoria. *Ripening Sunbeams* was also the title of a painting by Vicat Cole, owned by Lord Brassey and loaned for display at that exhibition.

W&DHS members are invited to attend the opening on 2pm Friday 22 June. There will be a floor talk the following day, at 1pm. Members wishing to attend either of these events, please direct RSVP to Warrnambool Art Gallery. Refer to the invitation for further details.



New Book Yes, you can judge this book by its cover. Meticulously researched over many years, *The Bool* covers racing in Warrnambool and district from 1848 to 2017 in a lively narrative style, with plenty of interesting images and a 25 page appendix of tables of facts, figures and winners – enough to keep trivia buffs entertained for years! *The Bool* was launched prior to the May racing carnival this year. Author Mark McNamara, a W&DHS member, has drawn on many local sources, including W&DHS, Warrnambool Racing Club committee members and racing identities, and also used the Racing Victoria library and metropolitan newspaper archives. The book is available at both Warrnambool book shops.

New Year in July! Celebrate by renewing your membership.

With mid-year approaching our membership subscriptions are due at the end of June. As a reminder we have included an invoice with this bulletin. Payments can be made either by direct bank transfer, in person or by mail. If you joined as a new member in the past three months, ie in April or May, or if you have already paid your membership for this year, please disregard the invoice.

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