

Hello members,

August 2018

Welcome to the new members who have joined in the past month and are reading for the first time our monthly summary of activities and foretelling of things to come. We have reached that time of the year when upon turning the diary over to a fresh page at the start of the month, it is already filled with events and activities. We have included an invitation to our next members' event, our annual general meeting on 23 September. Apologies to those who have already received it, but reminders are always handy for busy people. We will endeavor to keep the formalities brief following which our guest speaker Eric van der Wal will provide those attending with an opportunity to learn about items held in personal collections. If you have a music box or some such mechanical music making device at home, please bring it along to the meeting. If it is too big or too precious to bring, then perhaps bring a photo of it. At the conclusion of the meeting the traditional HeritageWorks afternoon tea will be served - Glenys's ribbon sandwiches, Pat's sponge kisses. "Yum, yum, gimme some", I hear you cry!

As well as preparations for the AGM, HW this past month has been the site of one long parade of acronyms, with NBN installers trooping in and out and AMEB students warming up for their music examinations in Mozart Hall. At 4pm on the last day of the month the CFA showed up to check the fire extinguishers. We also had a visit from four members of Portland Historical Society who came to view our archives and discuss the problems and procedures of collecting and caring for historical items. Representatives from the Family History Group, W&DHS and Mozart Choral Group got together during the month to discuss the vexed issue of parking in our precinct. We felt that with work proceeding to create a new parking area on the site of the old railway sheds, it would be timely to write to the city council and request that they consider designating some limited time parking zones close to HeritageWorks. Parking pressures across the city are increasing and while we realise there is no magical solution, we are hoping that some of the suggestions we have offered in our letter to WCC will be implemented when the new car park is integrated with the existing park south of Merri St.

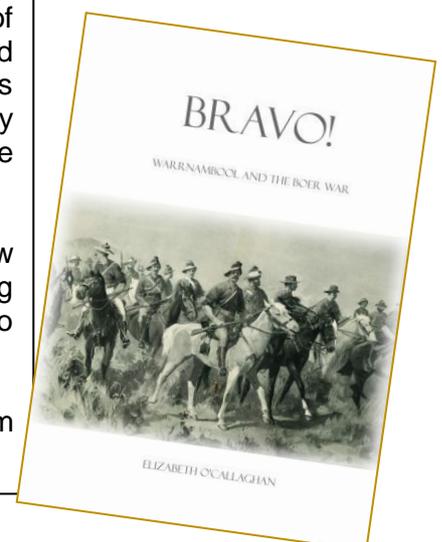
Committee and long standing members of our society were saddened to learn of the sudden death early in the month of Jane Chislett. Jane Stevenson joined W&DHS as a young girl in 1966, the Society's first year and later served on committee, including some years as secretary. She became a life member of W&DHS in 2014. Members of our committee extend our sympathies to Jane's family for their loss.

New this month is the latest booklet by Elizabeth O'Callaghan.

The subtitle *Warrnambool and the Boer War*, is a good explanation of the contents of the booklet. *Bravo!* is a reference to the single word banner placed on the Allansford railway station which greeted soldiers returning from the war as they passed through the station in on their way to Warrnambool in December 1900, as reported in the *Standard* at the time.

As well as giving background to the war, this booklet covers new research ground, putting the Boer War into local context by giving names and details of local soldiers who enlisted and lists those who died.

Bravo! is available for purchase for \$12 (add \$3 posted) from HeritageWorks and also at our stall at the FJ Market.

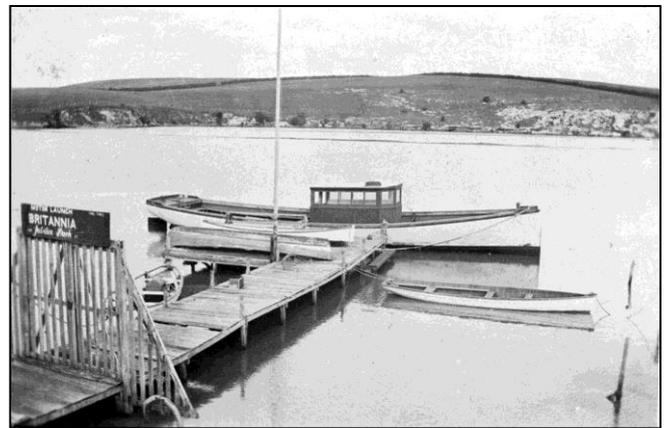


This image was sent to our Facebook page last week, from a UK based collector of vintage postcards. He



found it in an antique shop in Cirencester and wanted to know more about the boat. The postcard had a signature on the reverse but was otherwise blank, however it bore the imprint "Foyle's Photo Card Warrnambool". The collector wondered whether it was a lifeboat. We said we didn't think so, as the hull was too large and the profile of the boat would make it an unsafe seagoing vessel. We thought it more likely a river craft and when we delved into our photo archive of Hopkins River images we discovered that though this postcard image was unknown to us, we did have a photo of

the same boat. The evidence seems to strongly suggest that in the above postcard, the boat on the trailer is headed for the Hopkins River, to become the motor launch *Britannia*, pictured at the jetty in our image (r). One mystery solved, leads to another. Where in Warrnambool was the postcard image taken? It is obviously at an intersection, in the middle of town somewhere. There are tantalizing glimpses of sandstone cottages to the right hand side of the boat, and the cypress street trees look very familiar but we can't quite work it out. For a clearer look at the photo, you could view our Facebook page and tell us what you think.



William Francis
BREBNER
1880 - 1952

Congratulations to Pam and Keith Brebner, two W&DHS members who recently organised a family reunion of this prominent Warrnambool family to launch the family history they have been working on. The book documents the life of William Francis Brebner, who arrived in Warrnambool in the 1880s as a young boy, and his many descendants. The Brebner family name is synonymous with the painting business he established in Timor St, and it is interesting to note the many aspects of community life that the Brebner family have been involved in over several generations.

Coming up soon

Sunday 23b September
7-14 October
Saturday 13 October

W&DHS Annual General Meeting HeritageWorks 2pm
History Week Watch this space for details
Western Victorian Historical Society Zone Meeting – Colac.

Janet Macdonald – President (0409 624059 or 5562 4059) Email– janetmac7@bigpond.com

Rosemary Isaac – Secretary (5562 8403) Email rosemaryisaac@icloud.com

Committee: Marita Murphy (Vice President). Barbara McLeod (Treasurer) Mandy King, Joanne Laity, Glenys Phillpot, Pat Varley and Eric van der Wal.

Elizabeth O'Callaghan - Librarian.

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