

SILENT LIVES WINS COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARD

What better way to celebrate History Week (October 7-14) than with the announcement of Elizabeth O'Callaghan's win in the Community History Awards. *Silent Lives: Women of Warrnambool and district, 1840-1910* was judged the winner of the Local Project Award. The awards ceremony took place at the Melbourne Arts Centre on Monday 8 October. Here's what the judges had to say about the book:



Elizabeth O'Callaghan receives her award from Associate Professor Don Garden OAM, President of the RHSV.

"In this book the author has made extensive use of diaries, letters, newspapers and other documentary sources to reveal the lives of women of Warrnambool who have, until now, been silent in the record of social history. The result is a display of both her dedication to right an historical imbalance, and her masterful use of available resources.

The first chapter where the fate of indigenous women is discussed with compassion, sets the pattern for the whole book. The narrative is interspersed with perceptive and compact biographies of representative women in paid employment, particularly as school teachers, their recreational interests, political activities and charitable work, examined and analysed within the social context.

This beautifully designed and well-illustrated book of 374 pages is well supported by comprehensive endnotes, extensive index and bibliography."

The Community History Awards are a joint project of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Public Records Office of Victoria and have been awarded annually since 1999. They recognize excellence in historical method in a variety of formats.

I wonder how many of our members are aware that W&DHS is a member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. We recently received an invitation to a special morning tea to be held at RHSV headquarters in Melbourne in November to celebrate our 50 years of membership. W&DHS was formed in 1966, and it seems became affiliated with the state body approximately 18 months later.

While on the subject of membership, we thank all those who have paid their membership subscriptions since July 1 when they were due and remind anyone still to pay that we are keen to have our membership lists accurate and up to date.

Early in September we were notified by the Warrnambool City Council that our grant application to the Community Development Fund was successful. Our project 'Films for the Future' involves the digitization of some of the old 8mm and 16mm films in our collection. The films, all made in the local area are varied in their subject and quality but all of great local interest. They are currently in Melbourne being transferred to a format which will make them easier to show. Members can look forward to invitations to film shows in the near future.

This being our first newsletter since our annual general meeting, held a fortnight ago, attached is a copy of the report on the past year, delivered by the president to the meeting. Congratulations and thank you to those retiring members who all renominated for positions on committee and were re-elected. We look forward to another year of hard work and good times. Following the formal part of the meeting members attending were entertained with a very interesting presentation from our guest speaker, committee member Eric van der Wal, who brought along some of his collection of music boxes and told us of their history. Machines to make music date back two thousand years, however Eric explained why they developed popularity from the late C18th in Europe. The oldest music box in Eric's display dated from the early 1800s



Eric thought this early C20th Swiss music box brought along by a member was a fine example.



Some of the music boxes which belong to members of the audience.

Icons of Port Fairy Those of us who attended the launch on 21 September strongly recommend members to time their next visit to Port Fairy to view the newly opened exhibition at the Port Fairy Historical Society. You will be amazed and entertained by the stories associated with some of the 'icons' of the district featured in this wonderful display of artefacts, images and narratives of past and present. Consult the PF Historical Society website or Visitor Information Centre for details of opening hours.



Melba @ Mozart Hall Yes, she's still on the comeback trail. W&DHS is partnering with the Mozart Choral Group in hosting this musical tribute to Melba. A professional company of singers will bring the performance to Mozart Hall on the afternoon of Saturday, October 27 and HeritageWorks will host the exhibition of memorabilia which accompanies the show. Please note that this is not the same production as the play "A Toast to Melba" performed by the Warrnambool Theatre Group in March this year. Booking details are on the attached flyer.

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