

Hello members,

April 2019

The onset of autumn always brings plenty of opportunities for enjoying community events. It's festival season with weekends full of things to do and we have certainly been getting out and about in the past month. Four members travelled to Swan Hill on the weekend of 30 March to attend the annual meeting of the Western District Association of Historical Societies. It is always interesting to meet with other groups to share trials and tribulations, as well as exchanging news of triumphs and achievements. We learned that many small societies in the north are experiencing a growth in visitor numbers due to tourists journeying along the silo trail. While in Swan Hill we visited historic Tyntynder homestead and also enjoyed a paddle steamer trip on the Murray River.

In late March the president travelled to Melbourne to attend an exhibition *Jack's Reloaded: Material as Memory*. In the exhibition staged by 15 artists as part of Melbourne Design Week, the material referenced in the title was basalt, hence the local connection. W&DHS lent some footage from our recently digitized films. This was used in one facet of the show. Amateur film from the 1960s of Tower Hill and western district homes built of bluestone was used in conjunction with the artists' recent images shot at Mt Eccles, BAM stone and other district locations. The other part of the title related to the venue of the exhibition, Jack's Powder Magazine, on the banks of the Maribrynong River. Built in 1875 and active until the 1990s, Jack's Magazine is a series of bluestone structures constructed for storing explosives. Much of the complex is buried under earthen mounds and hidden from view by the steep banks of the river and surrounded by formidable bluestone walls. A truly amazing place, rarely open to the public. Check out 'Jack's Magazine' on the internet to see some good images of this remarkable architectural relic of the 19th century.

Our visit to Deakin University on 2 April as guests of the geoscientists of the Victorian Geological Survey involved a little less travel, but members who attended came away a much better understanding of the complexities of exploring for the natural resources of the region and also amazed by the amount of data gathered by surveys in the region.



Scenes from
Tyntynder homestead



Meanwhile back at headquarters the north wall of Les O'Callaghan History House is still looking very sad however we have received the good news from the City Council that the damage caused by the accident early last month has been assessed by builders and it is expected that repairs will begin soon after Easter. At present we have full access to our archives, though we have closed our display area and there may be further limitations placed on our access to the building in the upcoming weeks while the area becomes a building site.

What's On?



Accompanying this bulletin is an invitation to our National Trust Heritage Festival event: a home movie night featuring our recently digitized films. The films are mainly from the mid 20th century and we plan an evening in keeping with that era. There is an admission price, discounted for members, but we will be supplying the jaffas, so please come along and relive the swinging sixties in the 'BooL.

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.

is running a bus trip to **Mawallock Open Garden Day on Sunday 28 April**. This 2.5 ha historic garden at Stockyard Hill was designed by William Guilfoyle in 1909 and features a lake designed by Sir John Monash and a six hole golf course. There will be plant sales, displays and activities on the day and lunches, tea & coffee and cake stalls. The coach will depart from Flagstaff Hill car park at 9am, returning to Warrnambool by 5pm. Cost \$40 pp. Anyone interested in going should book this week, as this trip is filling quickly. If interested please go to www.wbgardens.com.au or contact organizer Fiona Rule 0438 622 199.



And still more things to do over Easter.....

The FJ Market will be open over the extended holiday period and it is a great place to let Easter visitors loose to browse for treasures. Make sure they visit the HeritageWorks stall, number 202, located upstairs in the little room in the north west corner of the building. Our stall sells a range of our publications as well as household items, bric-a-brac and other interesting miscellanea. As stall holders we are required to do two hours of supervisory duty per week. Our rostered duty occurs on Saturday afternoons 3-5pm. We would be interested to hear from any members who would be willing to volunteer to be part of the duty crew. The job is not onerous, involving floorwalking and general supervision. It's a great way to get to know the market. Let us know if you might be able to do a duty for us occasionally, as many hands make light work.



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