

Hello members,

May 2019

Those of you who have travelled our way recently will have noticed that repair work has begun at Les O'Callaghan History House. The retaining wall on the north side which also suffered damage in the recent car collision is being rebuilt prior to the work starting on the building itself. Inside there has been quite a lot of activity to relocate storage cupboards and the documents and archives housed in them in preparation for the removal a large section of the cottage wall. This is a laborious process as each item has been previously catalogued and numbered so must be removed from storage, the cupboard moved and then the item replaced in exactly the same spot.

Over the past month there has been some respite from these labours for more interesting and rewarding activities. Congratulations to life member Elizabeth O'Callaghan who has been notified of an Award of Merit from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria for her dedicated service to local history over many years. Elizabeth was invited to the RHSV annual general meeting held in Melbourne on 21 May to have the award conferred, but was unable to attend due to commitments in Warrnambool on that day. It has been arranged for Elizabeth to be officially recognized at a W&DHS meeting later this year.

On Friday 10 May the Warrnambool mayor paid a visit to HeritageWorks where he viewed the newly restored Pioneer Board, had a tour of our buildings and was briefed on our building dramas. Friday morning visitors are always welcome at HeritageWorks, especially when they arrive with a cake. Thank you, Tony!

It was great to see the response to our National Trust Heritage Festival event, *The Way We Were* film night, held on 18 May. The audience that filled Mozart Hall seemed to find the films entertaining and a few faces in the films were identified during the course of viewing. Despite the less than perfect production standards of the day and the deterioration of film quality over the years, these glimpses into our past reveal some interesting changes and continuities in our community. The Florado festival (1961), school swimming sports at the baths (1930s and 1950s), gliding at Tower Hill (1931), a circus and the finish of the road cycling race (1960s) were the main subjects shown on the night. A big thank you to our projectionist Charles Heathcote for his perseverance with the old technology in showing a quirky road safety film, one of our large collection of educational films from the 1950s. There have been several enquiries since the night from people unable to attend wondering about a repeat. We intend to hold a follow up, maybe on a Sunday afternoon in the Spring. Watch this bulletin, our website or Facebook page for plenty of warning about the next one.



Excavation work to rebuild sandstone wall at History House



Film night at Mozart Hall



Old Capitol Theatre interval advertising slide

## Important notice to members

W&DHS subscriptions are based on the financial year, so current memberships are due for renewal at the beginning of July. At the committee meeting held on 7 May the membership rate was reviewed. It has remained at the same level since 2011, so it was felt that it was time for some changes. Members are advised that membership fees for the 2019-20 year will be:

Single membership	\$35
Family membership	\$45
Student	\$10
Corporate*	\$60

\*Corporate memberships = schools, businesses, aged care facilities and community organisations. Special entitlements apply.

**Out & About:** Though our exhibition space is closed, we are still taking the show on the road, and have visited Opal Gillin park in the last month. Next month we are planning visits to Lyndoch and Merrivale Primary School. Below are some public events coming up which may be of interest to local history enthusiasts.



Warrnambool Art Gallery has several exhibitions and activities on over the next two months with connections to historic items in their collection and to the Gallery's history. The *Rich Pickings* exhibition shows items from the old museum collection. Many of these interesting artefacts have not been on display since the Warrnambool museum closed in 1963. *Wanderlust* showing in the large gallery is a selection of works from the WAGs permanent collection including some of the historical favourites such as *Sunset*, *Waterpool at Coleraine*, by Louis Buvelot, Eugene von Gerard's *Tower Hill*, Frederick Bruford's *Scene of the Wreck of the Loch Ard* and the Minton Heron, pictured at left. Both these exhibitions run until 28 July.

On Saturday 1 June 1-2pm there will be a special talk 'Adding to the Samurai Armour'. This relates to a new item into the collection, the Japanese *mempo* (mask) recently purchased to complement the samurai suit of armour which was part of the old museum display from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Saturday 8 June 1-2pm - the WAG will host a book launch. Dr Don Edgar's *Art for the Country: The story of Victoria's regional art galleries*. This book relates colourful and controversial stories about the establishment of the Ballarat, Bendigo, Warrnambool and Geelong museums in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and also covers the establishment of the newer regional galleries in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A panel discussion will follow the launch.

Contact the WAG for RSVP attendance at either of the above talks.



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