

Hello members,

June 2019

Members who have visited HeritageWorks this month will have realized what a warm and wonderful place it is to work. Last week when the music section of the eisteddfod was in full swing next door in Mozart Hall, we were entertained by waves of music students warming up their instruments and themselves in our meeting area while waiting to compete. The resulting din created a few challenges for those of us trying to do a bit of quiet research, but occasionally a tune could be identified.

Also visiting that week was the de Kok family who came on a nostalgic tour of History House and the old sea baths and shared many interesting stories of their time living there in the late 1950s. Mr & Mrs de Kok and their seven children were part of the Dutch migration to the district which occurred post WWII. Mr de Kok was employed at Warrnambool City Council as a draftsman and some of our members will remember his wife as the last manager of the baths prior to the closure in the late 1950s. As a result of this visit we have learned the answers to several things we have often been asked about the site. Just what is buried in the old pool out the back? (Nothing of great value apparently). What was the little sandstone alcove used for? The answer to this question was really quite interesting and gave us some ideas for fundraising in the future.

We have had some interesting additions to the collection this month, most significant among them is a large stack of Standard newspapers, which are now stored while we ponder the enormity of the task of extracting information from them. These issues date from the period 1970s -1990s and will therefore contain much of interest to future generations.

On a visit to one of our member schools, Merrivale Primary School we talked to the years 1 & 2 students about changes in the local area over the past 150 years and took along a slide show and some articles of clothing, school books and equipment from our collection. It is always interesting to note that our definition of "the old days", differs greatly from the concept kids of today have as to exactly how long ago that was!

Repairs to our building have yet to begin. However if you have driven past recently you will have noticed that the sandstone retaining wall, also damaged in the accident, has been rebuilt and a new picket fence now sits on top of the Merri St frontage.



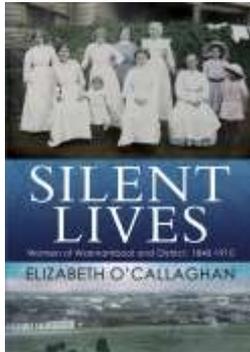
At left: Mieke, Trudy, Keith, Frank, Ted & Robert de Kok outside their old home, now History House.



At right: Frank shows his sisters at which end of the pool the motorbike body is buried.

Accolades for Silent Lives

A review of Elizabeth O'Callaghan's book *Silent Lives* appears in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's June edition of *History News*. Here's what they had to say →



Silent Lives and our other books, booklets and cards are available from HeritageWorks and also at our stall at the FJ market, which is open 7 days a week.

Silent Lives: Women of Warrnambool and District, 1840-1910. Elizabeth O'Callaghan, Warrnambool & District Historical Society Inc, Warrnambool, Victoria, 2017, pp 1 – 374, ISBN 9780987120229.

Winner of the 2018 Victorian Community History Award, *Silent Lives* is an important addition to feminist history. Pioneer history is synonymous with Anglo-Saxon patriarchy, with female and Aboriginal voices still relatively unheard. O'Callaghan explores the lives and contributions of women in the district of Warrnambool, each a pioneer in their own right. It is a beautifully researched and written book, providing a satisfying mirror to gender discussions in the present. Previously muted, generations past and present are lifting up their voices, and O'Callaghan's book is a rich addition to the song.

Membership subscriptions are due from July 1

Attached to this bulletin is a membership renewal form for the year 2019-20. Members are respectfully reminded that your financial support is our oxygen. As mentioned in last month's bulletin, there has been a slight increase in membership fees, the first since 2011.

Single membership \$35

Family \$45

Student \$10

School & business \$60

Memberships can be paid in person by visiting us, or by cheque or by direct transfer to our bank account (details on the form). Please note that we do not have the facility to accept card payments. Many thanks to those who have already renewed their memberships.

Dates for the diary

Annual General Meeting – Three words to strike terror into the hearts of members of incorporated organisations, however never the case at W&DHS! Here's a date which you should put into your diary today to avoid the fear of missing out. We promise to keep the dreary bits to a minimum and maximise the afternoon tea. This year we have a visiting guest speaker with an interesting topic which should have appeal to a wide audience. Please put Sunday 22 September into your diary now. Details to follow.

Port Fairy Vintage Festival weekend – 27 -29 September – plenty to do other than football on this weekend, though a football breakfast seems to have crept on to the official program. See website for details

History Week 13 -20 October – Discover the wonders of Warrnambool's past. Possibly an excuse for another film night. Details to follow.



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.

HeritageWorks Phone 55610283

info@warrnamboolhistory.org.au