

Hello members,

January/February 2020

After a quiet start to the new year following HeritageWorks reopening in early January, we are now seeing visitation and enquiries back up to the usual levels. Some significant donations of photographs have come in recently and now that our cataloging volunteers have resumed from the break, these are being recorded and stored in the archive. One collection of recently donated photographs has been lent for display at an upcoming reunion. Other collection items are on display at Flagstaff Hill as part of the Melbourne to Warrnambool cycling race display in the Visitor Information Centre.

Last year we reported on the acquisition of a very large number of Standard newspapers, these all from recent decades. There were two truckloads, in fact. The task of sorting these prior to storage and recording which issues we have has begun and it is proving a slow and diverting process. Individuals undertaking this task disappear into History House, reemerging hours later waving front pages and muttering such things as “Whatever happened to this new blueprint for the harbour?” How quickly we forget the recent past.

This month the South Warrnambool Community Association held an evening walk around that neighbourhood which covered parts of the self guided walking trail which that group published in pamphlet format in 2018. Nowadays, real estate agents use terms such as ‘lifestyle location’, ‘highly popular’ and ‘on trend’ to describe the area, however what the listings could mention is the phrase ‘steeped in history’. The term ‘port of Warrnambool’ does not get a mention in real estate ads for properties in the area, but this provides the barest hint of the importance of the port to the early town. In the late 1840s the area now known as South Warrnambool was referred to as the ‘jetty allotments’. In 1850 when two censuses of population were taken by the Committee of Wants, there were 3 houses in the area, and 8 men employed at the jetty, which had been constructed the previous year. This out of a total population of 259. It was not until 1872 that the name South Warrnambool was officially recognized, by which era it was a thriving community of port workers with two hotels, a tramway to the port, several factories, a police station and the local birthplaces of sports such as cricket, football & horse racing.

The walking trail pamphlet covers 5.4km, taking over an hour to complete with stops, however it can be tackled in smaller sections, or driven with stops in between. The beautifully designed fold out pamphlet is available through the Visitor Information Centre, and there is a QR app code attached for extra information and photos. A highly recommended and cost free activity for any visitors to Warrnambool.



Three sites you can learn more about on the South Warrnambool self guided walk: l to r – the Middle Island lighthouse, the Co-op Box Works and the Steam Packet Hotel. (Photos W&DHS)

Are you still wrestling with the clues to *Cryptic towns of the southwest*, published in the spring 2019 edition of *Warnimble*? We are pleased to announce that there were two clever, doggedly persistent members who not only provided all the correct answers, but had them to us by the close of competition on January 31. Congratulations to Elizabeth O’Callaghan and Lew Officer. You will receive your prizes soon.

250 YEARS OF SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS OCCURRING IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

St John’s School Dennington will celebrate 100 years on Sunday 22nd March 10am – 3pm There will be a special mass at 10am, followed by presentations, videos and a light lunch. A history book, written for the occasion will be launched and available for sale, as well as other memorabilia. For more information 100years@sjdennington.catholic.edu.au or Facebook group: 'St John's School Dennington, 100 Years'.

Panmure Primary School will celebrate 150 years on Saturday 29 February and Sunday 1 March.

Open day at the school on Saturday 3-5pm.

Sunday: The school will again be open 10am -12 noon for a cake cutting and roll call.

Contact the school on 55676264 for more information.



Dennington Town map with the shaded area showing the land reserved for Roman Catholic church and school. Land sales of surrounding blocks date from 1860s. (Map in W&DHS collection)



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

Elizabeth O’Callaghan - Librarian.

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