

Hello members,

June 2017

A big welcome to the many new members to our Society who have joined recently. The end of this month marks the start of a new membership cycle, so continuing members from previous years are reminded that it is time to renew your membership. Renewal forms are included with this bulletin.

Regular readers over recent years will know that we have embarked on a plan to have conservation work done on the Pioneer Board. This process began when we commissioned a significance report and condition assessment in 2015, which was completed by a professional historian. Next a conservator from the Grimwade Center for Conservation of Cultural Materials at Melbourne University was called in last year to assess the board, make recommendations and quote on the cost of conservation work. So, now we reach the most interesting stage – raising \$50,000 for the recommended work to be carried out. In May we applied to the National Library of Australia for a Community Heritage Grant to assist with our quest, however we will not know the outcome for several months. In the meantime, we have also appealed to local philanthropic trusts, and we are gratified to have received \$10,000 from the Gall Family Trust, and \$5000 from each of the Alan Lane Foundation and the Thomas O'Toole Foundation. We are soon to offer the opportunity to individual members of the Society and local community to make financial contributions to the conservation of the Pioneer Board. If you are inspired by this thought, please start thinking about which of the 204 men on the board you might like to adopt.

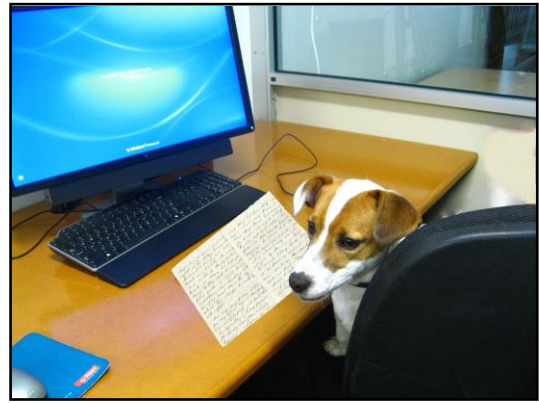
Not only new members in the door, but interesting new donations also. Members of the Swinton family, visiting Warrnambool recently from NSW brought with them a collection of account books, stock books, ledgers and other documents and artefacts from the general merchant business which was operated by their family in Timor St for over 100 years. Part of that business is still in family hands now, the furniture store, but many members will remember when men's and ladies clothing, crockery and glassware, décor and home furnishings were separate departments within the business, while out the back the bulk produce was dealt out of large containers into small brown packets and expertly tied up with string.



Items from Swinton's Stores - L to R: 1868 stock book; mid-C20th customer accounts book; brass money transfer cylinders.

Among the Swinton artefacts were the two brass canisters (above), part of the cash transfer system which operated in that department store. This adds to the W&DHS collection of such items. We also have examples of these from the Youngers and Cramond & Dickson stores. Each shop had a different Heath Robinsonesque contraption for conveying cash from point of sale to the stores' accounts departments, involving ropes, pulleys, wire baskets and metal tubes.

Friday 23 June was *Take Your Dog To Work Day*. Begun in the UK in 1996 as a way of raising awareness of animal welfare issues, by 1999 TYDTWD had become part of the official calendar of days in the USA also. This year, at W&DHS *Chilla*, the President's dog thought he'd give it a go. He had a bit of a bash at the computer, attempting some data entry work, but found that his paws weren't fit for purpose. He was quite interested in the mouse though. It seems that every day of the year is designated for a particular celebration. Coming up in July are *Creative Ice-cream Flavour Day*, *International Joke Day*, *Cow Appreciation Day* and *Lamington Day*.



But perhaps awareness raising on historical matters is more appropriate, so here are a couple of interesting activities occurring in upcoming weeks which you may like to consider.....



In September 2017 it will be 40 years since the railway between Dennington, Koroit & Port Fairy was closed. The last train ran on Saturday 10th September, 1977. The *Geelong & South Western Rail Heritage Society* plans to run a tour of the closed line on **Saturday 9 September, 2017**. Members of that group will travel to Warrnambool by train to begin the tour by coach, following the line to Koroit and Port Fairy, walking several sections of the track during the day and visiting all former station sites. There will be meal stops built into the itinerary and the tour will finish back in Warrnambool in time for the afternoon train departure of visiting participants.

Warrnambool & District people are invited to join this tour. For more information or bookings, please contact Michael Menzies, President of Geelong & South West Rail Heritage Society 0419 546 251.



Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens invite any interested members of the public to attend their annual meeting, to be held at the Hammond Centre, Christ Church, Henna Street, **Wednesday 19 July, 2017**. A brief meeting will be followed by guest speaker Justin Buckley. A delicious light luncheon will follow the speaker's illustrated talk.

Justin Buckley is the Manager of horticulture for the National Trust of Victoria and over many years has acquired specialized knowledge in gardens and plants of the Victorian era. He has been involved in the development and care of many National Trust Gardens, particularly Rippon Lea. Phone Pat Varley 55624800 or Mandy King 0438620343 for information, or consult the website www.wbgardens.com.au

Do you know?

Warrnambool & District Historical Society and Family History Group publications, such as our 45 booklets and the Pioneer Registers are available for purchase seven days a week at our stall at the Timor Street market (former de Grandi's building). Our stall raises vital funds for our two organisations. We also sell other items at the stall, mainly books, vintage/retro bric a brac and collectibles which members have given us, specifically for sale on our stall. So, we appeal to our members who may be having a clean out at home, to think of bringing us something for our stall. If you need a local gift, perhaps pop down to the market and purchase a book or booklet.

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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 5561 0283