Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc.

Presidents Report August 2019

The 2018 – 2019 year has been one of interesting and exciting events.

We started with an open day in August to show off the changes to the layout of the Museum, which has been acknowledged by many as a great improvement. My thanks go to those who helped with this project, and to the Bass Coast Shire for a grant of $700 to help with the heavy lifting.

Other open days were held during the year for the Seniors Festival, the National Trust Festival, and NAIDOC Week. Special displays were prepared for each of these events, and were well received. Congratulations to the Members who prepared and assisted to run these days, they were very successful. The Society also hosted the S.E. Historical Association in May, and Christine spoke on Mary Potter's Nature Notes.

The highlight of the year was the celebration for the 150th Anniversary of closer settlement on Phillip Island. There were a number of events held over the year, but of course, the "event" of the year was the Re enactment of the first land ballot, by the Society.

The re enactment was held at the Cultural Centre in Cowes, on Saturday 10th November 2018 at 2.30pm. A large crowd was in attendance and it was standing room only, The cast was drawn from Members of the Society and descendents of some of the early settlers. Some of the cast had never been on a stage before and were very nervous, but everybody did a fantastic job. Congratulations to all,

My "Special" thanks must go to Christine Grayden who put the whole performance together, writing, directing, wardrobe, props, and so much more.

Our Touch Screen has been a great success, with lots of use by visitors to the Museum. We submitted this project for the MAV Awards and made the finals; unfortunately we did not win.

We sought and received a Bass Coast Shire community grant to build a platform on our Website for online exhibitions. This will enable us to put our various exhibitions on our website for all to see. Presently they are stored in our Archives Room out of sight.

Simon Eddy has been contracted to carry out this project and it is now complete, with the first online exhibition now 'live' on the website: "First World War Servicemen from Phillip Island". We encourage all members to browse the exhibition and tell their friends about it. Other online exhibitions will follow.

In August Christine and I attended a meeting with the Council and the new Architects (Perkins) for the proposed Cultural Centre rebuild. We were presented with an old set of plans that had been rejected earlier by those involved. I left feeling that we were back to square one.

However, at a later meeting Perkins presented a revised plan with a new internal layout. The amount of space allocated to the Society was changed and reduced, we were not overly impressed with the proposal and made our feelings clear. This project is ongoing and we will have to keep a close watch on progress, to protect the interests of the Society.

Our Cataloguing team have been busy this year making inroads into items needing to be catalogued. They have done a wonderful job, and the next step will be to photograph many items of our Collection so we have proper records.

Judy has been busy uploading items in to the Victorian Collections website with over 3000 items now listed. Judy is also transferring all the hand-written items listed in the old Registration Book to an Excel spreadsheet. This will give us an electronic record which will be searchable. Thanks to Judy, this will be a valuable tool.

This year we had a number of Guest Speakers at our Meetings including Mike Cleeland with a fascinating speech about Dinosaurs, Christine Grayden gave us a look into the life of Samuel Amess and Duncan Sutherland from Phillip Island Nature Parks on the introduction of the Eastern Barred Bandicoot to Churchill Island.

Vale
Alice Robinson
Alex Davis, Life Member

Two of our long time members and enthusiastic supporters of the Society. They will be missed.

Graeme Clauscen
President