



AURUM

Newsletter of the Gold Museum Society
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AUGUST MEETING

The Gold Museum Society is made up of a large group of people, many of whom do not know so many other members. All of us have an active interest in the history of Ballarat and come from a large variety of different backgrounds. In order to bring everything together, the next meeting will be based on mini presentations by different members of the Society. Below is request from our Programme Organizer, Vicky Lowe, and the response to that message will shape the August meeting. Tea will be a special Birthday Party and Val Tudball, Terry O'Brien and Ted Maidment are on the roster to help out.

JULY MEETING

Due to the fact that so many people are away—and the content of this month's Aurum reflects this—there was no general meeting in July; however, the Committee met with Snjez Cosic to hear what is in the immediate planning for the refurbishment of the Gold Pavilion and to give her input from the GMS perspective. Snjez is presently on leave but will summarise what she told us on her return for a future edition of Aurum.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Winter Wonderlights Festival is over and I have to confess I am delighted! My Mondays have been very long..... That it has been a huge success is undeniable – we had over 7000 visitors one Saturday—and this last weekend was very busy as well so projected figures MUST have been reached! Now normality can be restored. Our Children's programme and the morning tour were not very well attended this year—people arrive and want to get into the park not the museum it seems but at the end of the day the children are VERY happy to be entertained and the parents are VERY happy to get some respite from their adorable children so, maybe, overall, that is the better option for the future. No doubt there will be lots of discussion before a decision is made.

Wasn't the real snow a delight? I went to Melbourne that Wednesday morning by train and all the passengers were entranced by the white hills and field almost to Ballan. The trick is to layer up and keep warm.

Please do take the time to fill in at least one nomination form, and print out more if you need them so you can support your Committee. Every re-standing member needs a completed nomination form.

I hope you will forgive for me bringing my connection with Parkinson's to the GMS but a group of researchers in Melbourne are looking for people over 60, with no shoulder or major walking problems, to join a group of Control participants in a project testing an advanced warning programme for the onset of Parkinson's. They need 300 and so far I have only managed to find 4! It will involve two interviews the first on Sunday August 15th after 10am. Please contact me if you would be willing to help this very important venture. 0438 085 797.

Elaine Maberly

FOSH Trip to Geelong Friday Aug 19th; The National Wool Museum and new Geelong Library Heritage Centre. If you are interested in going contact Joanne.

GUIDING NOTES

The August meeting programme will depend on everyone's input; if you have an interesting object or discovery could you please bring it with you and be prepared to share the story. Joanne will give an overview of the work going on in the backroom and some of those projects will be presented.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the storytelling and who came in early for the tour; none of it could happen without you, so your effort is much appreciated.

The next Morning Tea will be on Friday August 26th between 10 am and 12 noon. Serena Ioannucci will be talking about the three mines which existed where Sovereign Hill now stands.

Vicky Lowe

Future Programme

September Meeting. We shall be going over to Sovereign Hill to explore the *Blood on the Southern Cross* area and have the pyrotechnics demonstrated. It is not an easy area for those members who have walking issues and everyone will need good, mud-proof footwear. The experience is great fun and well worth the effort; we will meet up for Afternoon Tea at the Sovereign Hill cafe so those who can't do the walk can join us there.

October Meeting will be our AGM and will be in the Charlie Napier Hotel. Afternoon Tea is to be provided by Sovereign Hill.

November Meeting will again be in the Charlie Napier Hotel and will be our annual Christmas Dinner.

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY, CLEM!

Recently, **Clem Newey** celebrated his 90th Birthday! Congratulations and ALL our very best of good wishes to you! **Clem** was born in Stawell where his father was a steam train driver on the Adelaide circuit in 1926; sadly, his mother died when he was 12 and he went to live with and aunt and uncle on a farm in the Lake Goldsmith area where he developed a love of working with sheep. Due to injuries sustained during WW1 the family moved to Mawallock where he met Bev at the P.F.A. I understand she was a very bright young thing and they had to wait to get married until 1958! They took a deep breath and borrowed enough to buy a small dairy farm at Timboon and over the years had four children, two of them adopted as babies. They were VERY active within their community but numerous health problems for Clem saw them move to Ballarat in 1993. Still as active as is humanly possible, family has always been of paramount importance to both Clem and Bev and a big celebration took place in Beaufort in June.

VALE

Dick Curnow

From the Archive; April 1992 **The Ghost of the Month**

The respect paid to old Ballarat's dignitaries (or villains) is shown by the streets named after them; an unmade, overgrown lane at the foot of Brown Hill "honours" Charles Edwin Jones, politician and conman extraordinaire. He arrived with his father, a tailor, in Melbourne in 1851 and they opened a small shop near St James. They made a comfortable living and kept their heads down until 1861.

After his father died young Charles joined the Orange Lodge, took the pledge, and hated all Catholics. He was elected to Melbourne City Council in 1862 but his civil duties prevented him from due diligence in his shop and he went bankrupt in 1863. The embarrassed Lodge members offered him to their Ballarat East branch as a candidate for the 1864 elections. A little money was provided “on the side”. Charlie’s fiery oratory, his ability to espouse any popular cause sincerely and his outstretched palm ensured lively and often violent meetings. His battle cry of “Gentlemen and savages, men of Ballarat and Fellows of Bungaree” rallied the Protestant and temperance vote, sweeping him to victory over the disgraced Humffray and rational Dyte. Charlie took money from anyone who would give it; squatters, miners, settlers, friend and foe. He was expelled from parliament for corruption in 1865 but promptly won the by-election for Ballarat West. In 1868 he became editor of the “Evening News”, a scurrilous sheet which trod the very fine line of libel. He left hurriedly for America in 1869, having been discovered “in flagrante” by his wife, and was never heard of again. Most curiously, he advocated separation from England and a republic for Australia. How many of his descendants may still be in Ballarat?

Notes from the Senior Curator

This month my report is all about appreciation!

Many thanks to the Gold Museum Society in assisting to fund the reproduction and installation of the Eugene von Guerard artwork (Ballarat in the early times; as it appeared in the summer of 1853-54) depicting Mt Warrenheip now displayed in the Eureka Walkway. Visitors are certainly stopping to look out at the view and, considering it is a Ballarat winter, sometimes they can even see the mountain! The advice and funding assistance of the Gold Museum Society in this project is much appreciated.

Winter Wonderlights has proved a phenomenal success for Sovereign Hill with over 90 000 visitors in the four week period. Many thanks to the volunteers who did craft activities and storytelling during the school holidays. The team very much appreciates the work of the volunteer guides in meeting the needs of such a large audience over a short timeframe.

While some of you may be in the know, others may have simply noticed that I have not always been in the office when expected. Unfortunately 2016 has been a challenging year for me health wise which resulted in the removal of my thyroid in early June. Despite previous test results the pathology came back as malignant and suddenly I was dealing with

Thyroid Cancer! Fortunately it is a very manageable cancer and after radioactive iodine treatment (yes, there was a Geiger counter and hospital isolation) I can now claim to be relatively well, though will be monitored for some years to come. The team at the Gold Museum and Sovereign Hill have been wonderful support during this difficult time and, as a single woman a long way from my immediate family, my Gold Museum family has kept me going during a few dark days. Thank you doesn’t quite seem enough.

And as if all that isn’t enough I will be running off to the UK and Ireland for six weeks as of 13 August, back on Tuesday 27 September. This trip was planned, booked and paid for well before I knew I would be joining the Gold Museum. I will be taking my Mum away on her first overseas trip in 45 years and I am looking forward to taking her to all my favourite places, especially York, Bath and Scotland. As always I will be visiting a huge range of museums, historic houses, palaces and ancient sites (fortunately my Mum is a fan as well), and I will be busy pinching good ideas that we might be able to implement at the Gold Museum.

All for now, keep warm and well.

Regards, **Michelle Smith**

THE COMMITTEE OF THE GOLD MUSEUM SOCIETY 2016



Bill McGregor, Helen Muir (Guiding), John Hamilton (Venue Organiser), Mary Clark, (Secretary) Joanne Gervasoni (Membership Co-ordinator), Vicki Moss (5 Minuter), Elaine Maberly (President/Editor), Lorraine Peterson (ex-Treasurer), Bill Llewelyn (Vice President), Roger Trudgeon (Retired Senior Curator)

All members need to be re-nominated in order to stand so please do complete the form.

John Hamilton will not be standing for re-election.

Gold Museum Society—Committee Nomination Form

POSITION _____

NOMINEE _____

NOMINEE SIGNATURE _____

PROPOSER _____

SECONDER _____

Please ensure that all nominees have accepted their nomination.

Please return this form to the President, Gold Museum Society, Gold Museum, Sovereign Hill Post Office, Ballarat, 3350 by the September meeting.