



AURUM

Newsletter of the Ballarat Gold Museum Society

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JUNE MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 11th when our speaker will be Dennis Spielvogel. He will be taking us down memory lane to the days when the "Film Man" was a welcome visitor to schools. He had the best job in the Education Department, taking a projector and movies around country schools from Tarnagulla to Grenville. He will be screening the black and white 16mm movie "Golden Beginnings" which was made in the late 1960s and gives the history of the Ballarat gold rush, but also has footage of Ballarat in the 60s. Vicky Lowe, Vicki Moss and Barbara McPherson are on the Tea Roster. There will be a committee meeting in the morning.

MAY MEETING

For our annual 'day out' meeting last year Bill and Nance Llewelyn arranged a trip to Bendigo: we had a marvellous day visiting the new Buddhist Stupa and the Chinese museum. And, some how, this year they have done it again: a day trip to the Old Melbourne Jail and the Shrine of Remembrance proved to be engaging, informative and thoroughly enjoyable--in spite of the weather! We look forward to welcoming the guides from the Shrine of Remembrance to the Gold Museum later in the year. More details next month.....

Thank you, Nance and Bill--especially for the never ending supply of lollies on the bus trip. What do you. have in mind for 2016? Below we're gathered at the point of execution!



GUIDING NOTES

On Monday 18th May we held the second morning tea for the year, followed by sessions for guides. This time all the sessions, plus lunch, were spent in the upstairs workroom and tea room. It all worked well for the 20 plus people who attended.

At 10.40 James O'Callaghan gave a powerpoint presentation about the current regulations which apply to mining licences in Victoria. His presentation was very comprehensive indeed and I am not going to try to abridge it. However, one point stuck in my mind - for every one thousand mining exploratory licences that are granted only one goes on to actually begin a mine. James was assisted by Bessie Abbott who is responsible for making sure that all mines in Victoria comply with the regulations, and by Maria Schmidt who is a relative newcomer to the Earth Resources Regulation section of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. James gave us some brochures which outline the information which his presentation covered. These brochures will be kept in the guides' desk so take a look at them when you are next guiding and feel like a bit of a break sitting at the desk.

Next we had an interview with Snez Cosic where we found out some more about her background, interests etc. She explained her school holiday program and how she needed assistance for it. Many of our members signed up to help with the program which is being held in the early mornings. **All guides please remember – the usual 4.30p.m. Golden Treasures tour will not be advertised for the whole of the school holidays. Instead it will be held at 10.30 a.m. from Saturday 27th June to Sunday July 12th.**

After lunch Roger spoke to us about new lighting which should be installed in some of the display areas of the museum very soon. Poor lighting has become a real problem lately so we hope that the new lights will be just what is needed. We discussed ideas about organising guiding for large groups such as the Freemasons' group of about 110 coming in October. More about the arrangements for this group will be included in future workshops. At the previous morning tea there was discussion about school groups; I have put into the guides' desk a copy of the information that is sent to schools when they book into Sovereign Hill, which explains the rights and responsibilities of teachers and students when visiting Sovereign Hill.

The next morning tea will be on Monday 13th July from 10 a.m. to noon. Bill McGregor will be organising it so if you would like something to be on the agenda let him know.

Thanks to all who were part of the latest morning tea and workshop.

Helen Muir

From SOVEREIGNHILL ADMINISTRATION

"TODAY TOMORROW TOGETHER": City Council Draft Strategy Vision for 2040.

Council has released its preliminary strategy document and has asked for public comment to assist with finalising this important public statement of what our City's vision is for its development by 2040.

It is by definition a high level strategic plan, but it will be even more useful if there is a lot of community feedback now to help shape our development path over the next 25 years.

All the information on how to get involved is on the Council's website
www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

A copy of the draft is available for perusal at the Bright View reception desk at Sovereign Hill and, of course, at the Town Hall and Council Offices.

COINWORKS NEWS

We are delighted to announce the sale of the Madrid Holey Dollar. The price of \$550,000 has established a new world record price for the nation's first coin.

The previous highest price was set in 2013, for a top quality Lima Mint Holey Dollar; the buyer paying \$495,000.

The Madrid Holey Dollar has been acquired by a Queensland buyer and will take pride of place in a superb colonial coin collection that includes one of the finest 1813 Dumps, an absolute choice quality 1852 Adelaide Pound and a simply glorious Gold Taylor Pattern.

We congratulate the buyer. He has fulfilled a long held ambition of acquiring the 'ultimate' Holey Dollar.

Thanks to Ian Smith for this item

Eighty Years in Half a Page

As a result of Joanne's suggestion to Helen, I found myself the subject of an interview by Helen at a G M S Guides' Meeting. Bad enough, but I now have the almost impossible task of summarising my life in 'about half a page'! So, in more or less chronological order:

1934 Born in Sydney's 'inner West'. Father had Service Station and during and after the War became a 'Repetition Engineer' in Ashfield; early employment serving petrol and general assisting, counting petrol ration coupons and working a repetition lathe.

1939-51 School, mostly at Trinity Grammar; majored in Physical Sciences and Cricket.

1952-58 Cadet Chemical Engineer; worked at Australian Glass and then Marrickville Margarine (Eta) – 3 night a week lectures, finishing with a Diploma and B. Sc. (Chem Eng); extra-curricular cricket, church.

1959-62 Full time student Moore Theological College (Church of England), not ordained. Assisted in Parishes at Botany and then Lugarno. Married to Beryl August 1962.

1963-99 Teacher, Chemistry, Physics, Religious Education, other oddments, as well as most of the extra-curricular things that teachers do

1963-65 Trinity

1966-70 Scotch-College-Launceston

1971-72 Mentone-Grammar

1973 St.Leonards

1974-99 Ballarat & Clarendon, finishing as Senior Master, involved in Administration, Careers Counselling, Cricket etc etc.

During this time we have managed to raise two daughters and a son, cared for various cats and dogs, have continued a substantial involvement with Church including taking services and preaching, and I have accumulated a few bits of paper by way of Diplomas and Degrees.

2000-2015 What they call 'retirement' has yielded a Master's Degree in Theology from Aquinas, an interest in Genealogy including a couple of years as President of Ballarat 'Genies', local history including Central Highlands Historical Association as a context for the Genealogy, Probus, and a little preaching and writing for Church, the long spell in the back room of GMS majoring in transcriptions. fills in the time. So, with the family grown to three grandchildren and a recently arrived great-granddaughter, one fairly demanding dog, and activities carefully scheduled around the need to keep the medical people in work, we thankfully press on.

Ted Maidment

Notes from the Curator

School holidays are fast approaching us and we are busy preparing for the program to keep kids and parents entertained. The theme for the next school holiday program is Christmas in July and there is lots happening at the Gold Museum. This time we will be trying something new. We found during the Easter school holiday program that parents were less likely to stay around at the museum later in the afternoon as they were focused on getting home. So this time we will begin Sovereign Hill's school holiday festivities by holding the Gold Museum's program in the morning, giving parents ample time to spend at the Gold Museum before heading off to Sovereign Hill.

We will start at 10am with a storytelling session of *The Elves & The Shoemaker* to be held in the Tattersalls Auditorium. This will be followed by an arts and crafts session in the foyer where children will get to colour and dress paper doll elves which they can take home or hang on our Christmas tree. **Volunteer guides will then provide a tour of the museum at 10.30am not 4.30pm**

I would like to thank Gold Museum Society volunteers for contributing to the Easter school holiday program and look forward to working with you again during Christmas in July.

If you are interested in assisting with the storytelling and/or arts and crafts session, please contact me (5337 1137, scosic@sovereignhill.com.au) or Jo (5329 2319 jgervasoni@sovereignhill.com.au)

Snjez Cosic

Notes from the Senior Curator

I'm writing this whilst attending the National Conference of Museums Australia along with other colleagues from Sovereign Hill. As usual there has been a very full program of presentations covering such a broad range of aspects of the museum world. The museum sector is operating in challenging times, but there are still plenty of creative and challenging projects being conducted around Australia and some truly massive capital projects happening overseas.

The first day here was devoted to remote and regional museums and in this context it was great to see the work of the Gold Museum highlighted in a talk on the Trove website operated by the National Library. The impact on being on Trove was quoted with the tenfold increase in people engaging with the museum in relation to collection enquiries. Trove gets 60,000 individuals using the site every day and around 200 of those people find something of relevance in the Gold Museum. The opportunities created by new technology through the many faces of digitalisation were highlighted in several presentations. Expectations of online access to our collection data will increase hugely in the near future and meeting that challenge will be a big factor for all museums. Creative programming to involve the community is another big theme with museums developing such diverse programs, exhibitions and services to build audiences.

Talks have included presentations on massive museum projects in Hong Kong and Berlin. Hong Kong is creating a 23 hectare site with a massive new art gallery and other cultural institutions to be built on reclaimed land. In Berlin, Museum Island is being redeveloped at a cost of \$2 billion with works continuing over the next decade to totally upgrade and restore their historic museums which house key collections. Another talk, by Jonathan Jones, was focused on the amazing story of Sydney's huge Garden Palace, which was built for an international exhibition in 1879, only to burn down three years later. Huge collections of indigenous material and the new technology of the day were lost and major art project is underway around this history. Other topics have included issues around freedom of speech in museums and the importance of using narrative in exhibitions to communicate effectively.

Sydney has just commenced its annual Vivid festival with light shows all over the city. It continues to be a very interesting and thought provoking conference and I am looking forward to sharing more ideas with everyone when I am back in town.

Roger Trudgeon

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