



AURUM

Newsletter of the Ballarat Gold Museum Society

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MARCH MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 12th at 1.30pm when the speaker will be Mr Bob Feary who was the first stage builder of Sovereign Hill. Having heard the architect speak at the AGM it will be interesting to hear the other side of the story. June Henderson and Carmel Robins are on the Tea Roster.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Dr Jan Croggan, who is a significant part of the Research and Interpretation Departments of Sovereign Hill, spoke about the compromises which she has to make on a daily basis to keep the exhibits as close as possible to life on the gold fields in the 1850's. She confessed that she wins on historical accuracy most days, but not every day.

Bill McGregor

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

There are a growing number of new members in the society for both guiding and backroom activities. Indeed, quite a number are doing both. Denise Grant, a long time guide, has, for example, now commenced working upstairs on Monday mornings. Like me, such members gain a great deal of satisfaction from doing both tasks.

Bill McGregor



Thanks to Roger Trudgeon for this image

GUIDING NOTE

The First Morning Tea of the Year

All Gold Museum Society members and Gold Museum Staff are invited. The starting time is 10 a.m. on Tuesday 24th March at the Gold Museum. I am not sure where we will be but when you turn up we will make sure that you arrive at the correct venue. The first item on the program is tea/coffee, really nice nibble, and chatting with really nice people until about 10.40. then:-

- We have an interview with one of the members of the Gold Museum Society. On this occasion Ted Maidment has kindly agreed to be the subject of the interview so here is your chance to find out more about this hardworking member of the backroom crew.

- When the interview is finished we will then concentrate on the front-of-house volunteers where we will plan the program for all the morning tea sessions for the rest of the year.

I do hope that you can fit this event into your social calendar. I look forward to seeing you.

Helen Muir.

Have You Noticed the Activity at the Len T. Fraser Reserve?

At the corner of Barkly Street and Main Road (Diagonally opposite "The Barkly Motel") earthworks have commenced for "The Open Monument to the Chinese in Ballarat".

This will be part of the Sovereign Hill collection as Sovereign Hill has played a major role in the fund raising for this project, assisted by Henry Thai and the Chinese Community of Victoria.

The contract is being overseen by the City of Ballarat and when finished will be a welcome addition to Sovereign Hill and Ballarat's interpretation of the story of the Chinese here in Ballarat since the gold rushes of the 1850's. The design includes a series of stone panels which will show highlights of each decade, containing both images and stories.

Sovereign Hill is hoping to have the Chinese Ambassador to Australia to officially open the Monument and, with luck at the same time, open the refurbished presentation of the Secret Chamber in the mine

The Monument has been designed by the renowned architect, John Young of John Young Studio, Northcote.

Bill Llewellyn

A Date for your Diary.....

A FOSH member Peter Rullmann will be giving a talk at Linton Cottage on Cultural Awareness on Monday 23/3/2015 at 10.30am and all volunteers are welcome to attend.

Peter is a Dutchman who has lived and worked in Indonesia for 12 years and in Jordan on and off for many years as well. He has been involved in cultural awareness training at various organisations and has agreed to pass on some of his knowledge and skills to our volunteer group.

Joanne Gervasoni

VALE John Lunn

Six of our members attended John Lunn's funeral last month. I was represented by our vice-president Bill Llewellyn. John was a unique and valued member of both the society and FOSH. He operated the touch trolley and was an excellent attender of our monthly meetings. Occasionally. He spoke at meetings and his subjects always created a huge amount of interest.

Bill McGregor

**Notes from the Curator
Snez Cosic**

Call for volunteers – school holiday program

We are currently putting together an exciting school holiday program at the Gold Museum and we would love some assistance from our volunteers.

This year's school holiday theme is fashion and we will be holding an arts and crafts session for children to dress up their own small paper cut-out figure using stickers and/or other material. The sessions will be held in the foyer around 4pm throughout the school holiday period from Saturday March 28 until Sunday April 12.

We have the materials but all we need are enthusiastic volunteers to assist us with supervising and helping the children. Volunteers who participate in our program will be thanked with an afternoon tea session at the end of the school holiday period.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Snjez or Jo.

Snjez - 8337 1137 scosic@sovereignhill.com.au

Jo - 5329 2319 jgervasoni@sovereignhill.com.au

INTRODUCING Elizabeth Marsden, Collections Manager

First of all let me tell you all how excited I am to be here!

I come to Sovereign Hill Museum direct from Museums Australia (Victoria) where I travelled the length and breadth of Victoria visiting all manner of museums as co-manager of the Museum Accreditation Program. Prior to that I was the Collections Manager at the Victoria Police Museum where I was lucky enough to rediscover a number several significant items in the museum's collection related to the Kelly period, including Ned Kelly's blood-stained cartridge bag! Kelly history and mythology remains a keen interest for me and I have just recently embarked on a research masters at Federation University exploring the story of Thomas Newman McIntyre, key witness at Kelly's trial and later Ballarat resident.

For fifteen years I have worked in the heritage and museum sector with all kinds of collections and organisations, both in Australia and the Netherlands (where I lived for a number of years with my family). I am passionate about this industry and love the intimate links to the past working with collections provides.

Outside of work my interests include bushwalking, permaculture, environmental sustainable practice. I am definitely an outdoors person! A resident of Gordon for the past three years, I am loving the opportunity to both live and work in Central Victoria.

From the Archive.....Great Predictions from the past.....

Well informed people know it is impossible to transmit the voice over wires and, if possible to do so, the thing would have no practical value. Boston Post 1865

A rocket will never be able to leave earth's atmosphere. NY Times 1936

I think there is a world market for maybe 5 computers. IBM President 1943

Notes from the Curator

On March 25th in the morning the Gold Museum will see the launch of the next exhibition in our program. Entitled *Are You Going Too? – Ballarat and World War I*, the exhibition looks at what Ballarat was like at the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914 and how the city responded through to the end of the Gallipoli campaign in late 1915. The exhibition draws fully on Gold Museum collections including the personal papers of Ballarat servicemen which we hold.

In setting out the details of life in Ballarat in the lead up to war we can draw on the wonderful array of postcards, photographs and tourism related material that we have, as well as more formal documents concerning the activities of the council and other bodies at the time. Both the FitzGerald and Besemer Postcards will be included in showing the nature of Ballarat in the early 1910s.

In presenting the life of the city at the time, Dr Jan Croggon, the Sovereign Hill Historian, has researched the newspapers of the day to establish what was happening locally in politics and the wider community. There are some great stories of matters which were being dealt with by council and the issues being faced by the city's residents at the time.

The exhibition highlights the experiences of John Benjamin John, Albert Coates, Joseph Lugg and Roy Victor Holloway. JB John and Joe Lugg were killed at Gallipoli, but Coates and Holloway survived the war. A prime focus is looking at what these men experienced

and how they reacted to the war from the time of enlisting, through training and to the battle front. All four kept diaries or wrote letters home detailing their thoughts.

The Coates diaries have been published, but the other writer's words have not been shared publicly before.

Included in the exhibition will be musical selections from 1914 and 1915 put together by Dr Terence FitzSimons, Sovereign Hill's Honorary Historian. Some well recognised and less well known tunes will be heard. Soundscapes in the show include extracts from the diaries and letters of our four soldiers, as well readings of very moving poems written during the Gallipoli campaign.

A highlight of the show will be the beautiful exhibition panels designed by Andrew Thomas for the show and with text written by Jan Croggon. These panels follow the story of the lead up to war and the euphoric response to supporting the war effort that occurred in the early phases of the conflict. By mid- 1915 the grim reality of the casualties at Gallipoli starts to become apparent and the mood changes progressively.

It will be a busy month putting the finishing touches on the exhibition, but this will be a very genuine local story based on a theme of national importance. During the centenary commemorations of World War 1 the Gold Museum will be featuring a variety of touring and in-house exhibitions, of which this is the first.

Roger Trudgeon

BALLARAT GOLD MUSEUM SOCIETY

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