



AURUM

Newsletter of the Ballarat Gold Museum Society

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AUGUST MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 13th when our speaker will be Hon. Peter Walsh, Parliamentary Leader of the National Party. He will speak about the restoration of the Kingpower Anglican Church. Val Tudball, Terry O'Brian and Ted Maidment are on the Tea Roster.

JULY MEETING

Susan Pilbeam gave a wonderful presentation of the development of the visual and performing arts at Sovereign Hill. This looked at the beginnings of the site, research done here and overseas, construction of the buildings, and the need for authenticity and commercial viability. It was a walk through the decades of activity and a comprehensive coverage of development to the present day.

Dennis Spielvogel thanked Susan and presented her with a gift.



The Gold Museum's Hansom Cab, showing how it was used during the 1957 Begonia Festival Parade
Thanks to Roger Trudgeon for this image.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our morning tea / guides training was held on July 13 with about 18 members present. Vicki Moss interviewed Vicki Lowe and was adept at bringing to the audience a lively story of an eventful life. She once met Liberace for a private chat during one of her many overseas jaunts.

Dr Jan Croggan produced interesting thoughts on how we might vary and enliven our guiding, especially in relation to the Panorama.

Ballot papers for vacancies on the Committee are enclosed with this edition & I ask you to consider nominating if you think of a person or persons who will help the Society progress into the future.

Bill McGregor

GUIDING NOTES

I'm back from a delightful trip to France where a heat wave was happening with the daily maximum temperature reaching the high thirties, arriving back in Ballarat on a day where the max was eight degrees!

The Gold Museum apparently had huge crowds during the school holidays and the children's program worked well with our guides going their usual good job. My thanks to Trevor for looking after the guiding organisation while I was away, and also to Bill McGregor for planning and running the morning tea on Monday, July 6th. I believe the Vicki and Vicky show was a great success—sorry I missed it.

There will be another morning tea for ALL members of the Gold Museum Society, followed by a workshop for guides, on Tuesday 22nd September, starting at 10am and finishing at 3pm. Guides will need to bring their lunch. If any guides have suggestions for speakers and activities please let Helen Muir know ASAP.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again.

Helen Muir



Thanks to Snjez Cosic for this image

NOTES FROM THE CURATOR

Christmas in July Report

The Gold Museum was buzzing with activity during the Christmas in July school holiday program. The Gold Museum benefited from staging a morning program as our activities attracted a large number of visitors.

Families were kept entertained with a storytelling session of *The Elves and The Shoemaker* which was followed by a crafts session where children coloured and decorated our Christmas tree with paper doll elves. Visitors were also taken on a tour of the museum by our knowledgeable guides. Once again, Gold Museum volunteers did a sterling job in running our program. I would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted me in staging yet another successful school holiday program. I look forward to working with you all again during the next school holiday period in September.

Snjez Cosic



Thank you to Snjez Cosic for this image

NOTES FROM THE SENIOR CURATOR

The Gold Museum is pleased to welcome to its staff, Miles Pigdon who has worked at Sovereign Hill's Design Department for many years, and is now working two days a week with us. In recent years Miles has worked as a contractor with us to develop exhibitions such as Stone Style and prior to that the Royal South Street exhibition, just to name a couple. Now, as one of the team, he will be involved with design and related activities for both permanent and temporary exhibitions. With Miles' strength in 3D design we now have a great opportunity to update components of the permanent exhibitions as well as designing shows in-house. Welcome Miles.

Future Planning

The museum team has commenced a program to prepare a development plan for the future of the Gold Museum. A planning day was held in June to begin the process of reviewing our strengths and weaknesses and determining what our priorities and focus need to be in the coming years. The meeting was held over at The Warehouse at the Clunes, the new name for the redeveloped Clunes Museum, which includes the total redeveloped museum, a library, visitor information centre and a range of meeting rooms. The broad ranging discussion gave us a basis for further discussions with our many stakeholders about where the Gold Museum should be heading. More will be said about this in the coming months.

Collection Policy

Allied to the planning day is a detailed re-writing of the Collections Policy of The Sovereign Hill Museums Association, a document that covers all three sites – the Outdoor Museum, the Gold Museum and Narmbool.

The current policy has been updated each five years and this time the members of the

Collections and Research team at Sovereign Hill are combining their knowledge to create a document that will carry us forward with regard to priorities for collecting.

Museum Re-Accreditation

On August 4th and 5th the Museum Accreditation Program visiting panel will be looking at all three of Sovereign Hill's sites with a view to securing our re-accreditation. The Outdoor Museum and the Gold Museum were first accredited around 1996 and each five years the museum has gone through the process of being checked to ensure standards are being maintained. This year we are adding Narmbool to the program, ensuring that all of Sovereign Hill falls within the accreditation umbrella. The accreditation program is based around national standards for museums which apply to all aspects of our work from governance through to collection management and exhibitions to public programs. The standards are rigorous and we need to be vigilant in ensuring all aspects of our work are meeting or on their way to meeting the required standards. Wish us well for a good result this time around!

Exhibitions.

A reminder that there will be a mass of exhibition changes in August with the installation of four Ballarat International Foto Biennale exhibitions. All the current temporary shows will end by August 10th, so if you haven't caught up with them, or know others who are interested in the WW1, Three Well Known Australians or Chinese costume competition shows do let them know they are about the close.

Roger

Trudgeon

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