



AURUM

Newsletter of the Gold Museum Society
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JUNE MEETING

The next meeting of the GMS is on Thursday June 9th 2016 when our speakers will be Bill McGregor and Kierce O'Loughlin with their topic 'The Changing face of the Law'. There will be a Committee Meeting earlier in the day—members, please remember to bring some lunch. Vicky Lowe, Vicki Moss and Barbara McPherson are on the Tea Roster.

MAY MEETING

Another stimulating and entertaining Day Out thanks to huge efforts from Bill and Nance Llewellyn—Thank you both very much! It was particularly good to have so many FOSH with us. The visits to the refurbished Market Hall and Restorer's Barn in Castlemaine were a revelation to those who had not visited before—the Tourist Information shop had the BEST t-towel selection! Our guides at 'BUDA' were brilliant and really brought the history of the house and family to life; there were several lovely objects which I would have liked to take home! The function room, where we had our lunch provided everything we needed—and was warm and dry! Our afternoon visit to "Woop Woop" provided a brilliant contrast to our morning visits! A bit of a shock initially but our very enthusiastic guide wore us down and by the end most of us had relaxed---and thoroughly enjoyed the excellent tea provided. As I said at the time, as an alien import I felt the visit had completed my Australian education! Thanks again, Bill!

Elaine Maberly



Thanks to Joanne Gervasoni for this photograph.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It seems incredible that we are all contemplating Christmas in July already--I wish the weeks would slow down a bit. Our day out was such a contrast that it actually worked! And the Tea was VERY good! Thanks again, Bill and Nance. We will be facing the challenge of 'signing in' on an iPad in the not too distant future; be heartened by the fact that just about everyone on the other side of the road has managed to accomplish this manoeuvre already and it works well. Nothing will happen until early July and then it will be introduced slowly giving everyone plenty of time to get used to the system.

Elaine Maberly

CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT THE GOLD MUSEUM

We are preparing for the Christmas in July program at the moment.

Like last year, we will start at 10am with a storytelling session of *The Elves & The Shoemaker* to be held in the theatre. 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.

This year, Christmas in July will go for a month from Saturday June 25 to July 24 to capitalize on the school holiday period in New South Wales and South Australia.

We'd like to have the Victorian school holiday period (June 25-July 10) fully covered by volunteers. Thank you to volunteers who have already expressed an interest in participating. There is still room for more.

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

A surprising story of a stranger assimilated into Australian Society *Aurum Feb 1995.*

Quong Tart is an unjustly neglected, quaint Celestial from the Australian goldfield days. He arrived around 1842 from Shanghai as a 10yr old with his uncle who had a claim on the Araluen gold fields near Braidwood NSW. In the mornings he went to school; in the afternoons he worked on the claim and in the evenings he ran errands for a local merchant. At 12 yrs he left school with a merit certificate and ran the general store full time, learning to keep the books and haggle with horse dealers and diggers. When his uncle died in a cave in he was ""adopted"" by the wife of the gold commissioner who gave him a home and brought him up as the son she had lost in infancy. He learned to become a good Scot, cricketer and astute businessman; when the family moved to Sydney he attended King's school in Paramatta for 2 yrs and where he was dux and matriculated.

His Chinese family had some tea plantations so he made contact with his brother and became a tea importer, opening a tea house and restaurant which, owing to his bonhomie and his generosity to the poor and his staff, flourished wonderously and became a fashionable meeting place for Sydney's Society, lawyers, artists and politicians. He was friendly with the Governor and his family, the various premiers and everyone from high to low society. Everywhere he went people of every class gathered at the station and in the halls to hear him say a few words in his strong Scottish Chinese scent and sing one or two Burns ballads. He fought against the opium trade and drunkenness all his life.

(This following section is quoted from the book mentioned below which was in the GM collection back in 1995....is it still available?)

In 1886 he married Margaret Scarlett, 15 years his junior and much against her railway engineer father's wishes; their marriage and honeymoon are described in Robert Tavers' "Australian Mandarin.

On their marriage the parents' names are not filled in and her father refused to be any part of it and actually removed her name from their family Bible. However, she left for the ceremony from the home of Jack Want, then Attorney-General, who gave he away. His brother Sydney acted as best man. They spent their honeymoon in the Ballarat area where they were welcomed everywhere and the events were covered in one Sydney newspaper. They were met at the station by the Mayor

himself, several politicians and a crowd of well-wishers. A carriage with a spanking pair of greys was put at their disposal and throughout the honeymoon they were taken on their daily excursion to the beauty spots of the district. It was a very public honeymoon—about 100 ladies mobbed the newly weds on arrival, a laughing bunch of miners happily set the old stamper going on a visit to a claim, the local astronomer let Mrs Tart gaze at the stars through his telescope and the Jubilee Singers serenaded the couple at a public banquet. James Oddie, JP, turned up one day with a carriage and four complete with the 'novel' sight of mounted postillions, not often seen in Ballarat'. At one banquet Margaret was presented with an elegant bracelet made from local gold.

Tart died from injuries received from thief he had befriended in his 78th year. Many Tarts grace the legal, academic and medical professions in NSW & Queensland.

Original copy by Dr George A Kaufmann

WORLD WAR ONE EXHIBITION AT THE GOLD M USEUM

On Monday May 16, we launched two new World War One exhibitions.

A Soldier's View: Photographs from the Captain Brian O'Sullivan Collection

A Soldier's View features the Gold Museum's collection of photographs taken by Australian soldier, Captain Brian O'Sullivan. His collection came to us as part of a bequest from the late Dr David O'Sullivan, one of Sovereign Hill's founders.

An amateur photographer, Captain O'Sullivan poignantly captured the journey of a soldier during World War 1. Captain O'Sullivan's collection offers a unique insight into soldiers' life onboard the ship, on the frontline and in the trenches.

Captain O'Sullivan was born in Yarrawonga in 1895 to parents Dr. Edward Francis O'Sullivan and Mrs. Fannie Elizabeth O'Sullivan. His father was a medical practitioner and Captain O'Sullivan later followed in his footsteps. Captain O'Sullivan enrolled in medicine at Melbourne University in 1913, but deferred when war broke out in 1914.

He landed at Gallipoli as a Lieutenant in the 5th Battalion where he instructed soldiers on the use of trench mortars. He was later promoted to Captain in 1916, and was present during the battles of Pozieres, Mouquet Farm, Corcolette and Flers. In 1917, Captain O'Sullivan returned to Australia to complete his medical degree. Soon after he was back on the battleground, serving with the 5th Battalion.

Captain O'Sullivan was wounded at the Hindenburg Line at the Sommes by mortar fire. He died from his injuries and was buried at the Daours Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

Australia Will Be There: Victorians in the First World War (1914-1919)

Australia Will Be There is a touring exhibition from the Shrine of Remembrance and presents a chronology of the war with particular reference to the contribution of Victorians.

Most Australian families lost loved ones, and all made sacrifices, as their sons, fathers, husbands, brothers, uncles and daughters left to serve at the frontline.

At home, they waited for news of loved ones and endured their losses, weathered extreme political upheaval, shortages of essentials and worked tirelessly to provide voluntary assistance for those who served.

BALLARAT GOLD MUSEUM SOCIETY

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NOTES FROM THE SENIOR CURATOR

Having just returned from Auckland, having attended the first joint conference of Museums Australia and Museums Aotearoa New Zealand, a few thoughts on the future of museums. There was a lot of talk about emerging professionals, indeed there was an entire day devoted to the issue – cleverly named the Emerging Professional Forum. With many smaller museums receiving support through local government or regional initiatives there is a real need for job ready graduates in the industry. As someone who has actively mentored a number of young people into the profession it is great to see this movement gather momentum.

Furthermore it is gratifying to be a part of the movement. Over the next few months the Gold Museum will welcome three paid interns. This has been funded by the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and while we were initially funded for one internship we were able to argue that the quality of the applicants and the lack of paid internships in the industry overall made handing out a couple of extras imperative. In twenty-five years of working in the industry I have never been able to offer a paid internship so I don't mind telling you I did the happy dance when the Victorian Chamber came back with confirmation that they would cover the costs for three internships.

These internships will start in June and have been offered to three Deakin University students studying cultural heritage and museum studies. Simone Ewenson and Stephanie Cranage will work on collection projects; Simone on the art collection; Stephanie, who will start later in the year, will work on the Chinese textiles. Amelia Marra will work with Snjez on the Lucas Girls exhibition project. Say hi when you see them.

The other emphasis at the conference was collections; over the past few years there has been a

lot of focus on exhibitions, education, audience development etc, all very worthy and important but it was brilliant to see core business, our collections, front and centre. I really liked the Auckland War Memorial Museum catch-cry with regards to collections access “we are open as a rule and closed by exception”. This is certainly how I see access here at the Gold Museum. Furthermore there was emphasis on what happens after we digitise materials – what do we do next? This is a big question for us – how do we create meaty content across a range of platforms (exhibitions, websites, public programs, publications etc) that resonates with our audience?

And the session on research gave me some food for thought – too often we think of research outcomes as peer reviewed papers but museums are great platforms for research outcomes. A Victorian Silhouette could be termed as a research outcome – the dresses and undergarments were meticulously researched to ensure they were correct, the process of dressing and undressing was also researched – thus the presentation was a research outcome but we don't present it as such. Something to think about across a number of areas – bonnet making for example??

Anyway, I love a conference that raises questions and makes me think a little differently about my professional practice. Auckland certainly achieved that and it was worth the trip. And speaking of conferences

The national conference of the Australian Historical Association (AHA) will be held in Ballarat 4-8 July. The Gold Museum will host a behind the scenes tour event for conference delegates on Wednesday 6 July. The Historian (Jan Croggan) and I have had papers accepted for the conference. So there will be a plethora of history minded folk around Ballarat during that time – I am sure you will make them welcome!

Michelle Smith