



AURUM

Newsletter of the Ballarat Gold Museum Society

Vol. 25 No 9 2014

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The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 9th at 1.30 pm when the speaker will be Ewan Jones, the architect of the Gold Museum, who will speak about the trials and tribulations of reaching the final design. **THE MEETING WILL BE at the Comfort Inn in the Latrobe Room.** Tea will be provided. **Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.**

SEPTEMBER MEETING

In a fascinating presentation John Howse gave the background to the mass emigration from Cornwall in the 18th/19th Centuries. 250,00 from a total 350,00 inhabitants left due to the collapse of three previously highly profitable, industries. These people brought diverse skills with them and Ballarat had a large Cornish community.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Wartime Memories of Ballarat gave the citizens of Ballarat an opportunity to visit the Museum free of charge. The day saw approximately 350 people visit. Many had not been here for many years or at all.

Despite low key publicity the day was a success. If Sovereign Hill had marketed the day in a commercial manner the crowds may possibly have doubled. The result could have diminished the quality of the visit for many people. Additionally staff and volunteers would have had a day of elevated stress

A big thank you to members who responded to Roger's call so willingly.



GUIDING NOTES

The next morning tea will be held at the Gold Museum on Tuesday 14th October from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

10 a.m. to 10.40 – Tea, cakes and conversation.

10.40 ... Interview with David Manning of the Gold Museum Society.

11 a.m. Discussion time for front-of-house volunteers.

The following notes have been provided by Kurtis Noyce, our August speaker. If you have ever wondered how, when or where the gold mining activity is in Ballarat these notes will be of interest.

Fast Facts about Castlemaine Goldfields

Castlemaine Goldfields operates the Ballarat gold mine 24 hrs/day 7 days/week.

There are four mining crews that work a 12 hr shift (7am to 7pm) on a continuous roster 7 days on 7 days off.

CGT currently employ ~150 staff.

Decline Tunnels (Map in Community Newsletter)

There is over 25km of declines (tunnels) extending from Mt Clear to Bakery Hill (3.5km).

We normally fire our decline heading at the end of each shift around 7am & 7pm.

The decline is 5m high x 5m wide and each firing advances the development heading by approximately 3m.

The main declines are named after famous historic Ballarat mines (Suliman, Woah Hawp etc).

The deepest part of the mine is 690m below Bakery Hill, approximately 635m below where the Welcome Nugget was found.

Stopes and Production

Ore production firings are called Stopes and typically are 5 to 10 times larger than the daily development heading firings.

They last between 1.5 to 3 seconds and due to their size some vibration can sometimes be felt and heard on the surface.

Stopes are fired during the day to minimise the impact to the neighbours (typically between 12 & 1pm).

Vibration is closely monitored and must comply with strict licence conditions.

Sovereign Compartment (see newsletter for others)

The Main St of Sovereign Hill is located between two major geological cross course structures (Bignells Union (Bowling Alley) and Australian Arms (Bradshaw St).

The Sovereign Compartment historically produced 52,000 oz (\$73 mil).

CGT are aiming to mine around 15,000oz of gold from the Sovereign Compartment; about a third of the total planned production for this year

Call for Health and Safety Representative

From the 1st October we will be taking nominations for the Volunteer Health and Safety Representative, representing the volunteer workgroup both at Sovereign Hill and the Gold Museum. Duties of this role include attending the OH&S Committee Meetings every month (duration approx. 1.5 hours). There is also the option to attend a 5 day, Work Safe Approved and accredited course here in Ballarat or the alternative is a 1 day refresher training course. Sound like something you might like? Don't hesitate to ask for more information.

Nomination forms with instructions will be available in the volunteer rooms.

If you have any queries or questions please don't hesitate to contact us

volunteers@sovereignhill.com.au or 5337 116

Notes from the Assistant Curator

Upcoming School Holiday Program—a 2nd request for help

As part of the Sovereign Hill School Holiday Program (20th September to 5th October), the Gold Museum will once again be presenting *Passport to Treasure*. This activity takes children on a hunt around the Museum to find and answer multiple choice questions based on the highlights of our collection on display in the permanent galleries. Upon completion, they receive a chocolate gold coin reward, and they can take their activity sheet home with them.

I would like to ask if there are any volunteers who would be interested in assisting with the delivery of this program. It would involve arriving at the Museum ready for a 4pm start, to conclude around 4.30. The activity materials will be stored at the shop reception desk, and then brought out to a table in the front entrance. The main tasks are offering the sheets, clipboards and pens to families as they walk in, correcting their answers when they return, and distributing the chocolate coins at the end.

If you are interested in assisting with this program, or if you have any questions, could you please let me know on (03) 5337 1137 or cmuir@sovereignhill.com.au

Claire Muir

*Editor's Note, I've had a great deal of enjoyment out of this programme in the past; it is very easy and the children really enter into the search and come out feeling very proud of themselves. The parent's enjoy it because at the end of a long day they can let their offspring entertain themselves. It fits in with the 4.30pm tour quite well. **HELP IS NEEDED***

Goldfield Mutil-Culturalism

The following table gives a break-down of the numbers of different Nationalities who were working in Victoria in 1857.

Numbers calculated in November 1857, excluding those born in the United Kingdom.

Birthplace	Male	Female		Ballarat	C'maine	Avoca	Ben'go	Beechw	other
France	777	128		219	188	226	116	133	21
Germany	4046	715		1123	707	1075	1266	492	98
Other European	3431	105		653	795	694	945	378	71
U.S.A.	1702	115		392	223	522	253	385	42
China	23261	2		7532	4668	3096	3629	4695	1
Other	228	20			48	68	67	21	5

Total population 124,836 47653 31,327 35,823 35,244 18,592 4,131

It is interesting to note the disposition of miner of all origins and it graphically illustrates the dearth of female settlers.

From the archive; Aurum February 2000

BALLARAT GOLD MUSEUM SOCIETY

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Notes from the Curator

Wartime Memories of Ballarat – Gold Museum Community Day

The Gold Museum Community Day has just been held and from the feedback I have received it is clear the day was a real success. There was a very special buzz right through the museum and in my roaming through the building I could see the visitors fully engaged with our volunteers and enjoying the experiences on offer immensely.

My thanks to all the Gold Museum Society volunteers who so willingly took on the many roles required to run a day such as this. From the welcoming of the visitors on the ramp and at the information table, those attending were soon able to immerse themselves in the wide range of displays and stalls that were set up around the building, as well as viewing the twenty plus vehicles exhibited outside.

From the point of view of the weather, the community day was perfect and the display of vehicles outside was a highlight. We are very grateful to the Military History Group Inc. for bringing about eight military vehicles ranging from two US army Jeeps to a group of Land Rovers of various ages. The Group also brought uniformed and fully kitted out soldiers of World War 1 and 2, plus they were helped by serving soldiers from the 8/7th in Ballarat. A great display of equipment and numerous weapons was presented in the Eureka Walkway. The Vintage and Classic Car Club Ballarat brought fifteen vehicles of the 1930s and 1940s and we were treated to an array of American and British sourced cars.

Inside the museum there was a wide array of special displays and opportunities to meet with people to discuss aspects of military history. Gold Museum Society founding member, David Manning was very much the public face of our community day have appeared on radio and in the press discussing his time as a Prisoner of War and promoting our day.

Numerous people sought David out and had the chance to talk with him about the items he loaned for display.

Nina Netherway presented a slide show of World War 1 postcards and Jan Croggon gave a lecture on Ballarat in 1914 that was well attended and much enjoyed.

The Gold Museum Society table and the touch trolley were looked after ably by Society members and I saw some great interactions occurring around the “trolley”. The Ballarat Historical Society, the Albert Coates Memorial Trust and the Salvation Army all presented displays that attracted much interest. The back room tours were a great success. All twelve tours were presented and ranged in numbers of participants from 10 to 30 people. Alex Ball and Mary Clark gave excellent presentations on the costume collection with the display they prepared. The support of the volunteers in shepherding tour participants was an important safety and security element and much appreciated.

An event such as this cannot happen without strong support. The financial support we received with a Community Impact Grant from the City of Ballarat and the sponsorship of W&D Finance courtesy of Bill McGregor and Bill Bahr was vital. My thanks go to Joanne Gervasoni, Helen Muir, and Elizabeth Trudgeon for their help with planning and preparation for the day and to both Joanne and Helen Oxblade for ensuring things ran smoothly on the day. Thanks to Claire Muir for her work on the Manning and Holloway showcases and for doing the well-attended back room tours. Thanks to Les Bilney for the work he and his fellow maintenance staff did in putting up the World War 1 Honour Boards.

Delaware North Companies Australia provided a great café service with the lunches for all our volunteers and sustenance for visitors.

Roger Trudgeon

