



AURUM

Newsletter of the Ballarat Gold Museum Society

Vol. 25 No 8 2014

MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 11th at 1.30pm when the speaker will be John Hoskin who will speak about the Cornish on the Gold Fields. The 5 minuter is being arranged. Fran Zamurs and Nancy Llewellyn are on the Tea Roster. Please let Joanne know if you can't cover.

AUGUST MEETING

A visit had been arranged for our membership to see the renovation/refurbishment which has taken place at the Comfort Inn, Sovereign Hill. Please see more details in the President's Notes below.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the monthly meeting, in glorious sunshine, 22 members headed to the museum and most found their way to the Government Camp, also known as Comfort Inn, to have a behind the scenes look. Neil Robbins was a charming host and showed us through the large, almost hidden, complex. It has been extensively and tastefully upgraded recently. Most of us trekked from one side of Sovereign Hill to the other and the effort deserved our afternoon tea. In many ways we all felt that Spring was trying to wash away the miserable winter we have all endured.

Bill McGregor



Rare images of the Americans in Ballarat recently acquired by the Gold Museum



Thanks to Roger Trudgeon for these pictures.

VALE DAVID KARMOUCHE

David was a member of the Society almost from its inception until his death on August 24th. He was elected Vice President in 1992 and assumed office as the third President in 1993/1994 and again in 1994/1995. He was attracted to guiding, which he continued until his failing mobility made it difficult for him; however, he continued to be a regular attender, and contributor, to our monthly meetings. He succeeded Bill Llewellyn as Guiding Co-ordinator and the roster style which he instituted (with former Secretary Nina Netherway) is still in use, as can be seen by the initials DK/NN at the foot of the page! (Did they secretly have a copyright over it?) In latter years David took on the role of encouraging and rostering speakers from the Society to community groups.

David was a great champion and supporter of the Gold Museum and the Society. He will be missed, but we are all better members for his friendship and encouragement.

Ian Smith

GUIDING NOTES

The Morning Tea and In-service Day on Monday 11th August was an excellent opportunity for front-of-house volunteers, who often work alone at the museum, to catch up with one another. After tea/coffee and delicious food there was a short session where two ladies from the 1850s described their backgrounds and life in Ballarat before the Eureka Stockade event.

Catherine Sherwin (AKA Mary Clark), explained that she was an Irish Protestant from County Sligo who came to Victoria as a free immigrant with her sister, arriving in 1850. The two girls were soon married, Catherine to James Francis Bentley. After the birth of their first child they moved to Ballarat where they had almost finished building a splendid hotel which they named the Eureka Hotel. The other lady was Ellen Young (AKA Elaine Maberly), a well-educated woman who wrote fierce, possibly seditious, poetry and prose about the appalling conditions for the diggers in Ballarat. Henry Seekamp published these articles in his Ballarat Times newspapers, using Ellen as a powerful voice for change.

Helen Muir then introduced the source of much of the above information – the book “The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka” by Clare Wright. This book won the 2014 Stella Prize. It tells us many stories about the women who were involved in the Eureka Rebellion in various ways and yet most histories about the Eureka Stockade incident write of it as though it was a men only affair.; how many of us know of Ellen Young, yet she appears to have been at the centre of articulating the diggers’ woes.

Women and children comprised 36% of the Ballarat population in 1854 i.e. there were over 11000 of them. At least one woman was shot dead during the fighting at the stockade. Her name does not appear to be recorded; another woman apparently died of wounds inflicted on that day three weeks after the event, but she is not counted among the casualties. Some women were involved in digging for gold. Some of these women found female clothing to be quite absurd for a digger so they wore mens’ clothing instead. Many women started their own businesses. Sarah Hanmer, actress, built the Adelphi theatre, bought properties, became prosperous and supported the miners cause in various ways. Helen Muir suggests that if front-of-house volunteers are talking to visitors about the Eureka Stockade rebellion then the role of women deserves a mention.

The final part of this segment brought Catherine and Ellen back where they provided epilogues to their lives. Catherine had a dreadful time for years; her husband was jailed so she was left with 2 little children and no money. When James was released they had more children. Fifteen months-old Christina was run over by a horse and cart and died in her mother’s arms. The next child, Albert, died at thirteen months of diphtheria. James, her husband, committed suicide in 1873. Catherine married again to a farmer at Neerim South. She died in 1906. Ellen retired from public life to support her husband who had given up being a miner and returned to his profession as a chemist. He became the first Mayor for Ballarat East in 1868. Ellen died in 1872. Husband and wife are buried in the Church of England section of the Ballarat cemetery.

Many thanks to Mary and Elaine for taking part in this segment in their beautiful costumes.

GUEST SPEAKER Our guest speaker was Kurtis Noyce, the Senior Sustainability Officer at Castlemaine Goldfields. He gave us an excellent presentation about the mine which filled us in about its history and brought us up-to-date. We hope to have more details in the next Aurum.

After lunch, Trevor Kent demonstrated how he presents information about the panorama of 1872 Ballarat on his Golden Treasures Tour, where he asks his guests to go up the steps of the mock town hall to see the photographs from above. This led to a very animated and productive discussion and Roger added several 'secrets' which are only accessible to the very keen eye--and which no guide present is likely to forget.

The day finished with front-of-house volunteers contributing to discussion about various relevant issues including the brighter vests with the logo which are in use at present. The general consensus is that these vests with the logo were a big improvement on the earlier vests. Thank you to all who came and assisted in any way.

Helen Muir



AN INVITATION TO THE LAUNCH OF

A PALACE FOR THE BISHOP

By J.F. O'DONNELL

GOLD MUSEUM

TUESDAY 16 September 2014

AT 10.30

Speakers: Robert Smith - the owner
Michael Taffe – Archivist of Catholic Diocese of Ballarat, historian and author
Jenny O'Donnell – the author

A Palace for the Bishop tells the story of the construction of the Bishop's Palace [1444 Sturt St, Ballarat] in the setting of the social, cultural times of Ballarat in the 1870s, and of the formation of the diocese of Ballarat and the lives of Ballarat's Catholic population.

The history of the site is traced from William Yuille's pastoral run to the current day, while detailed biographies of the architects and, in particular, the artisans who laboured to create this jewel of Ballarat are documented. In addition, the 19th century artisan skills employed are described in detailed accounts of both the exterior and interior of the building.

The book also examines the background of the first bishop, his reception, and his activities in the diocese which still stretches to the South Australian border. Finally, the book discusses the fate of the Palace once the decision was made by the Church to dispose of the land and building.

A Palace for the Bishop is lavishly illustrated and has extensive appendices.

RSVP to Joanne Gervasoni Ph. (03) 5329 2319 email. jgervasoni@sovereignhill.com.au

Notes from the Assistant Curator

Upcoming School Holiday Program

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

Notes from the Curator

Wartime Memories of Ballarat – Gold Museum Community Day

The community day being held at the Gold Museum on Saturday, September 6th will be a huge opportunity for the museum to show off its new building and to share its wonderful collections of military history. The events will run from 10.00am to 4.00pm. A programme of the day will be handed out to every visitor as they arrive. Information on the day's activities will be available in the Gold Museum Foyer. Complimentary entry to the Gold Museum has been secured for Ballarat residents (3350 – 3357) through a very generous donation from W & D Finance which was organised by Gold Museum Society President, Bill McGregor. Thank you Bill for this wonderful support!

Activities will be held throughout the day outside the Museum. There will be presentations by the Military History Group, including uniformed troops of World War 1, U.S. Marines of World War 2, Army tents of WW1 and WW2, a U.S. Army Jeep and weapons carrier. We are grateful to the Vintage and Classic Car Club Ballarat which is presenting cars of the 1930s and 1940s.

Inside the Museum there will be a wide range of displays and other activities. In the foyer three World War 1 Honour Boards will be featured, including the superb board from Pleasant Street State School.

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust will provide a display on Coates, including its new Museum in a Suitcase project and it will have publications for sale.

The Salvation Army will have a display on

WW1 Military Chaplain, William McKenzie, a Divisional Commander for the Salvos who was based in Ballarat prior to the war.

Ballarat Historical Society will present a display of WW1 memorabilia, publications for sale and membership information. In the Simon Pavilion, The Gold Museum Society will display historical wartime costume, membership information and wartime collections information.

There will be a display of Thai-Burma Railway POW memorabilia and photographs from ex-POW and GMS founding member, David Manning.

Behind the Scenes tours of the new Gold Museum Collections Centre will be conducted each half hour from 10.00am. Special displays of military history items in the collection will be shown during the tours.

A number of special presentations will occur at particular times. Nina Netherway will present an illustrated conversation on World War 1 Postcards, Dr. Jan Croggon will give a lecture on Ballarat in 1914 and Bill Llewellyn will take visitors through his exhibition "Ballarat in Focus".

It should be a great day and I do hope you can attend for part or all of the day. We really need as much help as possible, so if you can spare some time to assist us with different aspects of the day please contact Joanne or me. Thank you in advance for what we hope will be a great chance to the Gold Museum.

Roger Trudgeon

BALLARAT GOLD MUSEUM SOCIETY

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