



AURUM

Newsletter of the Ballarat Gold Museum Society

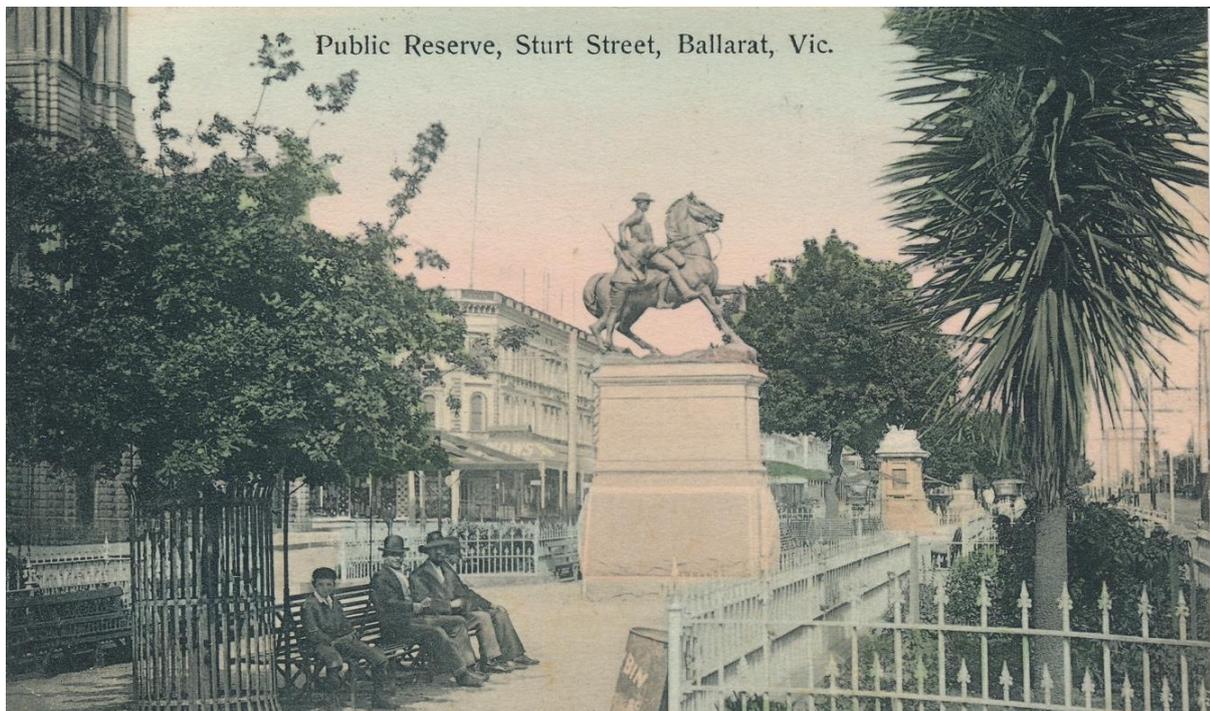
Vol. 26 No 8 2015

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 10th when our speaker will be Shirley Doon, from the Ballarat Chinese Association. She will speak about the arrival of the Chinese on the goldfields and their influence regarding market gardens that supplied fresh food, laundries to keep the miners clean and herbal medicine to keep them well, plus more. Her talk coincides with the opening of the Chinese Memorial in Main Road. William Stone, Bev Lacy and Fran Zamurs are on the Tea Roster.

AUGUST MEETING

The Honourable Peter Walsh, Parliamentary Leader of the National Party, recounted the recent saga of the restoration of St Mary's Church in Kingower, for which he provided both the incentive and the funds. His family connection with the area goes back a long way and this prompted his actions when the church came up for sale. Back in 1975 a reunion of residents—called "Back to Kingower"—recognised the importance of this remaining public building, in which the meeting was held. When thanking Peter for his inspiring talk, Trevor Kent quoted from a written reference to this meeting as follows; "Every resident in this small community has been part of the nucleus that has contributed to making this church a living memorial and today St Mary's stands as a tribute to the pioneers and people of Kingower." What was true back in 1975 is even more true today when only a very small and dispersed community remains; the lovingly restored Church Building remains the same nucleus that it was back in 1975 thanks to the generosity of Pater Walsh.



Thanks to Roger Trudgeon for this image from the Gold Museum archive

GUIDING NOTES

A Morning Tea for ALL Gold Museum Society members will be held on Tuesday 22nd September. This will be followed by speakers, then a workshop for guides.

Time:

10.00 am. Tea/coffee and a chat.

10.45 am Meet Kelly Steegstra who is in charge of all Sovereign Hill volunteers. She will be interviewed and she will explain how her position within the organization works. She will be available for questions

11.30 am A presentation by Bruce Jackson about the art known as *verre eglomise* which is working with gold on glass. Craig's Hotel has some of his work.

Lunchtime -will start when Bruce finishes his presentation. Remember to bring your own lunch if you are a guide and staying for the workshop which will start at about 1 p.m. and go through until 3 p.m.

If you have any ideas about guiding which could be included in the workshop please let Helen Muir know.

Tel No 5341 3623 ; email bhmuir@bigpond.net.au

Helen Muir

About Verre eglomise.....

Verre eglomise (Glass Gilding) is the art of applying gold leaf and painting in reverse onto glass. It has a long history with examples dating from the Roman Empire era 2000 years ago. Gold Leaf on glass has traditionally been part of the signwriting trade for shop windows but it has also been used in many other applications such as mirrors, tabletops and other architectural features.

Throughout history, we see it appear in diverse places for religious reliquaries, in 14th Century drinking glasses from Bohemia, Swiss furniture, Chinese mirrors and American clocks.

The combination of reverse painting and gold leaf, when viewed through the glass, impart a reflectivity and beauty unseen in other types of painting. There is still a lot of unexplored potential within the artform and in recent years it is finding a new following for interior design applications.

Thanks to Helen Muir for this information.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.....Help needed.....

Sovereign Hill's next school holiday program will be Spring-themed and, to coincide, the Gold Museum will focus on a gardening theme. We are considering a few activities for children such as the possibility of a storytelling and crafts session.

The program will be held in the morning at the Gold Museum, starting around 10am. Golden Treasures tours will continue to be held in the afternoon at 4.30pm.

Once again, we call on interested volunteers to contact myself or Jo Gervasoni if they would like to participate in a storytelling and craft session Snjez -5337 1137 scosic@sovereignhill.com.au Jo - 5329 2319

FROM THE ARCHIVE.....Arsenic in Ladies Dresses

The Secretaries of the Ladies Sanitary Association have written to *The Times*, protesting against the use of ladies' wreath ornaments coloured with the vivid mineral green known as Schweinfurt green. A letter from Dr Hoffmann testifies to the discovery of ten grains of white arsenic in about a dozen leaves from a wreath which contains not less than fifty such. Thus, a lady wears in her hair forty grains of white arsenic, a quantity of which would be sufficient to poison twenty persons. The same green when used for tarlatans for ball dresses is simply laid on with starch, and comes off readily. In the twenty yards of material needed for a modern dress, not less than 900 grains of white arsenic will be found. A physician in Berlin had satisfied himself that 60 grains powdered off such a dress in an evening.

The Argus, May 1862

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE AGM MEETING

This meeting will take place on October 8th at 1.30pm in the Latrobe Room, Comfort Inn, 39 Magpie St. The Guest speaker will be Dr Peter Mansfield and he will be speaking about Nathan Spielvogel and his work in the education services of this area.

This is an important meeting in the running of the Gold Museum Society so please make every effort to attend. Afternoon Tea will be provided by Sovereign Hill Inc.

2016 CANBERRA 5 DAY COACH TRIP

Monday March 14th to Friday March 18th

This has been arranged by FOSH who have extended an invitation to any of the Gold Museum members who would like to participate. Cost is \$784 per person, twin share (family/partners welcome). \$80 deposit per person on booking asap paid to Anthony Watson (Sovereign Hill) in Brightview Administration. The itinerary is full and varied so please contact Kelly Steega or Elaine Maberly or any further information.

BIG PICTURE PRESENTATIONS

These presentations are excellent and are generally organised by Jan Croggan but many of our members miss them because we do not have advanced notice of when they are to take place. This has now been remedied and the following table shows those programmed for the rest of 2015;

<i>Saturday September 26th and Wednesday September 30th</i>	<i>Gill and Mick Armstrong The Kokoda Trail 2015</i>
<i>Wednesday October 28th and Saturday October 31st</i>	<i>Serena Ioannucci 'If only this hill could talk; An archeological tour of the Sovereign Hill Mine site'</i>
<i>Wednesday November 25th and Saturday November 29th</i>	<i>David Foster & Jan Croggan Horses, Horses, Horses Transport on the Goldfields</i>

NOTES FROM THE SENIOR CURATOR

Roger Trudgeon

The Gold Museum has been selected to be one of 21 arts organisations which are contributing to a pilot study of a new way of gathering data about the visitor or customer experience in the arts and cultural sector. The program is called Culture Counts and it is an electronic system which uses iPads to record the responses from the visitors or participants being interviewed. It aims to provide feedback on the “quality and impact of arts and cultural events” and be useful for artists, arts organisations and arts funders to better understand the nature and impact of what they provide. The Victorian trial of Culture Counts is being managed by Pracsys Economics and independently evaluated by Deakin University.

Museums and all arts organisations need to gather data on the people who participate in the programs offered to monitor more than just recording the bulk numbers of how many people attended. With the Gold Museum we have good statistics on the broad numbers of people who come to the museum, but our knowledge of who those people are and what they think of the museum is more limited. Sovereign Hill conducts surveys of visitors formally and informally and this does give some general ideas about the make-up of the Gold Museum audience, but not normally how people actually respond to what we do. The pilot project will create a survey template that will tell us more about our audience than previous surveys and which should also slot into an industry wide survey platform that assists in formulating industry wide data on arts and culture in our state.

The Culture Counts pilot project is being conducted in association with Creative Victoria (previously Arts Victoria), the body which provides much appreciated annual

funding for the Gold Museum. Creative Victoria is exploring the creation of a new range of ways of measuring and evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the programs and projects of everything from museum visits through to performing and visual arts.

Culture Counts is a survey technique and audience evaluation system that has been extensively tested in the United Kingdom and in Western Australia and Queensland. Victoria is the next state in line to trial the system.

At the core of the survey the questions will be developed to help find out a range of dimensions of the program being surveyed. The core items include captivation, meaning, relevance, imagination and connection. With any exhibition or public program the museum offers we work to ensure that what we do connects with visitors and that through effective use of media we can capture people’s attention, get them interested and encourage them to think about what is presented. Exhibitions hopefully change the way people think about a topic, be it to bring awareness or to challenge stereotypes or perceptions about the subject.

We will be sharing more details of the Culture Counts project as we get more involved, but the survey work will be focused on reactions to the two exhibitions being launched on October 30th when we open the Freewheeling exhibition and the “On Your Bike exhibition. The survey will also be used during an open day we are holding in association with the exhibitions. Your assistance with the survey will be sought at various levels, including peer assessments and possibly in survey delivery. At upcoming Society meetings I’ll be able to brief you further on this.

BALLARAT GOLD MUSEUM SOCIETY

President: Bill McGregor 53312495; 9 Russell St, Newington 3350 bill@bairdmcgregor.com.au
Secretary: Mary Clark; 53324363; 8 Queen St Nth, Ballarat East 3350 email mlclark@vic.chariot.net.au
Treasurer: Lorraine Peterson; 5332 2606; 235 Scott Pd, Ballarat East; email:lorrainevpeterson@gmail.com.
Editor of Aurum: Elaine Maberly, 0353428307; PO Box Scarsdale, 3351 egm154@me.com

