



AURUM

Newsletter of the
Gold Museum Society
Volume 27 No. 9

OCTOBER MEETING
25th AGM of the Gold
Museum Society

NOVEMBER MEETING

The next meeting on Thursday November 10th and will be our annual Christmas 'Thank You' Lunch, funded by Sovereign Hill. It will be in The Charlie Napier Hotel, over in Sovereign Hill, at 12.15 pm. Prior to that event a tour has been arranged with Dr Jan Croggan of the new installation called 'Bright Vision'. The meeting place will be in the entrance to Sovereign Hill at 11.45 am.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT IF YOU INTEND COMING TO THE LUNCH YOU BOOK IN WITH JOANNE as soon as possible to enable her to pass on the numbers to catering.

President Elaine Maberly.

Elaine welcomed everyone to this special AGM and said that her first year had been one of unprecedented change which began within days of her appointment with the announcement of Roger Trudgeon's retirement; however, this event necessitated an emergency meeting of the new committee which really demonstrated how well everyone worked together. Elaine thanked her committee for all their help and support. The arrival of our new curator, Michelle Smith, and the amalgamation of the two groups of volunteers within Sovereign Hill both brought about changes which, overall, were weathered well. The need for a GMS Treasurer no longer existed and the money which remained was given to the Gold Museum to help fund a Von Guerrard print showing a view of the Ballarat mining camps from the old Museum windows. Signing in using an iPad has already been started for the back room people and will be extended to the tour guides very soon and Aurum is now being emailed out to the majority of our members.

Our speakers have covered a variety of topics but the outstanding ones for me were the May Trip to Castlemaine, the talks by 3 back room volunteers about their projects and Serena Ioannucci's presentation on the mining history on which Sovereign Hill is built.

Volunteer Coordinator. Joanne Gervasoni

Joanne named the Committee members and thanked them for their work.

She mentioned the many changes taking place – Amalgamating with FOSH. Volunteer Impact started for signing in. Staff changes. Special thanks to Elaine for the Aurum. Doug Bradby and Dennis Spielvogel for school tours. Helen Muir for Tour Guides and Morning Teas.

Back Room activities and data entry, plus work on the collections plus Tour Guiding are all making a big contribution to the Museum. Volunteers benefited from a tour of the costume collection storage at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne. There were **6,100** volunteer hours worked. **4.200.** Back Room. **1.155** Tour guiding and touch trolley. **Miscellaneous. 700.**

Long Term Service Awards were presented by CEO Jeremy Johnson; the list was published in full in last month's Aurum. Particular Congratulations to Anne Beggs-Sunter, Shirley Prowse, June Henderson, Nance and Bill Llewelyn, David Manning, Jane Miller and Ian Smith who have been members the full **25 years**.

GOLD MUSEUM SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2016-17

President	Elaine Maberly	Immediate Past President	Bill McGregor
Vice President	Vicky Lowe	Hon. Secretary	Mary Clark
Commi ttee	Lorraine Peterson	Afternoon Tea organiser	
	Helen Muir	Guide Coordinator	
	Vicki Moss	Speaker Programme	
	Bill Llewelyn		
Aurum Editor	Elaine Maberly	Co-opted	Meeting Logistics
			William Stone

Many thanks to John Hamilton for his sterling work in sorting out our meeting venues this past year.

Guest Speaker.

Brett Dunlop. Sovereign Hill Museums Director.

Brett's talk was titled. 'What I've Learned about Museums. Confessions of a Museum Director.'

Born in Kalgoorlie then moved to Perth. Became a teacher, but resigned after some years. He then comprehensively detailed the vast range of Museum appointments he undertook in Sydney and Melbourne. Along the way he developed many skills as a young person, working in teams, bringing people together, developing world class exhibitions and running a Museum. He became a faculty manager at a University, worked for Questacon, Melbourne Museum, and is now enjoying a relaxed lifestyle as Director of Museums Sovereign Hill.

President Elaine Maberly thanked Brett for entertaining us and explaining so much of his interesting life.

Afternoon Tea.

As this was the 25th Anniversary of the Gold Museum Society, a special afternoon tea was provided by Sovereign Hill. 25 year recipient, David Manning was asked to cut the special cake and photos were taken.

Mary Clark and Elaine Maberly

REUNION FOR LONG SERVING VOLUNTEERS PAST AND PRESENT

On Tuesday 25th of October an afternoon tea was held for volunteers who had served at least twenty years at Sovereign Hill. It was a pleasure to see about twenty such volunteers turn up at the Latrobe Room and enjoy the delicious afternoon tea while catching up with each other. About eight of our Gold Museum volunteers participated.

CEO Jeremy Johnson was guest speaker. He emphasised that Sovereign Hill could not function as it currently does without volunteers and he thanked those present for their contribution in time and expertise. He also outlined some future projects for Sovereign Hill which suggests that the need for volunteers will certainly continue and maybe increase.

Helen Muir

STOP PRESS.....This highly appreciative email from a visitor, Jim Mulholland, was recently received by Sovereign Hill. A real credit to our guides especially, in this instance, to Kierce!

Subject: Kierce O'Loughlin. Good Evening, Curator. Having visited your museum today, cold, miserable and feeling the weather had wasted my day, my wife and I were delighted to be somewhere warm. That initial reason for the visit was delightfully forgotten when our tour started. Kierce O'Loughlin was a shining example of how a host should treat his guests. We felt like guests instead of visitors due to his natural interest in his subject and his quiet enthusiasm was infectious. I'm so sorry that when I went off with my camera I missed thanking him personally as he had left. I trust you will look after him as he is such an asset to your nice staff.

Thanks again Jim Mulholland

Reunion for Long Serving Past and Present Volunteers.

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OPENING OF THE LUCAS EXHIBITION

Such is the interest generated by this exhibition that, although the invitation said 6pm as the arrival time, by 6.05 the entrance and adjacent areas of the Gold Museum was so full that it was difficult to find anyone you knew and were supposed to meet! AND the car park was full. Some 120 people had accepted the invitation and obviously no-one wanted to miss a thing!

Started by Elenore Lucas back in the 1890's to support her family, with three helpers working in her 3 roomed home, the operation grew steadily until by the late 1890's a shed had been constructed and there were then 30 workers. At the peak there were 500 Lucas Employees!

Lucas was a major Ballarat employer for many years and produced garments of the highest quality, supplying overseas buyers like Pierre Cardin and Vanity Fair and, judging from the excellent film showing in the Gold Museum theatre, it was a very happy place to work. Val D'Angri, whom many of us know, tells a lovely story about a fabulous, orchid pink nightdress (actually on display) and another story recounts the training and progress of one young lady who finished up on the 'bloomer' team, turning out more than 42 pairs of those iconic knickers every hour to earn a bonus!

The Lucas Girls were very much part of the Community and were involved with the planting of the trees in the Avenue of Honour and raised a considerable amount of money to contribute to the cost of the Arch of Victory—I am sure I have seen a old photograph of a large number of them positioned around the completed bases of the arch. One of the images in the film shows a group of twenty Lucas Girls at a fairly recent reunion and several were at the opening of this exhibition..... And they are still involved with fund raising for memorials to Ballarat's contribution to the World Wars. Their last effort of over \$1000's went to the Garden of the Grieving Mother development.



Elaine Maberly

Gold Museum New Acquisitions

See Senior Curator's Notes Below



Notes from the Senior Curator Michelle Smith

The old bound book pictured above is the newest treasure in the Gold Museum collection. Recently purchased at auction, the "Gold Mounted Escort Muster Roll, 1852" documents the efforts of the Victorian colonial government to manage the effects of the gold rush, including the security of claims and transportation of gold. It is a remarkable volume that has survived intact and will provide a great deal of information for researchers and interpreters.

The discovery of gold did little for Victoria's economic woes, exacerbated by the departure of many to the NSW gold diggings. Even 80 per cent of the police force had resigned to go gold digging. To raise money to fund gold digging expeditions, landowners put their Melbourne properties on the market, but there were of course few buyers around and prices dropped sharply. Wages tripled due to severe shortages in labour, and inflation set in. This trend was stoked by people returning flush from the goldfields and going on lavish spending sprees. Bread doubled in price, potatoes tripled and flour soared to £70 a ton. With a dearth of workers and rampaging inflation, crops were neglected and stockmen and farmers were on the verge of ruin.

Swift and drastic action was needed to stabilise the situation, so the Victorian government pledged to guard the gold claims of those who chose to return home during planting and harvesting. The response was overwhelmingly positive. In order to transfer gold findings securely from the goldfields back to Melbourne, the government needed to assign armed gold escorts, drawn from what was left of its police force.

"The Gold Mounted Escort Muster Roll 1852" is a key source in giving first-hand insight into

who made up the gold escorts and thus how the goldfields were managed by the authorities. They suggest how members of the indigenous population interacted with the new European arrivals and, with further research, how convict arrivals made their way in Australia. Corporal Edward Saville, as listed in the Muster Roll, had arrived in New South Wales in 1837 to complete a seven year sentence. Corporal William Manton had been transported to Tasmania in 1838 for fourteen years. So too, the records recount new arrivals from other countries that would come to play a part in Australia's early composition, such as Germany. Trooper Theodor Dammen, a policeman, arrived on the Australia in 1849 from Hamburg.

There is much to explore in this document and it is an important acquisition for the Sovereign Hill and the Gold Museum collection. Historian, Dr Jan Croggan, tells me that she has first 'dibs' on a look!

Other wonderful recent acquisitions include a number of miner's rights documents to add to our already impressive collection. The difference here is that many of these are post 1900 and in the name of women so there is interesting research potential in the history of women and mining in the Ballarat region.

Another item is a gateleg table made in the Chinese fashion on the Victorian gold fields. It was likely made by a Chinese furniture maker for a local Chinese household. We have little such furniture in the collection and this item will also make a great pattern which creating furniture for interpretation of the outdoor museum.

BALLARAT GOLD MUSEUM SOCIETY

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