



AURUM

Newsletter of the Gold Museum Society
Volume 27 No. 8 2016

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The next meeting on Thursday September 8th will be a visit to see the area used for Blood on the Southern Cross, including seeing the mechanics behind the fire sequences. Please

wear robust footwear—the area is hilly, rough and muddy and is not an area for those with walking difficulties. Please meet at the top of the hill which is Main Street at Sovereign Hill, near the Undertakers and Candle Shop, at 1.30pm. After the tour the plan is to have afternoon tea at the Cafeteria and those members who will not be able to manage the tour are very welcome to join us there.

AUGUST MEETING

Rather than having one speaker this month the Group heard from several members of the Back Room brigade. Joanne Gervasoni gave a comprehensive overview of the work done by volunteers and her role as volunteer coordinator. **Ian Efferett** gave a summary of his 50 year working life in local government which gives him a huge amount of experience to bring to his task of reading through 100 years of Ballarat City Council Minute books and extracting items of interest. **Barbara McPherson** is working on over 200 items from a tool chest and transferring the accession sheets onto the Vernon Data system. **Marj. Luhrs** has been transcribing letters from 1915 for the past eighteen months; Benjamin Johns wrote many letters to his mother covering his training, travel to Gallipoli, his experiences there and the general attitude to the Turks. He died at the battle of Lone pine. **Ted Maidment** has been transcribing the very difficult writing in the 1890's diary of a Boiler Inspector who dealt with court appearances amongst other duties.

It was a very interesting afternoon and had a celebratory finish with a 90th Birthday Tea for Clem Newey.



Serena Ioannucciati spoke at the Morning Tea about the mines which existed in the area which is now covered by Sovereign Hill.

It was a stimulating and very informative morning and every one present left feeling they had learned so much which is relevant to their contributions to the Gold Museum Society.

It is a GREAT shame if you missed it!

October Meeting will be our AGM and will be in the **Charlie Napier Hotel** this year. where we hope the facilities will be better. Afternoon Tea is to be provided by Sovereign Hill.

There is still time to make nominations for the Committee.

Please read the following if nothing else in this edition of AURUM

Changes now need to be made in the Constitution of GMS due to the fact that the **Gold Museum Society** and **Friends of Sovereign Hill** are now combined as the volunteers of Sovereign Hill. With this change it is no longer necessary for the GMS to collect annual dues from our membership to cover our running expenses and this means that those items covering our previous necessary financial activities need to be removed from our Constitution which must be done at the AGM. The following announcement covers the proposal put forward and agreed upon at the last Committee Meeting on August 11th 2016.

President's Proposal that the Constitution be amended as follows;

1. Remove the position of Honorary Treasurer.
 2. Remove the clause item 1V. Accounts
 3. Executive at V1 to change from 'three other members' to 'four other members'.
- Moved; Elaine Maberly. Seconded; Bill Llewelyn. All in Favour. Carried.

Please Note this is the 30 day notification required before the proposed AGM vote.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Some members of the GMS joined with FOSH for a visit to Geelong recently where we visited the Wool Museum and had tours organised for us. After lunch we visited the new Library and Cultural Centre in their impressive new building where, again, we were given tours around the excellent, spacious facilities. The Cultural Centre was very inviting with the warm red décor and a very engaging Curator!

The Morning Tea was outstanding, with at least one person saying it was the best and most informative session they had attended. Sadly, there were only about 12 people there and it would be of real benefit if we, the Committee, could work out a way to encourage our members to come to both the monthly meetings and these Morning Teas. Any ideas? Please let us know.

Elaine Maberly

GUIDING NOTES

We were requested to provide guides for three groups in August. The first was 12 members from M-Alexander Social Support, followed a few days later by a Ballarat Probus group of about twenty-five members, and then a week later we welcomed a group of 51 from Cobden Probus. In September we are booked for seventeen people from the David Newman Centre. It is a pleasure to show these various groups around our museum and we hope that more of them will take advantage of our guiding service which is tailored to the requirements of each group. Thank you to the guides who volunteered their time to show these groups around.

Helen Muir.

Robert Malachy Serjeant—Miner Extraordinaire.

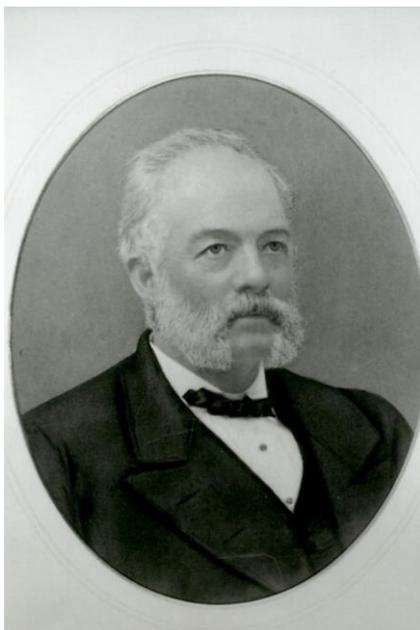
Robert Malachy Serjeant was one of Ballarat's most successful mine operators and key public figures who lived from 1828—1902. For thirty years he managed Ballarat's largest and richest gold mine, the Band of Hope and Albion Consols.

He utilised his experience in geology and chemistry and his pioneering knowledge of deep lead mining to develop new and innovative mining methods for both quartz and deep lead mining. His managerial skills were ground breaking; miraculously he was able to administer simultaneously both deep lead and quartz mining and under his stewardship the Band of Hope yielded approximately 730,000 ounces of gold, paying dividends of over £1,000,000.

When the gold rush occurred in Victoria he made his way to Ballarat and was amongst the first to sink through the basalt on search of deep leads. In 1855 Serjeant and his partner found a very large nugget weighing around 500 ounces and he used the capital raised from it's sale (around 5 year's wages) to set himself up with the latest equipment, including the first cast-iron puddling machine and iron sluice in Ballarat. and he encouraged and supported projects which encouraged employment in the depressed Ballarat mining industry of the time which included the creation of a woollen mill which employed 105 people.

Serjeant was born in Cornwall and died in Ballarat. He was more than just a miner, devoting much of his time to bettering working conditions of his workers and, at heart was a community man. His awards and distinctions were many, including a gold medal for his model of the Band of Hope and Albion Consols Company quartz crushing plant. He was a freemason, life governor of the Ballarat Hospital, associated with the Old Colonist's Association and the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, life member of the Mechanics Institute and foundation member of the Administrative Council of the Ballarat School of Mines. He set up the Serjeant Scholarship in Mining Engineering and was MLP for Ballarat West, amongst other achievements.

In October 2014 Sovereign Hill was successful in nominating this entrepreneurial mining man into the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame, an institution which was founded in 1995 as a memorial to the men and women who have made a significant contribution to the mining industry, it's communities and environment in Australia.



Robert Malachy Serjeant



The prospectus of the the Band of Gold and Albion Consol

Many thanks to Dr Jan Croggan for this information.

Notes from the Curator

Gallery Updates

There is lots of work happening behind the scenes at the Gold Museum to update our gallery spaces over the coming months.

Gold Pavilion

The plan for the update of the Gold Pavilion has been finalised. The plan has included refreshing the look of the gallery and updating it with new content. The Gold Pavilion will feature new content focusing on the breadth of the Gold Museum collection and Ballarat's history.

Pounce Creative are working at the moment on a new display on Paul and Jessica Simon which will be featured in the current South American coin display. This section will tell the story of the Gold Museum's early beginnings, Paul's coin collection and Jessica's involvement with the Stone's Department Store. Objects to be displayed in this section will include a selection of colonial coins from Paul's collection from Spain, South America, Great Britain, Turkey, Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, as well as objects from the Stone's collection.

The illuminated wall display located near the shop will feature images from the Gold Museum's collection of historical photographs and daguerreotypes.

A display on the Royal Mint of Victoria will be featured in the empty space at the front of the Gold Pavilion previously used as a temporary exhibition gallery. The large gold scales from outside the Theatre and from the Eureka walkway will be moved into this space.

Cowles Gallery

The large display case located near the entrance of the Gold Pavilion will be updated with new objects from our collection about Ballarat's breweries. The display will focus on the following beer manufacturers: Warrenheip Brewery, Ballarat Brewing Company, Buninyong Brewery and Eureka Brewing Company.

The blank white wall located near the display case will feature stories about Ballarat's temperance movements.

House of Lucas Exhibition

We are currently working on our next in-house exhibition *House of Lucas* which will tell the story of Ballarat's iconic Lucas clothing company. It will feature clothing, objects and images from the Gold Museum's Lucas collection.

We are delighted to have with us Amelia Marra, former intern and museum studies student, who researched our Lucas collection and has returned as an Assistant Curator to help us with the exhibition.

A schedule of programs for House of Lucas is currently being developed.

House of Lucas will open in mid-October 2016 and will close in March 2017.

Snjezana Cosic

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