

March 2016

Dear members, the weather now has a tinge of autumn and this is causing us to think carefully about the climate control of History House. We have explored some under floor options for a heating system but it appears that the clearance under the floorboards is not sufficient to make this feasible. Discussions are continuing but we must get moving before the damp weather sets in.

This year is continuing to be as busy as the last with a steady stream of emails requiring information and researchers calling in to use our resources. Our new volunteers are contributing well and we certainly appreciate some new faces and people with new skills. Those who visit HeritageWorks will be aware of the changed traffic and parking conditions in this area. Kepler Street is being revamped and parking is at a premium. The footpath along Gilles Street has brought increased foot traffic but we expect the roundabout works to be disruptive when they start but they will create a much safer exit from Gilles Street.

WDHS will turn 50 in May. To celebrate we have organised a dinner in the private dining room at the Hotel Warrnambool on Saturday 14 May at 7pm. We will have an interesting guest speaker, a special birthday cake and lots of laughs. Please ring HeritageWorks 55 61 0283 to book your seat at this important event. Don't forget the Thank You to Peter Robinson at HeritageWorks 13 April at 8pm, and the book launch on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> ( refer to flyer attached).

Some time ago we had a range of photos, cameras and negatives donated by the late David Ferguson's family. David was at one time a photographer at the Warrnambool Standard so it is an interesting collection. Last Week Charles Heathcote began to scan the negatives and some treasures were discovered. Aerial photos of almost empty land in areas now heavily under housing and various scenes from around the city that are of great interest, see below. Call in and check them out.



Do you recognize this scene? The house is still there. It is Fairy Street - approximately 1960's with the Gasworks visible on the right hand side of the picture. The car is an Austin 7 Swallow and several people at HW had one in their family. Please let us know if you have better knowledge.

Flagstaff Hill is hosting an exciting Victorian Maritime Museums network conference on 8-10<sup>th</sup> April. The conference will focus on the history and heritage of Bass Strait that has played such an important role in the development our region. I am sure it will be an interesting weekend with a great range of speakers. There is an information sheet attached to this bulletin.

Warrnambool Anglican Church is in the process of having their beautiful WW1 Memorial restored. It is a painstaking task as there must be meticulous cleaning before the restoration work on the 1920's mosaic tablet begins in earnest. We are lucky in Warrnambool to have such treasures as this and the pipe organ at the Catholic Church that was recently restored and is sought after as a performance instrument.

#### Quarry men and the Community Garden.

If you haven't driven past to check out the Community Garden you should make the effort to do so. The land at the end of Grieve Street (the extension of Coulstock St) has been transformed from a desolate and neglected piece of Albert Park to a bustling community space. It is rare to visit and not see people of all ages tending the garden plot or working on improvements to the space. The adjacent quarry is the next focus of the groups work. They plan to rehabilitate the quarry and have done some preliminary work on the floor to allow a clear look at the scope of the project. There is a thought that an interpretation board could be erected but the project is in its early stages. WDHS are a good source of information and photos of the early days when the quarrying of sandstone was an important activity in Warrnambool. Following is an extract from the Community Garden Autumn newsletter:

#### *What will our quarry become? Geoff Rollinson Explains...*

*Located in the heart of our garden space, the quarry is a feature that inspires many a thought, and for others triggers memories of former times. For some years now we have been musing over its future use, thus the push to set up the Quarry Consultation project. Bruce Campbell has been selected as project coordinator, assisted by Geoff Rollinson and Garden members Keith Fisher, Christopher Worrall and Dave Mitchell. Bruce is currently setting up a reference group consisting of WCG members and representatives from Wannon Water, Warrnambool City Council and DELWP. Each of these bodies has an interest from a planning or infrastructure perspective. Through Julie we managed to secure \$6500 funding from the David and Isobel Jones Foundation, which will be used to carry out project planning and community consultation work. It may well get us to the point of having 2 to 3 well defined options for its future use. As members may have noticed, the quarry has now been cleared of the large woody weeds and the lower surface has been levelled to an extent. We're looking at options to move forward with the weed management plan as part of preparing the space for it to become a "blank canvas" to work with. So what is the expected outcome of the quarry consultation project? According to the associated terms of reference, it is to set up a consultation process that is open to community garden members and the public. It aims to develop a preferred option for the quarry that is visionary and realistic (with costing), that aligns with the community garden's values, purpose and goals, and will be a strong feature of the garden for our members and the general public. Thanks to Dave Mitchell, Dave Stockdale (Stocky), Peter Austin. and their teams for all of the work you do!*

Would you like to have a say in the outcome? Visit the Community Garden website.

#### Three important dates for your diary-

Book launch – For King and Country – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> April at HW  
Thank you function for Peter Robertson, 8pm Wednesday 13 April at HW  
WDHS 50<sup>th</sup> birthday dinner Saturday 14 May 2016, Hotel Warrnambool

#### *Glenys Phillpot*

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