

May 2016

Dear Members, What a great night we had in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the WDHS last Saturday. Members and guests gathered at the Hotel Warrnambool for an evening of entertainment and remembrances. Tribute were paid to the people who have worked over the past 50 years to ensure the society is a strong organization, with particular mention made of Les O'Callaghan's work. Les was a member from 1972, took over the reins as secretary in 1974 and later was President for 30 years! A great contribution that is highly valued. Pat Varley, a foundation member was the guest speaker who gave us an entertaining insight into Warrnambool during the past 50 years, her commitment to education and her words triggered many memories. Life Members Jane Chislett, another foundation member and Elizabeth O'Callaghan were also recognized, and with Pat, cut the spectacular cake made and decorated by Robin Grey. As it was a birthday party there were "gifts" to the collection including a 1902 book, *Bridge and How To Play It* by Archibald Dunn Jnr. This book was owned by Con O'Mahony, Warrnambool lawyer and gifted by Elizabeth O'Callaghan. Janet Macdonald and Glenys Phillpot presented an original of The Queen's Jubilee Edition History of Warrnambool by Richard Osburne and a Bateman's token. The Osburne's was signed and presented to W O'Brien, Timor Street, Warrnambool 18 June 1887.

W. O'Brien  
Timor St  
Warrnambool  
18 June 1887

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with the  
author's  
copy  
P. O.  
June 18, 1887

William O'Brien came to Warrnambool from Port Fairy and became the licensee of the Hibernian Hotel, Koroit Street East and later built the Western Hotel in Timor Street. O'Brien was elected to the Warrnambool City Council and later moved to Koroit where he opened an auctioneering business.



Life members Elizabeth O'Callaghan, Jane Chislett and Pat Varley cut the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake.

Work is continuing on the significance of the Pioneers Board and we aim to have the study completed by 30 June. Family History group members have continued their research into the men featured on the board including their contribution beyond the boundaries of the Warrnambool area. We have located the original negatives of the photos on the men taken in 1970's by Jack Welsh when he did some remedial work on the board. At that time he added red, blue and green dots with numbers to allow easier identification of the pioneers. Gary Francis has had the negatives in his care after having had them passed to him by Jack Wilkins who received them from Jack Welsh. They are now securely stored at History House.

Prior to the Open Day at HeritageWorks and History House this Sunday 22 May, we are having a working bee at 10am on Saturday 21 May. Chocolate biscuits supplied.

We will be open on Sunday 22 May from 10am until 4pm for members and the general public to look at our facilities, ask questions about their forebears, their house or any other topic that interests them. We hope to have the answers available with the wealth of knowledge that the roster workers bring.

**Come and try - Bring a question, find an answer!**

Flagstaff Hill will also have a special program with free admission on the same day and Warrnambool Art Gallery will host back of house tours and other interesting activities

Research and collection management continue to be our top priority and the most time consuming activity we undertake. Janet Macdonald does a great job with the research enquiries that come from far and wide. Recently she had an enquiry about a 1924 Alfa Romero car that the current owner in Holland claimed had at one time been owned by a dentist in Warrnambool. We are still looking for that needle in the haystack.

**Now that postage is \$1, it has increased our costs to send our member communications by post and email is so much quicker than snail mail. If you have an email address we would love to use that. Please ring the number below.**

*Glenys Phillpot*

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Committee -Janet Macdonald (Vice President). Barbara McLeod (Treasurer) Joanne Laity, Andrew Suggett, Eric v an der Wal, Pat Varley and Marita Murphy. Mandy King Social Media convenor.

**HeritageWorks - Phone 55610283**