

June 2016

Dear Members, by now you may have had time to read the latest *Warnimble* journal packed full of information and interesting articles. The team, led by Barbara McLeod has put forward another riveting read, well done. The article by Ray Welsford, *Conundrum*, relates to part of the enormous amount of research work being done on a number of fronts to gather information on our Pioneer Board. Ray has devoted many hours to the solving of the "who was W McAree" mystery and I have no doubt we will get the answer in the end. The Mountie always gets his man!

I was interested in the cover photo of Frederick Williamson digging air raid trenches at Warrnambool High School 7 March 1942. Trenches were dug on many properties across the town and we have a delightful photo in our collection of a family group involved in the digging in Koroit Street, on the site of the old Ambulance Station now the home of Westvic Training. Frederick Williamson, born about 1880, followed his father into the tailoring business operating at 157-159 Liebig Street, currently Bright Bird Café and Collins Book Shop. He was active around town, a member of the Warrnambool Garrison Artillery Corps and a City Councillor on several occasions between 1924 and 1945, including being Mayor in 1942 and 1943. Was he Mayor in March 1942 when he was digging this trench? It would depend on when the mayoral term began.

There was an article in the Standard recently suggesting WCC are to do a review of old signage around the city with a view to preservation. The wall of De Grandi's shop facing the entry/exit to the Ozone car park is possibly the most prominent of these but there are many more. There is a wonderful Sunshine Biscuits sign covering a large sandstone wall on the east side of Japan Street just south of Raglan Parade. Where else have you seen signage that relates to an era long past? Please let us know so we can pass the information on.

WFHG and WDHS have applied to the Archie and Hilda Graham Foundation for funding to install hydronic heating at History House to ensure that the fragile documents, books, films and photographs recording Warrnambool's past are in environmentally suitable archival conservation conditions. We are in the throes of finalizing an application to Warrnambool City Council's Community Development Fund due in on 30 June. History House is operated as storage and a repository for regionally significant archival material in an 1890's sandstone building that while relatively fire secure, is scarcely ideal storage for this sensitive material from an environmental control and dampness perspective. The building was declared a "Place of Deposit" for temporary value records under the Public Records Act 1973. This means that intermediary level records that are not by law required to be located at the Public Records Office can be stored in Warrnambool and are available to researchers. All of the paper collection is in suitable archival storage containers but relative humidity variations, particularly in winter, cause damage and deterioration to the fragile material. Gentle warming of the air through hydronic heating to 15 degrees should address some of the conservation concerns. History House has four archive rooms and the front two rooms are used for rotating displays using the collection material.

**STOP PRESS** The Graham Foundation application has been successful in gaining \$5000 towards this project!

Michele Wills from the FHG along with other members from each group has been putting together a very useful document, *Helpful Information for HeritageWorks volunteers*. It is the kind of work we all know needs to be done but never quite get around to. It includes hints on how deal with: initial sign in, research and photo order forms, artefacts donated to HeritageWorks, information to be filed, payments of all kinds, photocopying and printing, subscriptions and book sales. All is now clear and easy to understand so if you feel inclined to come and spend an hour or so at HeritageWorks there is clear guidance available.

We were recently successful in gaining a grant of \$5000 from the David and Isobel Jones

camera to allow us to better record large documents and photographs that are too large for conventional methods. We are grateful for this support in our work.

Research and collection management activities are continuing every single day. The requests for information flow in and are dealt with effectively by the research team. The number of items fully documented and described on Victorian Collection grows each week. We are getting an increasing number of enquiries as a result of people accessing our collection through this avenue. The response makes it obvious it is worth all the hard work.

Our come and try open day was well attended with a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. This event was part of World Museums Day and involved Flagstaff Hill as well as Warrnambool Art Gallery. Those who visited were interested in the display in History House and had some fun looking through our expansive collection of photos from the past. Lots of old memories were evoked and it is worth repeating this event. We have a great turn out for the working bee on Saturday before the open day and did a bewildering range of tasks. A large trailer of rubbish was removed and the hard-to-reach places were cleaned. History House and HeritageWorks looked sparkling and the tidiest they had been for a while. The “autumn” clean was well worth the effort; in fact it is a very good reason to repeat the open day next year.

The pioneer Board study is progressing well with a draft imminent. The work by Elizabeth Triarico has unearthed several similar but distinctly different boards recording the early settlers of a range of towns and cities. The research has continued in Warrnambool with new information surfacing almost daily. As Ray Welsford said when speaking of the Pioneer Board project, “like Topsy, it just keeps growing.” We are looking forward to the result of all the investigative work. There is a timeline of the “life” of the Pioneer Board on our website. Please visit and see if you can add to the knowledge about this local treasure.



*Duncan Gilles Premier of Victoria 1886-1890.*

*One of the 204 identically sized drawings by Lillian Foyle of pioneers from our board. You can see the level of work required as some of the images were drawn from photographs and some from descendant's memory!*

### *Glenys Phillpot*

Glenys Phillpot – President (0408517117 or 55 62 7652) Email– [gphillpot@hotmail.com](mailto:gphillpot@hotmail.com)

Rosemary Isaac – Secretary (55628403) Email [rosemaryisaac@icloud.com](mailto:rosemaryisaac@icloud.com)

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