

## Bellarine Historical Society Presidents Report 2023

The society managed to get through Covid 19 despite many of our Sunday volunteers not returning. The efforts of a few kept the society operational with the committee working on an annual plan identifying both short and long term projects. While we have not achieved all we have made inroads. ..

The Thursday volunteer group worked tirelessly contributing over 500 hours on various projects. Pauline has finally got some order in the research room. Judy continues to work on data entry. Chas and Susie have been busy with the digitalization of images and other documents. These are stored on the back computer as well as offsite.

I would like it noted that many images are missing.

We had a variety of fundraising events. Thanks to the support of the North Bellarine Film Festival we showed , 'The Dressmaker ' to an audience of around 80 people. The local writing group held the 'Fly on the Wall , reading their works to a small audience.

We were fortunate to receive a small grant for the Seniors Festival. The theme was 'Postcards from the Past ' displaying old postcards. Local artists also painted postcards and made dioramas. The local CWA provided scones for the Devonshire teas.

Permission was granted to show the film, 'Thanks Girls and Goodbye .' A documentary about the Land Army girls during World War Two. About 65 girls worked on farms on the Bellarine Peninsula during the War 2...

The Court House Writers began in October 2022, and is very successful. They meet monthly on a Friday and come from the Geelong region.

As part of moving online, membership forms, and research requests, can be downloaded.

We provided historical information to the Grand Hotel Portarlington, Portarlington Football Club, Leopold Primary School, Celebrations Liquor Store, St James and St Andrew's Church.

We are currently working on a project with the Department of Media and Communication, Swinburne University. They have digitalised the oral recordings from 1997 and cleaned up the audio on the digital recording with a mixer and filters.

Preserving the feel of the recordings while increasing the audibility of the voice. ..

The school visits continued with Pam Jennings visiting Clifton Springs Primary and two schools in Ocean Grove. Ann Hodgkinson presented a talk on Drysdale and Newcomb workers at the Newcomb Library As part of History Week.

Publicity and Promotion.

A new D/L brochure was designed printed and distributed to various outlets.

The book, ' Bellarine Memories ' was launched in May and is now in its second print run.

The website is updated frequently. However our main source of promotion is the Facebook page. By using images we receive many replies and information to compliment the image. We link articles of interest to our website from the Facebook page.

The issue of the ramp is ongoing. After a question was tabled at the September Council meeting a meeting was arranged with the Council Liaison Officer? and the

executive. At the time of this report there has been no further communication. With many changes at the Council including those who we dealt with in the past being made redundant it may take a little longer to get an answer either way. Members are welcome to read the Council report from the Heritage Officer.

In concluding I would like to thank the hard working committee, Sue Wall for managing the finances, Genevieve Kelly, our Secretary who manages the records, attends meetings and offers straight forward solutions. To Chas Taylor who manages the technology aspects. To Susie Canning thanks for your input and we wish you safe journeys ahead in your mobile home. Robyn Hope administration all-rounder. I also would like to acknowledge those who work behind the scenes, Jack for keeping the grass down. Bill who built the letterbox and, Bill, Jack and Ron for building the new signage. To those who turned up to help with the garage sale thank you. I would like to thank all the members who support the history of the Bellarine.

Despite receiving no support from any levels of government the Society has a good future with increased membership and strong financial management.  
Can we remain independent?

Lorraine Stokes  
October 28, 2023