
BELLARINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS JUNE NEWSLETTER



Annual Memberships Now Due

Could you please renew your membership for our Society now. We are a fully volunteer organisation and rely heavily on our members support to remain viable. Annual fees remain unchanged for 2026-27.

Individuals \$15 Family \$25

Pay into bank account Bellarine Historical Society Inc (Bendigo Bank):

BSB: 633.000; Account: 186611307

Reference Surname. Membership renewals can also be posted to BHS Treasurer, 11 High Street, Drysdale 3222.

We had a large program of activities over the past three months and many members participated making them very successful. Many of these were part of our Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations and more are coming. In addition, work has continued on the Shed exhibition spaces, reorganising the office, new exhibitions in the main hall, and the new Facebook page. All worth checking out.

APRIL ACTIVITIES

Volunteers Morning Tea. We currently have over thirty volunteers who help out with Sunday openings and events at the Museum. There is also a small dedicated group who work behind the scenes on Thursday morning setting up displays, researching, and caring for our collection. There is always more work to be done and all help is appreciated.



Morris Minor Car Club Visit. Around 12 local and Melbourne based members of the Vintage Morris Car Club visited the museum and enjoyed a morning tea provided by our volunteers. They were given a talk on the history of Drysdale and a copy of our Historic Driving Tour map to continue their exploration of the area.

History Talk at Star of the Sea Primary School, Ocean Grove. Ann Hodgkinson, as a local resident, visited this school and gave two hour-long presentations on the unique history of Ocean Grove to around 70 year 5 students. They seemed to enjoy it and the students then went on a walk around the town to view the historic sites.

The Amazing History of Picnics. Deb Seymour gave a talk on how picnicking evolved over time with some surprising revelations. This was inspired by her great-grandmother's elegant picnic set, circa 1920s, which she donated to the Museum's collection and is on display.



MAY ACTIVITIES

Drysdale Library Photo Display. Our volunteers prepared and hung a display of historic photos in the Library, on the themes: Schools, Trains and Hotels. Historic photos were enhanced using new AI software, taking seconds rather than hours using photoshop. They were then printed, framed and hung on the photo wall at the Library on display for the month of May.



Mavis and Howard Willey Documentary, screened at the SpringDale Hall. Mavis and Howard were the oldest living couple in Australia at the time this was made, and are well-known local identities. The documentary took several years to finalise but the result was very worthwhile. The Hall was full and over 100 people enjoyed watching them tell their stories, flavoured with a wonderful sense of humour. Unfortunately, and sad to report, Mavis recently passed after a fall.

Technology Upgrade. With the support of the Drysdale IT Guy, the systems at the Museum have received a much-needed upgrade. The old Administration Computer has been replaced and a new Access software, which is used to catalogue the collection, has been acquired. We have now been connected to the internet which will greatly aid research and collection documentation processes. So far, all is working well.

JUNE ACTIVITIES

50th Anniversary Lunch. June 11 was the Fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Bellarine Historical Society in 1976 when we began occupancy of the old Shire Hall and started to turn it into a Museum. Around 25 of our volunteers came for a history walk around the old Town Square/High Street area of Drysdale. We then had a lunch at the Zoo café. It was a great time to enjoy each other's company and reflect on what has been achieved in those fifty years.



Poetry and Postcards. This special event involved local artists making postcards by drawing object from those on display in the Museum. Local writers from the Geelong region then recited their poetry to the assembled crowd. This was well attended with the room full. The postcards are now on display at the Drysdale library.

History Talks at Surfside Primary School, Ocean Grove. Ann Hodgkinson repeated her presentation on the history of Ocean Grove, this time to around forty year 4 students in two one-hour sessions. These students were very animated and participated enthusiastically in the presentation, great fun. It would be nice to do similar talks with other Primary Schools in the region focusing on the history of their towns.

COMING EVENTS

The Geelong Vintage Car Club will be visiting the Museum on 5th July, again to view our collection and learn about the history of Drysdale. They have been provided with copies of our Driving tour of Historic Drysdale.

Songs and Scones, 19 July. Participants are invited to make an entry of scones cooked to a 50-year-old recipe. Music will be provided by the 'Little Jazz Band'. Entries are now open, see attached form. Devonshire tea will be served while listening to music. **Tickets \$10 can be purchased through Trybooking <http://www.trybooking.com/DNLPM>.** Tickets are limited to 30 people. We are looking forward to having another full house on the Day.

Fly on the Wall, 23 August. Due to its popularity, this has now become an annual event at the Museum. Local writers are invited to read their own short stories to an appreciative audience.

What in the World Is That? We are considering holding a fun filled Fundraising event in November based on some of the stranger objects held in our collection and elsewhere. More information to follow.