

# BELLARINE HISTORY NEWS.

February -May 2026

Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>

'Postcards and Poetry

Entry by donation

July 19

'Songs and Scones'

Featuring 'Little Jazz  
Band' 2pm

Bookings required

August 23

'Fly on the wall'.

\$10 entry fee

## WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY/MAY NEWSLETTER.

We, at the Society, have very interesting times ahead. In 1976 a public meeting was held to consider the formation of an Historical Society in the Shire of Bellarine. We are now about to celebrate that Society's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. So much has happened during that time. One thing we should all be proud of is the army of fantastic volunteers past and present who have given up hours of their time to make the Society what it is today. Publications, newsletters, and the digitizing of material ensures that the history of the Bellarine will not be forgotten.

How do you celebrate such an event? 'A round table discussion' with our current committee came up with several ideas, that are the processed of being streamlined. A photographic exhibition is on display at the Drysdale Library during May. Postcards and Poetry, titled 'A Flash in the Pan' involves local art groups working together sketching objects from the museum. Poets writing poems, also prompted by museum displays items is scheduled for June.

The ever popular 'Fly on the Wall' is back on August 23 at 2pm where local writers are invited to read their own short stories. Book through Trybooking

These events along with monthly talks filled up the calendar.

The society has a wide range of books relating to the history of the Bellarine, maps, school records pop in on a Sunday to view the collection.

### **A highlight so far. ..**



This has been the showing of the Howard and Mavis Willey Documentary, a joint project between the Bellarine Historical Society and Swinburne University. With over 100 people including family members, attending this event at Springdale Neighbourhood Centre it was a huge success.



### **Meet the Volunteer.**

Ann Cullen plays a very important role at the Society. With her friendly smile she is a person you cannot say no to.

A few questions I put to Ann.

#### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN VOLUNTEER WITH THE BHS.**

About three years

#### **Is there an item in the museum which means something to you?**

I like the period clothing.

#### **Have you a favourite building or location on the Bellarine.**

Anywhere on the Esplanade, The Whiskery-old chook farm

#### **What do you do for/with the museum?**

Support Volunteer program.

#### **How did you learn about volunteering with the BHS.**

From the President.

#### **What would you say to new retirees in your area?**

Volunteer, find time to volunteer in your community. The society is a very friendly and you can meet new friends and learn a lot about the history of the Bellarine.

## **Office and Training Room**

Since the last newsletter we have had severe water damage affecting the administration area. While there was little damage done to our records, it highlighted the need for a disaster recovery plan. Our quick thinking retired librarian Loris managed to get the disaster recovery kit together within 24 hours.

While cleaning up the area rotten floorboards were uncovered, allowing light and vermin to get in. We are currently waiting on the council to undertake the necessary repairs.

The old Clerk of Courts room is currently undergoing a refurbishment to set up an office and training room. We are in the process of installing the NBN and the Internet. With thanks expertise of Bay.IT it will enable us to access a larger work space without any damage to the historical building. Once this has been installed, we will begin the process of furnishing the room.

As already mentioned, there is a small photographic exhibition on display at the Drysdale library. The theme is trains, schools and hotels. These are a small sample of images the Drysdale Museum holds. We are currently working on a display to highlight education on the Bellarine.



## **Tom on Call**

The society was fortunate enough to obtain the services of Tom during our recent call for volunteers. Tom has removed nails, glued things together, put wheels on trolleys, etc. Toms assistance is greatly appreciated

Finally, a big shout out to our new Sunday volunteers. Without we would not be able to open every Sunday.