

NEWSLETTER

Commemorating 100 years of Aviation in and around Altona

A Bleriot XI monoplane



In November 1910 at Altona, French aviator Gaston Cugnet flew an imported Bleriot XI monoplane aeroplane, but “struck a cow” on landing

Subsequently he made several short flights to Geelong.

Cugnet was sent from France by Bleriot for the possibility of establishing a permanent aviation business in Australia.

His first flight was for 7 minutes and reached a height of 200 feet at Altona.



The Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc.

is holding a celebratory dinner to acknowledge the birth of Australian Aviation in Altona in 1910.

The venue is the Altona RSL on the 12th November 2010 at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$25 per head

Tickets are now available from the Homestead on Open Days or:

Contact 9369 1496

or

Margaret Rice 9398 2548

wmrice@ozemail.com.au

LOUIS BLERIOT

Louis Bleriot was a French Inventor and Aviator.

On July 25th 1909 he completed the first flight across a large body of water when he crossed the English Channel from Calais to Dover in 36.5 minutes.

He is credited as the first person to make a working Monoplane



AVIATION

On the 6th December 1969 ,a plaque commemorating the birth of Australian Aviation in Altona was unveiled outside a shop on the corner of Pier Street and Railway Street South.

In November 1910,a Frenchman (Gaston Cugnet) brought his airplane to Altona and made a couple of short flights. (A History of Altona - A J Clarke and Members of Altona Historical Society 1974)

In 1911 a New Zealander Joseph Hammond selected Altona as an airfield and made many public demonstrations of flying.

J J Hammond was employed by the British Colonial Aeroplane Company (Bristol) and accompanied two Bristol Box Kites to Australia in December 1910.

Hammond undertook his first Victorian flight at Altona Bay on the 18th February 1911 for 31 minutes and reached heights up to 3000 feet. (Australian National Aviation Museum).

So although Hammond was not the first to fly in Altona,nor in Australia he did pave the way towards the acceptability of planes.

In February and March 1911 Hammond made many successful public demonstrations of flying,including the first cross country flight,Altona to Geelong and return on the 20th February.

Also the first passenger flight (J J Hammond's wife),the First Charter and First Passenger Flight with Mr. M.H Baillieu took of on the 2nd March 1911.

On the 26th November 1910,acting Prime Minister Billy Hughes attended Altona bay to inspect the aircraft and christened it "Altona".

(A History of Altona - A J Clarke and Members of Altona Historical Society 1974)

Information published by the Royal Aeronautical Society of Australia states

"In 1909 .six years after the Wright Brothers flights in America the Commonwealth Government offered a 5000 pound prize for the first "Flying Machine-suitable for Military purposes" and set out certain requirements for such a craft.

Two manufacturers Bleriot and Bristol dispatched aircraft and crews to Australia.

On the 23 rd February 1911, Frank Coles became Australia's first Aircraft Passenger when Joseph Hammond took his mechanic aloft while demonstrating Bristol Box kites in Victoria. (Other references state it was Hammond's Wife)."

A Melbourne Businessman,M.H. Baillieu became Australia's first paying passenger (the first Australian Citizen to be taken aloft), one month later when he made a 19 kilometer flight with Hammond (State Library NSW)



First Charter, and first Australian Passenger Flight. Mr. M. H. Baillieu seated with Mr. J. J. Hammond about to take off on 2/3/1911.
— Altona Museum.

Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc

A Report on the Quilt Trail for consideration

QUILT TRAIL 2010

2 and 3 October (Saturday and Sunday)

Homestead Museum open 10am to 4pm each day

Members staffing the homestead: Ann Wilkins, Carol Winfield, Joan Kent, Sharon Walsh, Ann Cassar, Jim Hevey, Peter Weaver and Owen Hyde.

Over the two days, close to 200 visitors came through the homestead, including approximately 20 people on Sunday not taking part in the Quilt Trail.

Saturday only one lady was available to speak to visitors about the quilts and Francis found doing so for six hours to be very strenuous

From Sunday lunchtime we had two ladies to talk to visitors about the quilts and that was a much more desirable situation

The barriers were down for the whole weekend as an experiment. On Saturday visitors were handling books from the shelves in the dining room. Sunday there was some piano playing.

People would enter the homestead through the front door then had absolutely no idea where to go from there. Consider signage inside front door and signage at desk for stamping passports.

Stamp didn't work well on glossy cover of passports and staff had to resort to signing as well.

Most quilts were displayed in first bedroom, with one in children's bedroom. Sunday afternoon we moved a quilt from the first bedroom to the dining room straddled over two chairs, to distribute the main attraction over a wider area.

Other venues had many more quilts than we did

Ladies on the trail were finding they were doing a lot of traveling and running out of time to visit all venues

Other venues had do it yourself tea and coffee available

We have already requested a debriefing with Kim, the organizer, and she readily agreed recommending we get together soon over a cup of coffee

Recommendations for next year

Increase number of quilts displayed at the homestead

Consider making use of the picture rails to hang quilts

Have signage explaining stories of the quilts so that it is not left to the ladies to give all information

Signage inside main entrance and at desk for stamping passports

Consider making do it yourself tea and coffee available in the courtyard – would probably require a staff member in the courtyard at all times to supervise and ensure drinks are not taken into the homestead. Would require thought to set up of tables and chairs in the courtyard as well.

Merchandising - local hand made crafts in courtyard

Passports - recommend matt stock for the cover so stamps don't rub off, include cafes and toilet facilities

Reports

Members please note we encourage members wishing to report on any general activity to submit it in writing to the Secretary so that it can be added to a newsletter this allows for a detailed report to be given to all members rather than a verbal one to members attending a meeting that can not be fully transcribed in the regular minutes

Photos from the Quilt Trail Exhibition



Some of the Quilts on display



Believe it or Not

Photo from "Haunt the Homestead" have a mystical meaning and by oth-



said to indicate an "Orb" believed by some toers to be light reflecting off dust in the air



MUSEUMS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In the last week of September I attended the Museums Australia National Conference held at Melbourne University. Speakers came from across Australia and other countries such as England, Scotland, Berlin, New York and Singapore. Out of the 600 delegates, I was one of the few amateurs attending the full program.

There were many points of interest some which we can apply to our museum:

Museum mantra – collect, preserve, interpret, share

Exhibitions need to educate and encourage debate

Museums who involve the community in the planning process for exhibitions will benefit from the heightened confidence in the completed work which more than compensates for the extra time it may take to complete the project

A museum needs to educate, entertain, provide fun, be creative, encourage partnerships

As well as tangible history, museums have a responsibility to record spiritual and cultural connections as well

Museums should collect people's stories about objects of great importance to them, regardless of the fact it does not actually have the object

Use retail space in your local shopping strip to open a branch of your museum

Museums need to be more aware of contemporary collecting

Museums need to plan how to respond to any disaster that may happen in their community

Rather than looking at what information technology to install in the museum, consider what technology visitors are bringing with them and how to make use of it

In the UK they have one museum per 24,000 people, in USA one museum per 17,000 and in Australia, one museum per 7,000 people. It was the opinion of a number of speakers that Australia needs to go on a museum diet. We could help the cause by the Hobsons Bay historical societies joining forces, their combined collections along with those of council could all be housed in a single purpose built museum on the old Life Saving Club site on the Altona Esplanade. Altona Homestead could become a convention/reception centre attracting custom through being an iconic building in a prime location.

Did you know -

Many Australian plants grow in Calcutta

Tasmania also has an extinct emu

Victoria has over 700 museums

Ann Cassar

2 October 2010



DISASTER PLAN

All museums need a plan so that they re-act responsibly and effectively to any disaster that may occur in their community. A broad outline of a plan would be something like this:

1. Ensure all members are safe
2. Consider what assistance to offer those impacted by the disaster
3. If another museum has been impacted, consider what assistance we may provide
4. Consider what to collect to record the disaster (remember contemporary collecting)
5. Decide when to display what has been collected
6. Minimise impact of display on victims and museum

These points will need expanding to include what roles various members would carry out in case of an emergency and what information needs to be kept readily available for just such an occasion. Something we need to do to be a responsible group within our community.

Ann Cassar
2 October 2010

Collectable Cards

The Society has been given by the Hobsons bay Council a supply of Collectable cards produced by Connies Collectables



The collection depicts a number of different Australian Birds that frequent the Altona Laverton Area and are suitable for educational purposes and a limited supply is available at the Homestead on Open Day's.

One of the cards depicts the East Asian - Australasian Flyway and gives information on the wetland areas at which they stop to feed and build reserves of fat for the next stage of their journey

An international agreement protects migratory shorebirds and their habitats and the Ramsar Convention aims to preserve a representative sample of the world's wetlands through international cooperation.

Victoria has 11 Ramsar wetlands of International importance including sites close to Melbourne like Port Phillip's western shoreline, Hobsons Bay, the Bellarine Peninsula and Swan Bay, the Edithvale-Seaford wetlands and Westernport Bay

The project is supported by groups such as the Hobsons Bay City Council and the Kororoit Creek Preservation Society.

Events Calendar 2010

Members

September		
5	Sunday	Homestead Open 2-4pm
13	Monday	Altona Ladies Probus Group historic tour 2pm (no catering)
21	Tuesday	Market's Sixth Birthday – 11am to 3pm (perhaps later if popular) General Meeting 7.30pm
24	Friday	Ghost Tour, 8pm to midnight, tickets \$95 each Contact Emma 0409 040 499 or emma@australianparanormal.com.au
28	Tuesday	Mees Bus Lines tour group 11.15am (no catering)
October		
2	Saturday	Quilt Trail 10am to 4pm
3	Sunday	Quilt Trail 10am to 4pm (regular monthly opening)
17	Sunday	Canonisation (beatification) Mary MacKillop
19	Tuesday	General Meeting 7.30pm (no business meeting) Speaker – George Said
21	Thursday	Gisborne Probus historic tour 10am (catering required – morning tea)
29	Friday	Ghost Tour, 8pm to midnight, tickets \$95 each Contact Emma 0409 040 499 or emma@australianparanormal.com.au
November		
2	Tuesday	Closed for Melbourne Cup Day
7	Sunday	Homestead Open 2-4pm
12	Friday	Bleriot Dinner, 7pm RSL, tickets \$25 each Contact Margaret Rice 9398 2549 or wmrice@ozemail.com.au
16	Tuesday	Noble Park Probus tour through homestead 10.30am (no catering) General Meeting 7.30pm (business meeting)
21	Sunday	Village Traders Security Launch – 12 noon to 4pm (perhaps later if popular)
26	Friday	Ghost Tour, 8pm to midnight, tickets \$95 each Contact Emma 0409 040 499 or emma@australianparanormal.com.au
December		
5	Sunday	International Day of People with Disability performance; bands etc Logan Reserve – Time open TBA
5	Sunday	Sunday Opening 2-4pm
14	Tuesday	General Meeting 7.30pm (format TBA)

Notes To be added – Carols by Candlelight

Queries Contact ALHS Secretary, Ann Cassar 0419 370 935, alhs@optusnet.com.au