



# NEWSLETTER

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## We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



December has now arrived and the Altona Laverton Historical Society

wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2012 to all of our members and friends and supporters of the Historical Society.

It has been a busy first half of the current membership year behind the scenes and at the Homestead for Committee members and members.

As you will see in this newsletter there has been the continued work by members and volunteers to add details of items and photographs held in the Homestead Museum to our database, the number of catalogued items is

steadily growing but much more work is needed to complete this project.

There has been the addition of new electronic display screens and associated equipment to show visitors to the Homestead some of the items that we hold on site.

There are a number of open days and fund raising activities planned for 2012 and as you find detailed in the newsletter these forthcoming activities.

We are also able to announce some plans for redevelopment of the Homestead by the Hobsons Bay Council during 2012.

# Metropolitan Fire Brigade 50 year Celebrations

As mentioned in our last newsletter which was a special one prepared in conjunction with the MFB Historian a event attended by the CEO of the MFB, Altona past and present Brigade members, members of the public, and MFB staff was held at the Akuna Street Brigade Station to commemorate 50 years of operation from this premises.

Plans are in place to extend the existing building to allow for modern equipment to be stationed on the site and used for emergency purposes

The photos below indicate some of the activities on the day

CEO and a Station Officer  
Old Fire Truck  
Cake prepared to celebrate the event



# COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT

by Ann Cassar

We are very fortunate to have been successful with our grant application submitted to the National Library of Australia (NLA) for funding to conduct a significant workshop in the new year. As it was also the first time we have received Federal funding through the Community Heritage Grants program, we were invited to send a representative to Canberra to participate in a 2.5 days workshop providing insight into the operations of NLA, and how to care for cultural collections with guidance from National Museum of Australia, National Archives of Australia (NAA) and National Film and Sound Archive.

I had the pleasure of attending with 44 others from all over Australia including the Tiwi Islands, looking after a variety of collections such as musical scores, Indigenous artwork, over 30 years of documents fighting for Indigenous rights and memorabilia from renowned artists Hans Heysen and Nora Heysen being cared for by great grand daughter and great niece, Rosemary Heysen. Most stayed at the Pavilion Hotel, near the Information Centre if you know Canberra. A presentation ceremony was held when the director of the National Museum of Australia, Andrew Sayers, presented certificates acknowledging the grants. I was later given a certificate recognising my participation in the workshop.

Information of use to us:

1. Store all 8mm film etc in individual canisters and not paper-based boxes the film may have originally been supplied in.
2. Off the shelf products considered useful for storing objects and archives are tested by NAA for their suitability and results posted on their website. Glad bags have their tick of approval.
3. When converting recordings of any sort into new and useful media, always keep the original in your archives. Future development in technology always has the potential of providing a convenient means of use for them again.
4. TROVE are looking to the public to add to the collection.
5. The various institutions are always willing to help and encourage queries be emailed to them.

We were privileged to see the new Treasures Gallery only recently opened by NLA, who are extremely proud of being a library with permanent display space. The highlight was seeing the Endeavour's journal. Spending time admiring this wondrous document, I began reading aloud a couple of lines of the text attracting an interested audience.

I spent my last afternoon in Canberra at the library researching ephemera and a book they hold relevant to Altona. The ephemera included three early twentieth century land sales posters I've purchased copies of. The book, The History of Williamstown by William Elsum published in 1934, contains information on the Langhorns and being somewhat rare a copy in good condition can fetch \$600.



**The Significance Workshop, will be held on Saturday, 24 March 2012, run by Euan McGillivray representing Museums Australia (Vic).**

Ann Cassar has submitted this copy of an e-mail that she found amusing

## **MERCHANDISE WITH FEATHERS**

The most amusing call came through on my mobile today. After the lady on the other end confirmed I was connected with the Altona Homestead, she went on to offer to sell us several geese!

She was more than a bit surprised to learn that we're actually a house museum and not a working farm.



## Significance Workshop

24 March 2012

presented by Euan McGillivray, Museums Australia

Heritage objects and collections are important in Victoria's history and are of special value for present and future generations. They allow us to see how our world relates to the past, and to better understand our own place in history.

### Being able to assess significance

- helps to broaden understanding of heritage values associated with an object or collection
- prioritise collection management and conservation activities
- interpret the heritage values of objects and collections to a variety of audiences
- seek funding opportunities for conservation and interpretation projects

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An all day workshop to be held in Altona (venue still being finalised) on Saturday, 24 March 2012</li><li>• Information pack provided for each participant</li><li>• Commencing 9.30am, ending 3.30pm</li><li>• Lunch and tea breaks fully catered</li><li>• Maximum 20 participants</li></ul>	<p><i>Enquiries</i> Owen Hyde <a href="mailto:ohyde@liv.asn.au">ohyde@liv.asn.au</a> Ann Cassar <a href="mailto:acassar@optusnet.com.au">acassar@optusnet.com.au</a> 0419 370 935</p>
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register by 17 January 2012 to secure your place

Altona Homestead Museum  
Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc

*Tear off – return to Owen or Ann*  
30 Hammond Street, Altona 3018

**Significance Workshop \* Saturday, 24 March 2012**

Please register my interest to attend the Significance Workshop. If I am unable to attend, I agree to advise the organisers as soon as possible so that another person may take my place.

Surname		First Name	
Address		P/Code	
Email Address			
Phone	Mobile	Landline	
Signed		Date	



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## CONGRATULATIONS



### **The Mayor of Hobsons Bay**

Congratulations are due to ALHS Member Tony Briffa upon his election as Mayor by the Hobsons Bay City Council.

Best wishes to Tony for a successful year in office

## **LIFE MEMBER FEES**

Near the date of the Annual General Meeting a suggestion was made by a Life Member that annual membership fees for Life Members had been waived and the Life Members could decide to make a donation in lieu of the fee.

Research has now revealed that this assumption is not correct, a review of COM Minutes reveal that on the 9th January 2010, the COM at that time chaired by then President Bob Richardson did review this question of waiving fees however it was decided that such a motion would for several reasons be impractical possibly requiring change to the Constitution and the motion was not carried.

In order to ensure continued voting rights the current COM advise that Life members should ensure that payment of the annual fee is made prior to the 2012 AGM .

Life Members are a valuable source of experience to any Group.

## **Newsflash**

Notice has just been received from Hobsons Bay City Council that works are planned at the Homestead.

Council are meeting with Architects to review the building and to draw up proper architectural drawings.

HBCC will commence maintenance /capital works on the Homestead building over May/June/ July 2012 and it is possible the Homestead may need to be closed for approximately one month.

Work at the expense of the Council will be carried out in two stages and will include Electrical works, re-sheeting of the roof, and roof insulation.

Stage 2 will include redevelopment of the kitchen and toilet facility and heating will be considered.

### **Members please Note**

We have a small membership base and have achieved a number of goals over the past eighteen months however there is an increasing need for all members to assist in the continuation of a number of projects, archiving of items and cataloguing material into our database continues, but with the development of our web site underway we envisage a growth in enquiries and the receipt of more information.

Members are requested to assist wherever possible by attending on open days whenever possible, helping out at upcoming events, especially major event days such as Australia Day and the Beach Festival.

Additional attendance on open days for example Tuesdays or the first Sunday of the month will allow the regular members who always attend some assistance and perhaps some well earned time off.

Assistance with identifying individuals in photos, or events depicted will be of great assistance so that they may be recorded into our database and will become searchable by persons wishing to research particular groups or individuals.

For example school or sporting photos with individuals correctly identified could be collated and form the basis of a future web site depiction or perhaps booklet of interest to those involved with the groups as well as the general public.

Because of the expected workload there will not be a General Meeting every month for the period January to June 2012.

It is planned that General Meetings on the third Tuesday will be held in February, April and June 2012, and it is expected that members will assist at the open days and special events outlined above.

A basic program is outlined overleaf, but this may be varied due to the recently announced redevelopment works planned for mid 2012.

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## Our Database

We have mentioned our Catalogue Database that is being collated by members and volunteers but from this has grown the concept and the ability to enter photographs of individuals, team and group photos which can be searched by individual name or key words enabling for all photos to be listed which contain that individual's name or the key word involved.

This will allow for a search to find all photos of a specific nature, this is of particular benefit for those wishing to isolate school or sporting photos containing a person of specific interest.

This section of the database is in its early stages of development and as indicated earlier in this newsletter members can be of great assistance in obtaining group photos for cataloguing or assisting in identifying individuals in photos that are already in the Society archives.

### Altona Laverton Historical Society

Name	photnumber	Theme
▶ Altona Baptist	8	Hockey
▶ Altona Tennis Club	9	Tennis

For example a search for the name "Uren" listed two photos containing that name

Group
Hockey
Football
Life Saving
Tennis
Misc.
Identities
Council
Family

Altona Baptist Hockey Team 1934

C0238 Photo Num. 8

Altona Baptist Hockey Team  
Group Photo 1934  
B.Roberts,G Watkins,T Fleming,K Uren,F Uren,L Fleming,L Turner,A Sutherland,D Swain,H Roberts,H Davis,R Turner,K Hawkins,R Davis

Group
Hockey
Football
Life Saving
Tennis
Misc.
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Council
Family

Harry Blair 1932c

Altona Tennis Club premiers 1940

C0239 Photo Num. 9

Premiers- 1940- Group Photo  
H Harris,K Uren,F Uren  
M Twentyman,Q Mulcahy ,B Twentyman

## Calendar

This calendar is provisional and may be subject to revision we will keep members advised with a monthly newsletter of any changes or additions

### January 2012

Sunday 1st The Homestead will NOT be open on New Years Day

Friday 6th Movies by the Bay - Homestead open in the evening to support Movies by the Bay (Popcorn Sales)

Sunday 8th Open Day

Tuesdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m

Friday 13th Movies by The Bay (Popcorn Sales)

Thursday 26th - Australia Day / Apron Display

### February 2012

Sunday 5th Open Day

Tuesdays 11 a.m - 2 p.m

Tuesday 14th February - General meeting

### March 2012

Sunday 4th Open Day

Tuesdays 11 a.m - 2 p.m

24th Significance Workshop

Beach Festival TBA

### April 2012

Sunday 1st Open Day

Tuesdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m

Tuesday 17th General meeting

### May

Sunday 6th Open Day

### June 2012

Sunday 3rd

Tuesdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m

Tuesday 19th General Meeting



## MINUTES

Minutes of ALHS general meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at the Altona Homestead 128 Queen Street, Altona commencing 7.38pm, chaired by Peter Weaver.

	Detail	Action
1.	<b>Present</b> P Weaver, J Hevey, A Cassar, B Hawkins M.Hawkins, M Rice, E Brogan, K.Walsh, S.Walsh, J.Kirkman,J Kent,E Muller,B Hanson,R Blair	
2.	<b>Apologies</b> A.Briffa, O Hyde	
3	<b>Minutes of previous General meeting</b> The minutes of the 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2011 having been previously circulated were: Moved Elaine Brogan Seconded Sharon Walsh that the Minutes be accepted	Carried
3.	<b>Finance</b> The Treasurer was an apology on the evening having been delayed at work and no Financial Report was tabled	
4.	<b>Correspondence</b> <b>In Newsletter</b> and Christmas Greeting card from Melchior Bajada of the WMGHS, Newsletter from Williamstown Historical Society, Letter of resignation Coral Donald (unable to attend meetings). Out: Hobsons Bay City Council re Small Funding Program Evaluation Report, November Newsletter to members.	
5.	<b>General Business</b>  <b>Reports</b> The President, Peter Weaver reported on a number of matters: The Council is considering quotes to make improvements to the Homestead including the addition of a kitchen area. Audio Screens have been purchased and are installed and working. A computer has been purchased and is being used for the general archiving of objects into the database. Cabinets have been sourced from Laverton and some showcases have been relocated to Truganina. A vacuum cleaner has been purchased for use around the Homestead, and a Christmas tree will be installed for the Christmas period. He advised that on this day, 41 people had visited the Homestead as a group, and 15 books were sold. Lantern Tours also continue to pay a fee for the use of the Homestead for their Ghost Tour events.	

	<p>Bob Hawkins as a delegate and on behalf of the second delegate Margaret Rice presented a detailed report into the meeting of the Western Metropolitan Group of Historical Societies that was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011, he reported to them the activities of the ALHS and advised members in attendance of the current activities of other member Historical Societies Broadmeadows, Craigieburn, Keilor, St Albans, Sunshine, Werribee and the TAA Museum.</p> <p>A full written report was tabled and is available for members to read in the Society archives if required.</p> <p>Bob Hawkins also reported on TERPS, and matters under consideration by their group include landscaping of the area near the building, and research being made into the Maritime History around the site and the movement of explosives to and from the premises.</p> <p>General matters regarding the WMGH Society were discussed including the attendance of new groups from St Albans and Broadmeadows.</p> <p>Bob also detailed his activities on behalf of the Society over the past twelve months which includes various talks given on aircraft history to persons at the Altona Library, Moorabbin Air Museum, Laverton and Point Cook Rotary Clubs, Probus Clubs and the like.</p> <p>He also advised that he is developing a chronology and dates of activities of the Langhorne's that are contained within the Langhorne Family book.</p> <p>Elaine Brogan reported on the WMGH Group and the activities of the Friends of the Light Horse, and advised that Flowers of Remembrance were laid in commemoration of military activities.</p> <p>She also reported that the Living Museum of the West is struggling to continue its activities, and that Parks Victoria are seeking continued activity on the site occupied by them.</p> <p>Peter Weaver – advised that Honour Boards have been updated, and Life Member Boards are in the process of being updated.</p> <p>Carols by Candlelight is to be supported and the Homestead will be open on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> December between 6 p.m and 8 p.m. prior to the event.</p> <p>Judith Kirkman advised that the web site (alhs.com.au) is nearing completion and encourages the development of information from local groups to place details of their History onto the web.</p> <p>AnnCassar spoke of attending the Significance Assessment Workshop a 3-day event in Canberra, on behalf of the Society and she will supply a report for inclusion in the December newsletter.</p>	

Meeting closed 8.40 pm.

**Next General Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012**