



NEWSLETTER

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What was It?

The one that didn't get away!

Below is an image from the Historical Society's collection and apart from the caption that has been added to the top of the photograph "Oar Fish caught off Altona," we have no other information on the story behind this huge catch. Could the article (right) from the Williamstown Chronicle in

February 1918 relate to this photograph, providing us with some much needed information ?

Williamstown Chronicle (Vic : 1856-1954),
Saturday 9 February 1918, page 3

Excitement at Altona

LARGE SUNFISH CAPTURED

GREAT excitement prevailed on Thursday evening among the campers at Altona Beach. At dusk a large fin was seen in the water in line with the end of the pier. A boat party, armed with harpoon, shot gun and revolvers, put off, and several shots were fired without effect. Early next morning another attempt was made for a capture, which proved successful, when it was found that the stranded marine monster was a large sunfish, about 10 feet long, and with a depth of over 9 feet. A draught horse was employed to tow the fish to shore on the rising tide. Its estimated weight was from 20 to 30 cwt. It will be on view at Altona Beach to-day.



Other information from Wikipedia and the Australian Museum web site indicates that Oarfish are found in all temperate to tropical oceans but encounters with live Oarfish are rare, and that they are most often seen washed up on beaches.

They are understood to be the longest bony fish alive and can grow up to 17 m in length.

They are described as being metallic silver with blotches and wavy markings on the body and have pink or red fins.

Capturing Information

We are currently cataloguing the photograph collection and part of that work includes capturing as much information as possible on the significance of each image. Members and visitors are welcome to join us on Saturday mornings to contribute in whatever way you can



Comparison photos from the internet of an Oarfish (L) and a Sunfish (R) would seem to indicate that the Williamstown Chronicle description of a Sunfish may be correct as they have a fin, and this photo in our collection may be another event.



ALTONA OIL REFINERY BELT BUCKLE 1997



Thanks to the watchfulness and generosity of ALHS member, Pat Shields, we now have this belt buckle that was recently found for sale on eBay.

The buckle was produced in 1997 commemorating the joint venture between Mobil and Transfield in replacing the catalytic converter, often referred to as the cracking tower, which included trundling the monolithic structure through streets lined with enthusiastic onlookers from Williamstown port to the refinery.

Now the questions are how many buckles were produced, who made them, and who received them? Any leads to finding this information will be appreciated.

The buckle can be seen in display cabinet No. 12 in the Museum Room.



PHOTOGRAPH MEN'S CRICKET TEAM 1953

Lee Butterworth visiting the Altona Homestead Museum on Australia Day this year has been most beneficial to us. Bringing young Tom Jones with her, they thought they could help with providing information on our photograph of a men's cricket team.

Over the course of six weeks, arranging afternoon teas with various people to gather information, they have now presented the society with previously unknown data about the photograph.

A copy of the photograph and the information provided can be seen in display cabinet No. 12 in the Museum Room.

Our sincere thanks to Lee and Tom for all your hard work. This photograph was one featured in the video shown on Australia Day and is a wonderful outcome.

FREE WIFI IN LOGAN RESERVE

Visitors enjoying the facilities in Logan Reserve now have the added bonus of accessing free Wifi, recently launched by the Mayor, Cr Tony Briffa, as the inaugural free outdoor internet service being offered by council to the community.

While the actual installation is nearby in the Beryl Hevey Centre, the signal was not strong enough to make it through the homestead's bluestone walls to the historical society's computer. Thanks to the expertise of members Jude Kirkman and Peter Weaver, a WiFi extender has been installed in the homestead at a small cost to the society, meaning we can now access council's free internet service rather than using members' smart phones.

Access to the internet is going to be very helpful with cataloguing, for example, we were able to find on the internet why the Altona Oil Refinery belt buckle was produced in 1997 and also a time line on the history of the refinery.

SIGNIFICANCE WORKSHOP

The Significance Assessment Training Workshop was held Saturday 24 March 2012, attended by 12 people from two historical societies, a local collector of spectacles and a museum studies student.

The presenter was Euan McGillivray, a museum consultant, engaged through Museums Australia (Victoria) who supported his talk with an extensive slide show and provided handouts for every one. Euan appreciated receiving a copy of the book Altona A Long View in return since he personally knows the author, Susan Priestley.

Participants enjoyed attending to learn why the story, or provenance, behind an object is just as important as the object itself, and how that story needs to have a connection to your area, following your organisation's statement of purpose or collection policy. Collecting for the sake of collecting is simply not good enough as financial and physical resources are not infinite and must be taken into consideration.

We are most grateful to Hobsons Bay City Council for providing use of the Altona library meeting room for the day, and the National Library of Australia for sponsoring the workshop through their 2011 Community Heritage Grant.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NON PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Hobsons Bay City Council in partnership with Toyota, ran a March workshop on some of the responsibilities of committee members, attended by 25 members from various Hobsons Bay non profit organisations.

Basically when making a decision, each committee member needs to ask themselves if it is in the best interest of the organisation, do you have all the information to make an informed decision, is the decision in line with the organisation's statement of purpose, is there a conflict of interest and can the organisation afford it.

The two hour seminar was ran by Nathan from Pilch Connect, a non profit organisation offering legal services to non profit organisations.

Changes to the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 were recently debated by parliament as part of the process for it to become law. Between them Pilch Connect and HBCC will make sure Hobsons Bay organisations are aware of the changes becoming effective, some time after 1 July.



Photos taken on the open day for the Beach Festival



Views
from the
Apron
Display
Currently
Displayed
At
The
Homestead



Next Meeting

Tuesday 17th April - General meeting - with a Guest Speaker - Elaine Meed

Topic “ A brief discussion on the Apron Collection at present on display in The Homestead”

Note - The meeting will start at the earlier time of 7 p.m. on this evening



April 2012

Sunday 1st Open Day

Tuesdays 11 a.m. -2 p.m

Tuesday 17 th General meeting & Guest Speaker

13 th - 22 nd Heritage Week Various Hours

May 2012

Sunday 6 th Open Day

Tuesdays 11 a.m. -2 p.m

No General Meeting

June 2012

Sunday 3rd

Tuesdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m

Tuesday 19 th General Meeting

July 2012

Sunday 1st Open Day

Tuesdays 11 a.m. -2 p.m

Tuesday 17th July Annual General Meeting