



PROM COUNTRY HISTORY NEWS

JULY 2015



Interpretive panel at the Landing

**Inside this issue**

- 2 Annual General Meeting and Subscriptions
- 3 Solar panels for the Museum
- 4 Unveiling the Landing board
- 5 ANZAC continued, Road to the Prom and the Derby River Hut
- 6 Australian War Memorial
- 7 Museum Accreditation Programme (MAP). Future meetings
- 8 Museum and Society details

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

The 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Foster & District Historical Society Inc. will be held as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday, 4 August 2015

**Time:** 7.30 pm.

**Place:** Crawford Hall (behind the Museum)

**Business:**

1. To confirm the Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting
2. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2015
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 30 June 2015
4. To elect the Executive Committee: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer
5. To appoint Officers: Curator, Archives & Research Officer, Maintenance Officer and IT Officer
6. To elect three ordinary members of the Committee
7. To transact any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with the rules of the Society

If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to vote, please contact me for a proxy form.

Clare Carmichael     Hon. Secretary

Email: [secretary@promcountryhistory.org.au](mailto:secretary@promcountryhistory.org.au)

Ph: 0409 940 305

**Call for nominations**

All positions on the Committee will be declared vacant with some members not re-nominating due to length of service. Nominations close 30 July 2015. We urge members to offer their support to the Society during 2015-16 by nominating for these important positions.

**Annual membership subscriptions**

Subscriptions for 2015 – 2016 were due & payable 1 JULY 2015 and should be paid prior to the A.G.M. 4 August 2015. If you have not yet paid your dues, we respectfully request prompt payment of

- o \$20 individual membership
- o \$35 family membership (two or more people)

## **SOLAR PANELS - MUSEUM POWER CONSUMPTION**

### **Letter from the President - Financial Assistance Sought**

The Committee has been exploring the viability of installing a 4.5kw solar panel system at the Foster Museum to reduce the on-going expenses incurred in running the Museum. The solar panel system is estimated to reduce power bills by at least 50%.

The Museum's major cost is the energy required to

- maintain vault at controlled low humidity and temperature to preserve community records
- keep the building at a stable temperature to preserve artefacts on display
- ensure volunteers who offer their time and expertise are comfortable

We have received grants from the Community Bank Toora and the Shire of South Gippsland, plus a generous donation from the Toora Lions Club.

Unfortunately the grants were far less than the committee had hoped for and, whilst we thank the Shire and Community Bank for their generosity, this has left the Society's part of the funding much larger than planned for.

Some members, on learning of the shortfall, have offered very generous donations to assist us towards the costs.

We are asking all members to consider supporting the Society by donations for this important major project which will be of excellent long term benefit to the Society.

### **All donations are most welcome**

Donations can be made by paypal on [www.promcountryhistory.org.au](http://www.promcountryhistory.org.au)

or contact

Meg Rogers

President

Phone: 0428 821760

**Your generosity is appreciated**

## Unveiling the Landing Board

It's 1871. Gold has been discovered at Stockyard Creek. Foster with a population of 300 is expected to be the new Bendigo. The only problem - there's no access, no roads, no trains. The only way in is by boat from Port Albert to the Landing near the mouth of Stockyard Creek and then only at high tide, followed by a 2-3km trek through deep bush and South Gippsland mud coming into Foster over the top of Kaffir Hill.

Foster & District Historical Society have now placed an interpretive panel at The Landing, just off Fullers Road, Foster, telling of the story of the initial landings, the treks through the bush and the later construction of a timber railway into Foster itself.

Unveiling the sign between showers, Society President Meg Rogers thanked the members responsible for gathering the information and for constructing the sign. She also thanked the Rotary Club of Foster for its generous donation towards the panel and for their continuing support of the Society including the interpretive panels around the district.

Everyone retired to a well earned afternoon tea at Howard and Jill Plowright's beautiful home. Thank you for the hospitality.



*from left to right:*

*Nola Taylor, Graeme Rogers, Rod Cooper (Foster Rotary), Howard Plowright, Reg Williams, Meg Rogers, Richard Jones (Foster Rotary) and John Taylor*

## **ANZAC continued**

The Society has continued its commemoration of the ANZAC Centenary by recognising those who fell on the 100th anniversary of their death and by working with local organisations in their arts projects such as the Horse Rugs to commemorate the 8th Light Horse display.

### **What's next?**

#### **“Road to The Prom.”**

Work is starting on the next exhibition curated by Cheryl Glowery and Jennifer Jones the exhibition will look at the developments in the Yanakie Isthmus and beyond in the period immediately after the Second World War, through the 1950s and 1960s. The exhibition will examine the development of the Soldier settlements in Yanakie, the Yanakie run and the development of the tourist facilities at the Prom. We are fortunate that there are still residents who can give us oral histories of the time. The exhibition is planned to commence in March 2016.

## **Derby River**

Early in July a group of Society members attended a function at Tidal River at the invitation of Parks Victoria to recognise the demolition of the old Derby River Ranger's Hut which had been used for storage and as the medical centre. Whilst the Hut has been demolished, it and the Derby Chalet will live on. Parts of the Chalet, the verandah posts, floorboards, even the bath from the Lighthouse, have been transferred to the Museum. Parks Victoria is planning to conduct an archaeological survey of the Derby River site – indeed the Friends of the Prom have already started, unearthing the foundations of the Chalet.



**“Everything but the kitchen sink!”**

## **News from other museums**

### **The Australian War Museum and Lt Col John Treloar**

The ANZAC Gallipoli Centenary has encouraged many people to look into their family's involvement, not just at Gallipoli but in WW1.

A significant source of information has been in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Apart from recognising those who were killed or died from wounds or illness during the War and providing details of their service, the AWM is a prime source of documents and photographs.

The general public is unaware of the dedication and struggles of the founding fathers of the Memorial who over 20 years turned vision into reality. Whilst Charles Bean's name is well known for the "Official History of Australia in the War", the initial Director of the Memorial, and very much part of its establishment and ongoing development, was Lt. Colonel John Linton Treloar who served as the Director from 1920 to 1952.

At the Foster & District Historical Society's July meeting, local resident Geoff Treloar spoke about his uncle's life and contribution to Australian military history.

John Treloar came from humble beginnings in Hamilton, working as a clerk in the Department of Defence before volunteering in August 1914 at the age of 19. He was one of the first to land at Gallipoli on the morning of 25 April 1915, before he was evacuated with typhoid in September 1915. Six months later he resumed duty as a Lieutenant in the Australian Flying Corps in Egypt, before moving to France as confidential clerk to Brigadier General Budenell White.

From there Treloar's career blossomed. Now a Captain he was selected to organize the Australian War Records section and was Australia's representative on the Imperial War Trophies Committee. His work included gathering war diaries, interviewing battalion commanders and staff officers and writing letters to families. This enormous task involved over 21 million sheets of paper, with another 5,500 responses from the families. Working with a staff of 600 deployed soldiers and volunteers, Treloar established the war records that are now a major part of the material on which researchers into WW1 rely. On top of that he was responsible for the collection of a wide range of "war trophies" including guns and trench mortars captured from the enemy and later chaired a committee for the distribution of the trophies to towns around Australia. Later the trophies were described as "war relics".

Following the Battle of Pozieres in August/September 1916 where Australia suffered 28,000 casualties, calls were made for a dedicated Australian War Memorial to honour the memories of the dead. Three men were involved in this project - Budenell White, Bean and John Treloar.

Geoff Treloar spoke of the saga of establishing the Memorial - interstate rivalry for the location, the initial budget, design, contents and funding for its construction - all in the midst of the Great Depression. Before the memorial was built on Mount Ainslee in Canberra, there were temporary exhibitions held in Melbourne and Sydney, visited by many thousands of people. John Treloar was Director throughout all of this – an administrator, an ongoing recorder of the war diaries and correspondence, a salesman (to develop the Trust Fund).

The Museum opened - in Treloar's absence - on 11 November 1941, two years after the start of WW2. Treloar was promoted to Lt. Colonel to head up the Military History & Information Section. By now new material - Service Annuals, photographs, films and maps - was pouring in and,

whereas WW1 had been conducted in relatively limited areas - Dardenelles, France, Egypt - WW2 was truly worldwide - Europe, Africa, East Asia and the Pacific - and Australians were fighting in all campaigns. The workload bordered on the impossible.

At the same time Treloar was deeply personally involved in the conflict with the disappearance and death of his son Ian, an RAF pilot and the serious wounding of his other son, Alan. His own health suffered. He became more introverted, sensitive to issues of authority and control, working every day from 7am to midnight (except on Sundays). In his last years as Director, he lived in a room in the Museum and cooked his own meals on an army stove. He died in 1952 at the age of 57

Australia owes an extraordinary debt to John Treloar. A humble, intensely private man, he established a Memorial, not to glorify war, but to provide truths about the horror and stupidity of war, a Memorial honouring those who served and died for Australia. It is fitting it sits on "a hill top still, beautiful, gleaming and white" at the heart of the nation's capital, overlooking Lake Burley Griffin and opposite the old and new Parliament Houses.

### **Museum Re-accreditation**

The Museum Accreditation Programme (MAP) is a Victoria-wide peer review programme managed by Museums Australia (Victoria) and supported by museums and museum professionals. It is aligned with the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries.

MAP is designed for museums to improve operations, build capacity and support the community. To become accredited museums develop procedures, policies and best practice to meet museum standards and to preserve and promote cultural heritage.

Being an accredited member means there is security and assurance of standards for donors, and for potential funders such as for shire, community and government grants. It keeps organisations up to date with policy development, museum practice and legal requirements and allows cross promotions with other museums.

Foster museum has been accredited for twenty years, one of the earliest country museums to be accredited and is presently in the process of its five-year re-accreditation. The required paperwork was presented in June and the assessors will visit the museum in September.

FDHS looks forward to continuing its development as an organisation that works towards best practice in governance, collections management and in local and wider community engagement.

### **Future meetings – First Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm in the Crawford Hall**

August	Annual General Meeting & Jennifer Jones - John Baragwanath - artefacts in the vault
September	Jill Plowright – Birds of South Gippsland
October	Kathlyn Gibson – Anastasia Thornley, publican Exchange Hotel
November	No Meeting
December	Annual Christmas Dinner

### **Newsletter**

The newsletter is produced quarterly, in September, December, March and June. Contributions by members would be very welcome.

## Foster & District Museum

### Museum open hours

The Museum is open daily during school holidays and on Saturdays and Sundays during term time.

Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day & Good Friday

The hours are 11.00AM – 3.00PM

*All other times by appointment: (03) 5682 1201 / (03) 5682 2297*

### Admission fees

This is a volunteer run and maintained museum. FDHS relies upon the small admission fee to run and maintain the museum on behalf of the Foster & District's Community .

Adult	\$ 5.00
Concession ( <i>senior, pension, special &amp; student over 15yrs</i> )	\$ 4.00
Children (5 – 15)	\$ 0.50c
Family	\$ 10.00
Children (under 5)	free
Members	free

## Foster & District Historical Society Inc

### Membership

Becoming a member of Foster & District Historical Society Inc. helps us to preserve and present the districts' history. Receive free museum entry, newsletters and invitations to events and new exhibition openings.

Single	\$20.00
Family	\$35.00

Foster & District Historical Society Inc. meets at 7.30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month from February to October. The A.G.M. is held in August. The meetings are held in the Crawford Hall (entry rear of museum complex from the car park). We have many interesting speakers. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

### Officers of the Society:

President	Meg Rogers
Vice-President	Mike Heal
Secretary	Clare Carmichael
Treasurer	Nola Taylor
Ordinary members:	Bill Davies Dr Liz Rushen
Curator	Jennifer Jones
Archivist/Research	Noela Cripps
Maintenance	Reg Williams
IT	Howard Plowright

Contact details: Website [www.promcountryhistory.org.au](http://www.promcountryhistory.org.au)  
Enquiries [enquiries@promcountryhistory.org.au](mailto:enquiries@promcountryhistory.org.au)

*The Foster & District Historical Society Inc. is a member of the South Gippsland Historical Network, a member of the Gippsland Association of Affiliated Historical Societies, an affiliated member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Foster & District Museum has been appointed by the Public Record Office of Victoria as a Place of Deposit for non-permanent public records and is an accredited museum through Museums Australia (Vic).*