

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTOIRA

108th RHSV Annual General Meeting

5.00 pm Tuesday 15 May 2018

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne

1 Attendance and apologies

Associate Professor Don Garden, RHSV President, welcomed those attending. Approximately 50 members attended. A list is attached.

Apologies were received from Rosemary Cameron, Richard Broome, Andrew Lemon, George Fernando, Daryl Hawkey, Andrew Turner, John Poynter, Pera Wells, Stephen Shelmerdine, Kerry Bergin, Margaret and Eric Smith, Margaret Gibson, Margaret Birtley, Judy Maddigan, Sheila Byard.

2 To confirm the minutes of the 107th Annual General Meeting

Moved Susan Priestly. Seconded Ken McInnes *That the minutes are a true and accurate record.* Carried.

3 To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2017

In presenting the Annual Report, Associate Prof Don Garden reported on a successful year despite disruption due to staff changes. He particularly commended Christine Worthington who had greatly assisted in the changeover of staff.

Moved. Don Garden, seconded Jim Dixon *That the Annual Report be received.* Carried

4 To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2017

The Treasurer, Dr Robert Barnes, reported that there was a small surplus for the year which was a good result allowing for the additional expenses involved in the staff changeover.

Questions were asked about the increase in bank charges. This is due to moving funds to the UCA fund management where we obtain a much higher rate of return.

Reduction in grants this year compared with last year is due to the absence of large amounts received for *Judging for the People* and *Remembering Melbourne* received in 2016.

Moved Robert Barnes, Seconded Jim Dixon: *That the Financial Statements for 2017 be accepted.* Carried.

5 To appoint the Auditor for 2018

The Treasurer recommended that Stephen Allen be re-appointed as Auditor for 2018.

Moved Robert Barnes, seconded Peter Hiscock: *That Stephen Allen be appointed as Auditor for 2018.* Carried.

6 To elect office-bearers and members of Council

There being six nominations for six places on Council, no election was deemed necessary.

Margaret Anderson

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome

Daniel Clements

George Fernando

Elisabeth Jackson

Professor Chips Sowerwine

These nominations were declared elected.

Office-bearers to be elected for 2018 are:

Treasurer: Daniel Clements

HVSG Co-ordinator: Alleyne Hockley

In addition the Full Council for 2018 was declared [those not listed above]

Dr Robert Barnes

Jim Dixon

Daryl F. Hawkey

Associate Professor Don Garden OAM

Dr Noel Turner

Dr Rosalie Triolo

Carole Woods

7 To receive expressions of interest from History Victoria Support Group

Expressions of interest were received from

Bernard Bolch

George Fernando

Russ Haines

Alleyne Hockley

David Langdon

Jane Nigro

Judy Richards

Larina Strauch

Sue Thompson

8 To announce recipients of Awards of Merit and the inaugural Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award

Note that no nominations for Fellowships were received.

a) Awards of Merit

Nominations have been received and approved by Council as follows”

James Lerk, nominated by Bendigo Historical Society

Citation:

James Lerk is a founding member and former Public Officer of the Bendigo Historical Society and a dedicated committee member for more than ten years. Since the founding of BHS in 1999 James Lerk has spoken to innumerable individuals, service clubs and other community organisations to share aspects of Bendigo history. Over the years he has also conducted countless walking tours in and around the city for locals and visitors alike. James has written several books including Bendigo’s Mining History 1851–1954, and has assisted with the production of local history books by other authors. Together with a colleague he organised the reprinting of important earlier histories of Bendigo by George Mackay and Frank Cusack. He has contributed over one thousand historical articles to the community newspaper the Bendigo Weekly.

James has a very strong and diverse knowledge of the community and has often been invited to speak to Bendigo Historical Society members on a wide range of subjects. His readiness to assist the Committee and members of the Society is greatly appreciated. Acknowledged as an expert on Bendigo history, James Lerk is frequently approached by councillors and council officers from the City of Greater Bendigo to provide advice on matters related to the history of the city. His courtesy and his generosity toward others identify James Lerk as a worthy nominee for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria’s Award of Merit.

Don Garden will present the award at Bendigo at a later date..

Peter Padreny, nominated by Castlemaine Historical Society.

Citation:

Peter was born on 24 October 1934, the son of Joseph Padreny , who emigrated to Perth c 1912 and Mabel Stamford, a fifth generation Australian. He attended Castlemaine South School and Castlemaine Technical School, which he left in 1949 aged 15 years. He grew up and has lived in Castlemaine most of his life.

Peter had a varied and interesting working life. He started work in his parents' fish and chip shop then became a storeman and a very skilled tradesman working in both carpentry and electrical businesses. In the 1960s Peter began work at Thompson Foundry where he became a second class machinist, lead hand and first aid officer. He worked in the rail shop until his retirement .

Peter was a keen sportsman, playing tennis, golf, table tennis (winning a gold medal in the Masters Table Tennis over 70s) , hockey and badminton. He is a committed member of his church and knows many people in the community,

In 1994, when interviewed to record his memories of Castlemaine in the 1960s, it was reported that Peter was "very kind hearted and a jovial character". He has a wealth of knowledge , an excellent memory and knows the business houses and business men intimately.

Peter's wife, Elise had been a valuable member of the Castlemaine Historical Society for many years before Peter joined in March, 1998. As a loyal and valued member, he has assisted at most fund raising events, Historic house openings, trash and treasure days and raffle selling.

Peter's contribution to the Society covers many years and many varied activities. He was a member of the Executive Committee and held the position of Buildings and Grounds Officer for many years until 2010. He mowed the extensive lawns which covered more than half an acre of land plus the large nature strip and painted the fence bollards. He cares for the garden, edges the paths and prunes the bushes. He was also the First Aid Officer for the Society.

Peter took on the task of looking after the three purpose build storerooms which he had assisted to construct. Vacuuming and sweeping the floors, stacking and storing archives and spring cleaning the archival boxes annually . When the Society purchased two old compactus units Peter undertook to clean, touch up the paint and repair the units. His skills were the reason the Society was able to utilise these units.

Peter completed National Service where he trained as a cook. Once again Peter has given tireless service in assisting the Society with catering, especially washing and drying dishes. He acted as lunch order person taking orders from the volunteers and researchers at the former Court House and going in to town to purchase the lunches each Tuesday.

Peter was a wizard as a pencil sharpener. He kept our pencils well stocked and sharpened which our volunteers and researchers really appreciated. By acting as general cleaner, he scrubbed toilets, washed the verandah balustrades by removing bird droppings amongst many other jobs. It is often said "Where would the Society be without Peter?".

Peter is not only respected for his skills as a tradesman, but his wonderful local knowledge of the Castlemaine community accumulated over his life. He is the "heart and soul" of our local community .

Don Garden will present the award at Castlemaine at a later date..

Sandra Sutcliffe nominated by Christine Worthington of RHSV

Citation:

Sandra has been a member of the RHSV since 2003 and commenced volunteering around the same time.

After retiring from her job as a Medical Laboratory Scientist she followed her interest in Australian History by gaining a BA Honours from La Trobe University, and was introduced to the RHSV by one of her tutors, Professor Richard Broome.

Sandra has for many years used her research skills to answer general historical queries from RHSV members and the general public.

18 months ago she approached the new Volunteer Coordinator to suggest that volunteers should be more visible in *History News*, such as by the writing of profiles to explain their duties and roles. She wrote the first piece and in doing so, began the regular appearance of volunteer profiles in *History News*, which has served to show the diversity of volunteers and promoted their skills and work.

Sandra is a part of the team assisting with secondary school work experience placements, showing them the work she does, the types of queries she receives and how she goes about

Sandra has seen many changes at the RHSV in her time, particularly in the increased digitisation of resources (the catalogue was on cards when she started). Uncooperative computers have occasionally been a source of frustration, but Sandra has great strength and determination to master new systems and has succeeded, for which she is to be commended.

Sandra is consistent, intelligent, always very well presented, and a friendly and good humoured presence at the RHSV. We are very appreciative of her sustained commitment and contribution over so many years.

Don Garden presented the award.

b) Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award

Elisabeth Jackson spoke about the significant contribution made to the society by the late Barbara Nixon, who worked as a volunteer for over 40 years from 1968, was honorary librarian from 1976. She also served on Council, was awarded a Fellowship in 1982 and an OAM in 2003. The Nixon family made a substantial donation in her memory to the Society and this has been used to enhance the RHSV Collection.

The Barbara Nixon Volunteer Awards have been instituted this year to recognise exceptional contributions by volunteers who have worked with the Society for less than the ten years required for an Award of Merit.

Two awards were presented as follows:

Mandy Bede nominated by Christine Worthington

Citation:

Mandy Bede commenced volunteering in September 2016, soon after an RHSV exhibition installed by the Ephemera Society of Australia (Victoria), of which Mandy is President. Her extensive library experience and interest in ephemera made her ideally suited to assisting with the relocation and re-cataloguing of ephemera into the new Vertical File. Her expertise in this area has assisted with procedural and policy development in the cataloguing of some tricky items in this collection. Her suggestion of a small display case in the library for the display of some of the many interesting items in the RHSV ephemera collection eventually materialised as what is now known as the Cabinet of Curiosities, and Mandy has been instrumental in setting up a schedule for themed exhibitions for the cabinet. For her recent cabinet exhibitions relating to Christmas and to menus in the RHSV collections, Mandy has also contributed to innovative publicity via our social media and promotion of the RHSV through the Ephemera Society journal and ABC radio. Mandy has recently accepted our invitation to join the RHSV Events Committee.

Virginia Nixon presented the award to Mandy Bede.

Selina Heeps nominated by Christine Worthington

Citation:

Selina Heeps commenced volunteering in May 2017 to gain experience in support of the Diploma of Library and Information Studies. She reliably assisted with cataloguing items into the eHive catalogue. In the last quarter of 2016 Selina completed a student practical placement and continues to volunteer on a weekly basis. During her placement Selina was responsible for the devising and implementation of policy in a significant area of the library collection (in particular, family histories 929.2). This has involved extensive record maintenance and reclassification and prepares us well for the forthcoming addition of family histories from the GSV library collection. In addition, Selina has completed and submitted an article about family histories in the library and her work on it, to the next issue of the GSV's Ancestor journal, and has committed to creating a Cabinet of Curiosities display on family history to coincide with Family History Month in August. Selina is a professional, technically adept and reliable team member.

James Nixon presented the Award to Selina Heeps

9 To announce memorials/prizes in memory of Professor Weston Bate, Associate Professor Don Gibb and Mr John Adams

Don Garden outlined the background to these awards as follows:

Weston Bate RHSV Oration To honour the inspiring leadership of our former many-time president, a named annual lecture has been sanctioned by Council to be delivered at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History To recognise the contribution of Don Gibb to student learning in History in this state, a prize of \$300, plus a three-year membership of the RHSV, will be awarded annually to the best student in Australian history at La Trobe University. The Gibb family has donated \$10,000 to the RHSV to ensure this is a perpetual prize in Don Gibb's honour.

Weston Bate Make History Live Fund A fund has been established from the giving which began at Weston Bate's memorial service. It is now close to \$10,000. The object of this fund is to use the annual interest from this fund to energise the RHSV through special projects focussed on attracting younger people into the Society. Currently it is being used to offer postgraduates in History one year's free membership of the RHSV. It is being offered to each university on a one year's rotation, beginning with La Trobe University.

John Adams Prize

A biennial prize has been created from John Adams' kind \$10,000 bequest to the RHSV. It will be awarded for the best article or historical note on Victorian history in the four VHJ issues over two calendar years, beginning 2017–18. The prize is for an article or historical note that illuminates a significant element of Victoria's history, is clearly and succinctly written, and is researched from original material. The prize is \$300 and three years' free membership of the RHSV.

10 To transact any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with the rules of the society.

None had been raised.

The meeting concluded at 5.55pm

It was followed by the inaugural Weston Bate-RHSV Oration delivered by Emeritus Professor Stuart McIntyre on the topic of History and Heritage.