

Annual Report 2016 -2017 – DLCA History Group AGM.

Friday 18th August, 2017 at the History Rooms, Main Street, Derrinallum 10am.

Welcome:

I would like to welcome everyone and thank you for attending. I would also like to thank Cr Lesley Brown for attending as a Corangamite Shire representative as well as a community member. As President of the DLCA Group I would like to present the 2016-2017 report. I would like to start by thanking each of our members for supporting the history group. We have 46 financial members up from our 27 last year. This includes our very energetic volunteers, who regularly attend meetings, keep the rooms open and cosy and welcoming for visitors. Thank you to Avon – our Collections Manager and Tony, Pam & Kathy for their continued work on Projects at the rooms.

Financial Position:

46 Financial members 2016/17 season. We are in a sound position financially, due to the foresight of members and our investment of \$3000, 5 years ago for solar panels and the contract with Origin Energy Origin; which is now generating income. Over the last 5 years our solar panels have returned us a total \$3123.47, as well as paying our power. This is to 30 June 2017. The 2015/16 year indicated a debit balance. The winter quarter is always a quiet time at the History Rooms. Heating the building during that time may be something we need to consider in the future. Reviewing winter opening hours may need to be discussed.

Total Profit on Merchandise Production is \$1418.50. This includes all sales of books, calendars, cards & jigsaws. A breakdown of Sales of 3 major sources of income - 'Great Plains' by Michael OBeirne: profit \$175, 2017 Calendar sales profit \$640, Jigsaws profit \$433.60. As we are able to see it certainly is worthwhile. Thank you to all who assisted. A more itemised account will be presented by our Treasurer – Pam.

Guest Speakers:

Professor Brian Matthews was our guest speaker at our 2016 AGM. An interesting insight into the **life of Louisa Lawson the mother of Henry Lawson**. Jim Anderson was our guest speaker at our Christmas Breakup on 9th December. We had a shared meal at the Derrinallum Angling Club rooms. Jim spoke on the **history of the Derrinallum Angling Club**. At our meeting held 21st April 2017 – our guest speaker was Florence Charles from Mortlake. Florence gave a most interesting talk on **"Poligolet Station", John Dodd's (1811-1884) and James Maconochie (1828-1903)**.

Events and Outings:

Each year the History Group attend events in the community. This is a valuable way to connect with others. As well as show support, we are often able to **record the event for our archives**. The Remembrance Day wreath laying service on 11th November 2016 was held at the Lismore memorial. The ANZAC day 2016 Service was held at the Derrinallum Cenotaph. Thank you to the Sub-branch of the RSL for conducting the service. These services now alternate each year. We must also mention the **retirement of Cr Geoff Smith** after 32 years as a Shire Councillor representing the North Riding. We closed the History Rooms for the day in recognition of his service to the History Rooms and the community. Several members attended an afternoon tea to celebrate his retirement at the Derrinallum Hall. We were invited by the Mt Elephant Community Management Committee to have a **stand at the official opening of the Mt Elephant Visitors Centre** on Sunday 6th November 2016. This was a 15 year ambition of the Lismore and Derrinallum communities. The opening of the centre in the disused quarry on the northern slope of Mt Elephant was a cause to celebrate. The History Group produced jigsaws as a fundraiser – different views of Mt Elephant were sold on the day. This has been an interesting and most talked about fundraiser, as well as being lucrative. **Our 2017 calendars sold well at the final Derrinallum Christmas market**. The History Group continue to have key involvement with the **Lismore Discovery Trail** which is an ongoing project. Several of our members are on the committee, histories of key points of interest have been researched and the information provided. **NAIDOC week celebrations within the Volcanic Plains included Mt Elephant**. We made a request to Dan Tehan MP for an Aboriginal flag for our History rooms. Our request was granted. We were able to build an **amazing display around the flag 2nd – 9th July, 2017**. Our display focussed on the Aboriginal culture and the significance and diversity of our volcanic plains landscape. Several members attend the launch in Camperdown of the **Maggie Black book "Up Came a Squatter" the history of Neil Black, Glenormiston (1839-1880)**. **Sandy & Avon attended the WVAHS Zone Meeting at Terang** and Avon has attended several GDHA meetings, including

last week at Meredith. Good ideas do come from attending these meetings. The Lismore Locomotive turned 100 years old and we intend to acknowledge the occasion.

Show and Tell days:

A **“Bring something old and special” event was held in Feb 2017**. Members shared stories of interesting and diverse objects and some wonderful memories of times past.... A special letter, a kerosene lamp, copy of “Little Black Sambo,” a knitted Scottish shawl, fine enough to fit through a wedding ring, a key collection and more. On 16th June we held a **“Bring your favourite game that you, your children or grandparents played.”** Crib, swap cards, knucklebones, & monopoly. Lots of games were talked about. Life before TV was fun! Thank you to members who brought something along.

History Week:

History Week was celebrated with a “Visitors Arvo”. Visitors were invited to come along for a cuppa and a chat and to view our collection and displays.

Purchases And inventory:

We have made some major purchases - An Epsom Printer, Fire Proof Storage (Safe), Digital Media Safe (Portable), Extra External Memory Storage.

Acquisitions/Collection Database:

Our paper based collection is growing and continues to be important. An example is an envelope given to us recently by Marg Macmillan – more of the Jim Oman collection – some special photos that have not been seen before. Copies of eulogies are filed and maybe referred to as a source of family research. Photos, documents letters and DVD recordings are filed at the rooms. Security and confidentiality are respected. We are put in a position of trust. Stories are retained and go into the archives. **Research is another important area**. Avon is able to do this even if she is remotely based. We are now able to accept payment online as queries come in. **Visitors do call in the History Rooms on a Friday** or by appointment. Visitors and members through the doors who signed in totalled 288 (2016-17).

Publications:

We have been working away steadily on completing the **“Spoken History”** and **“Memories around the Mount and Across the Plains”**. These are up to final editing and formatting, we are in discussion with the publishers. We have recently completed a reprint of **“Settlement Among the Stones”** copies now available for \$20. Fortunately the funding is sitting in our Term Deposit.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to close by thanking our volunteers and friends. We have repairs, mowing and gardening, and maintenance and cleaning to attend to. To keep our rooms ticking requires volunteers prepared to turn up each Friday 1-4pm. Thank you to Pam, Kathy, Tony and Avon for accepting this responsibility with the support of others. We change our window displays regularly. This creates discussion and interest by the walkers in town as well as people passing through Derrinallum. Often on their way to somewhere else. I would like to thank our Collections Manager – Avon Buchholz for her passion and dedication to all things history! Avon has completed valuable research projects which will benefit future generations. Thank you to Treasurer Pam and assistant Treasurer Avon for keeping the paperwork, cheques and finances in check. Many thanks to Kathy Bell - our membership secretary. A little reminder that our memberships are due today. Thank you to the Corangamite Shire who continue to support us, covering the Insurance of the History Rooms: Current value - building \$285,000 and contents \$10,000. Thank you to the public and local groups who quietly make donation. I hope everyone has enjoyed another year of history. As I say each year, we are another year older and so is our history! Please keep asking people to write down their memories. That is a way of prompting each of us to remember also. May be it is rubbish to someone but it might be a treasure to us! We must keep our eyes open and ears to the ground. Looking to another great year ahead.

Thank you, Sandy Gibson, President DLCA History Group. 18.8.2017