



Minutes of the General Meeting held on Sunday, February 9, 2020 hosted by Hastings Western Port Historical Society

Present: Names removed for privacy reasons

Apologies: Names removed for privacy reasons

The meeting commenced at 1.50pm

Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the August 2019 meeting were accepted on the motion of Robyn which was seconded by Dawn. Business Arising: the seminar in October *Cemeteries: bringing history to life* was a success. Heather suggested Transport or Education as possible topics for the next seminar.

Reports

President - Libby Skidmore Libby read an interesting account from the *Gippsland Times* of January 5, 1920 *Murder at Blonde Bay*, read it here on Trove <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65333675>

Correspondence - Heather Arnold

Correspondence received since the August 2019 meeting: Bass Valley Historical Society - notification of December Dinner meeting**Berwick Pakenham Historical Society - notification of new website**Brighton Cemeterians *The Cemeterian* September 2019, December 2019; Notes - October 2019, November 2019, February 2020; Presidents Annual report**Chelsea & District Historical Society newsletter August 2019, November 2019, February 2020**Cranbourne Shire Historical Society - Annual luncheon October 20, 2019 flyer**Dandenong & District Historical Society *Gipps-Land Gate* October 2019; Annual report**Dromana & District Historical Society - Talk by Noel Erbs - TSMV Kanimbla on September 17, 2019**Frankston Historical Society newsletter November / December 2019**Friends of Cheltenham & Regional Cemeteries newsletter *Raves from the Graves* September 2019, December 2019**Hastings Western Port Historical Society newsletter September 2019, December 2019; AGM minutes; Morning Coffee invitations October 2019, November 2019. Flyer – Back-to Hastings March 21, 2020**Heritage Hill Dandenong - Trace your family history talk flyer; Characters of Laurel Lodge talk flyer**Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society newsletters August 2019, September 2019, October 2019, November 2019, December 2019 and February 2020**Lang Lang & District Historical Society newsletter November 2019**Mordialloc College Alumni Association newsletter *Ventured* December 2018, March 2019, June 2019, September 2019, December 2019**Mornington & District Historical Society newsletter August 2019, November 2019**Narre Warren & District Family History Group newsletter *Spreading Branches* August 2019, November 2019, February 2020**Phillip Island & District Historical Society Christmas Function flyer; Newsletter - November 2019, December 2019**Rye Historical Society newsletter *White Cliffs* October - December 2019, January - March 2020**Somerville Tyabb and District Heritage Society newsletter September 2019**Wonthaggi and District Historical Society newsletter *The Plod* August 2019, September 2019, October 2019, November 2019; invitation to Annual Memorial Dinner.

Liz Downes, who was the roving curator with the SEHA in 1993, sent us some photos and negatives of the workshops she ran at various societies in that year. I will scan and add them to our website soon.

Treasurers Report – Philip Harris.

Income to 31/1/2020		Expenditure to 31/1/2020	
Subscriptions	\$400.00	Hosting Societies	\$ 50.00
Interest	\$ 89.02	Seminar	\$354.07
Total Income	\$489.02	Total expenditure	\$404.07

Bank balances - Investment account \$8,846.25; everyday account \$639.86. Total \$9,486.11. Philip moved that the report be accepted and the presented accounts be paid. This was seconded by Jenny and carried unanimously.

Project Officer - Lynne Bradley

No report

Sharing

- Shirley asked how the history of the SEHA is coming along. Libby replied that we have all the material and it has been started. The Hastings Western Port coffee morning will be held on Thursday, February 13. Guest speakers are Lynn Mather & Jane Turton, talking about their book 'Stories from Under the Carpet: Tragic Tales from Waverley & Surrounds, 1850 - 1950' All the details are here <http://seha.org.au/event/hastings-western-port-historical-society-morning-coffee-5>. Hastings Western Port have a number of books for sale including three volumes of the history of football in the area, written by Lance Hodgins.
- Bass Valley Dinner meeting is on Friday, March 13. Guest speaker is Heather Arnold who will talk about the life and works of Public Works Department engineer, Carlo Catani. All the details are here <http://seha.org.au/event/bass-valley-historical-society-dinner-2>
- Jenny reported that Chris Keys, President of the Dandenong & District Historical Society, was named the City of Greater Dandenong Citizen of the Year. Congratulations to Chris on her achievement. The award also raises the profile of the Society within the community.
- Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society Museum is reopening after over two years of renovations on Sunday, March 1, 2020 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. All the details are here <http://seha.org.au/event/3341>
- Phil reported that Dandenong High School celebrated 100 years in November last year. There were a number of well attended activities.
- John attended the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Association meeting. There are currently six different departments which control waterways and they do not appear to work together and therefore there is no overall planning for the waterfront. The Association has six different interest groups and John is on the Museums Special Interest Group run by Liz Rushen. John is interested in having Western Port's contribution to Melbourne recognised and the focus is usually on the Port of Hastings but it was the east side of the bay that historically had the largest contribution e.g. the timber which came out of Bass, the granite from Cape Woolamai, coal from Griffiths Point, plus the fishing industry. Please let John know of other contributions Western Port has made to Melbourne.
- Paula reported that Mordialloc Secondary turns 100 in 2024. The signal box at Chelsea Railway Station is slated for demolition due to the Sky Rail project. There is community agitation to have the building saved however the Kingston Council has shown no interest in saving the building at this time. Paula has set up a Facebook page. The best solution will be to have it relocated and re-purposed. The Marshalite Crossing signals from Chelsea have been saved and relocated to Chelsea Bicentennial Park and it would be good if the signal box could also be relocated. Heather said the old signal box from Narre Warren has been relocated to Myuna Farm in Doveton and is used as a meeting room <https://www.casey.vic.gov.au/rooms/signal-box-myuna-farm> John pointed out the difficulty of re-locating old structures due to Council red-tape. The porch of the Hastings Latter-Day

Saints Church is to be relocated to the Historical Society complex and it has been going on for months as Council treats anything that isn't a house as a commercial building, so there are complex regulations often dictated by Insurance Companies. Hopefully the Chelsea Signal box saga will have a good outcome.

Meetings

- The meeting was happy with the current schedule - four times per annum at 1.30pm.
 - May 3 meeting - will ask Chelsea.
 - August 2 meeting - Koo Wee Rup
 - November meeting - if we have an October seminar then we won't hold a November meeting, will confirm later.

General Business

- Robyn asked how the SEHA records are housed i.e. are they stored in Archival conditions. There are currently three boxes of records at Libby's which she is using to write the history. Heather also has some material. Action: we need a Collection policy to determine what we need to keep and then work out where and how to store it and what could be digitised. Will look at this later on this year.

Meeting closed 2.54pm.