

FOSTER & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



PROM COUNTRY HISTORY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2017



**Exhibition – Sport in South Gippsland**

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## **COMING EVENTS:**

**3 October meeting:** 11.00 am visit to the Toora cemetery with a sausage sizzle afterwards at Kerry Corcoran's place.

**7 November meeting:** Dr Liz Rushen and Kathy Gibson conduct a Q & A on their book Anastasia Thornley.

**5 December meeting:** Christmas party.

**26 January 2018:** Garage Sale.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Foster & District Historical Society was held in Crawford Hall on Tuesday 1 August at 7.30 p.m. The President Meg Rogers presented the Society's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Report. She stated that the Society had another busy, enjoyable and successful year which included many activities, interesting speakers and willing volunteers. The Speakers included Ed Swaja, who discussed the history of his property and Woorarra; John Carmichael spoke on the contribution of the McClure family's contribution to Foster; Kenny Everitt who related his memories of growing up in Foster and Toora in the 1930s; Judith Dwyer's topic was the role of the Mechanics' Institutes in towns across Victoria, while Marilyn Smith told the story of her family, the Grylls, arrival in the Welshpool district; Rae-Ann Vincent presented a talk on the History of Walhalla.

She reported that 'The Road to the Prom' exhibition finished in March 2017. The new exhibition entitled 'Sport in South Gippsland' is in place and will remain until winter 2018. A number of museum displays have been updated. In addition, displays were also placed in the empty shops in the town in an effort to promote the society and enhance the town.

Other promotional activities included: Reg Williams, Meg Rogers and Kerry Corcoran were heard on radio. Fundraising included the calendars, the garage sale on Australia Day and a stall at the Show with books for sale. Book sales continue to be the main revenue raiser.

Members of Probus and school groups toured the museum.

She reported on the Crawford Hall upgrade with new blinds, cupboards installed, glass doors ordered and the interior painted. NBN has been connected to the rear office and a telephone connected for emergency use.

Signage for the Chinese Gardens and the ramp for the use of people with disabilities is ongoing.

Correspondence continued with the Foster War Memorial Art Centre Committee re the erection of the WW1 cross in the foyer.

## **The New Executive Committee**

**President:** Meg Rogers

**Vice President:** Mike Heal

**Secretary:** Kerry Corcoran

**Treasurer:** Noela Cripps

### **Committee:**

**Curator:** Jennifer Jones

**Archives:** Noela Cripps

**Research:** Nola Taylor

**Maintenance:** Reg Williams

**Ordinary members:** Kerry Corcoran

Rob Pritchard

Marilyn Smith

Lorinda Gardiner

**Officers: Newsletter:** Rosemary Francis

**Gippsland Network:** Marion Haupt

**Information Technology:** Howard Plowright

**Roster:** Nola Taylor/Meg Rogers

**Grounds:** Norman Sparkes

**Supper:** John & Nola Taylor

## **Annual Membership subscriptions**

Subscriptions for 2017-2018 were due and payable on 1 July 2017. If you have not yet paid your dues, we respectfully request prompt payment of :

\$20.00 individual membership

\$35.00 family membership (two or more people)

## **Foster & District Museum**

### **Museum Opening Hours**

The Museum is open daily during the school holidays and on Saturdays and Sundays during term time. It is closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday.

Hours of Opening are: 11.00 am -3.00 pm

Other times by appointment: (03) 5682 1201/ (03) 56822297

### **Admission Fees:**

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

ADULT: \$5.00

CONCESSION:(senior, pension, special & student over 15 years) \$4.00

CHILDREN : (5-15 Years) 0.50 cents

FAMILY: \$10.00

CHILDREN (under 5 years): Free

MEMBERS: Free

Foster & District Historical Society Inc.

### **Membership**

Becoming a member of the Foster & District Historical Society Inc. helps us to preserve and present the district's history. You 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 7.30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month from February to December. The AGM 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.

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

**Newspaper excerpt**, with thanks to Nola Taylor.

Monday, July 10 1871 *Geelong Advertiser*, p.3 Information extracted from a letter the newspaper received from an unnamed source in Stockyard Creek

### **Stockyard Creek**

We had fine weather and a pleasant voyage to Port Albert, which we reached after about twenty hours sailing.

From thence we went in a small steamship forty miles further up the coast after which we had to walk about four miles to the diggings and I can assure you we travelled to the muddiest country I ever set foot in.

We went about the diggings on Monday, and as it happened, the very first man I asked for a job told me to come back next day at 2 pound 10 shillings per week... It is frightfully wet and cold; it has rained for five out of seven days. I should say the population is from 400 to 500 people and although many are coming in, I think quite as many leave. There are six public houses, but like most new diggings, there is not a place of worship. There is plenty of good timber, which is of great service. There are only about eight claims getting gold, which is found in the quartz. It is very patchy, and it is really doubtful whether the claims will pay. The hours worked are eight, but how long the work will last is very uncertain, as there are no crushing machines to enable the claimholders to test the value of the quartz being raised. The place at present cannot be approached with drays, and all the goods and everything used is brought up on pack horses. Beef and mutton are 5d per lb. Butter is very scarce at 1s3d per lb and everything is dearer here than with you. The style of building is original in Australia, although common enough, I believe, in America; instead of canvas and bark being used as was the case at the first of the diggings, huge logs are now piled one upon another for walls, and bark is only used for roofing. From what I have seen and heard I have but a very poor opinion of the place as a goldfield, and you can tell my old mates to knock the idea out of their heads of coming here at present. You may tell everyone that makes enquiry that I give the place a very bad name, that at most, the best claims will scarcely pay, and at this time of the year it is impossible to explore or prospect distant country, and that at

any time until there are crushing plants created it will require much capital to stand out prospecting.