



# Foster and District Historical Society

## News Letter

October 2013

### What's on

- 1st October Libby Lambert speaking on Stories of Bena  
5th November Cup Day – no meeting  
3rd December Christmas breakup  
4th February First meeting of 2014  
2014 – Celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

### 2013-14 Committee

At the Annual general meeting held on August 6th 2013 the following people were elected to the committee for the forthcoming year:

#### Executive:

President	Jennifer Jones
Vice President	Meg Rogers
Treasurer	Norman Sparkes
Secretary	Liz Rushen
Curator	Jennifer Jones
Archives	Noela Cripps
IT	Howard Plowright
Maintenance	Reg Williams
Research	Nola Taylor
Member	Bill Davies

The following Officers were also elected:

South Gippsland Network of Historical Societies	Marion Haupt;
Prom Coast Rep	Meg Rogers;
Supper	John & Nola Taylor;
Welfare	Marion Haupt;
Rosters	Meg Rogers & Nola Taylor
Newsletter Editor	Carol Lester;

# Museum Update

In 2014 the Foster historical museum will celebrate its fortieth year. As part of the celebrations being organised to mark this achievement we hope to collect anecdotes related to the early years of the museum. If you are willing to be interviewed, have some photographs to share, or would like to write a paragraph illustrating the early years we would love to hear from you. Further details of the events planned to celebrate our fortieth anniversary will be released early in the New Year. The committee would be happy to receive suggestions.

## Exhibitions

Foster Films, Art, Music and Drama Association staged its first production on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1953 in the Foster Mechanics Institute so 2013 represents FAMDA's sixtieth anniversary.

Part of the celebrations for this milestone is the exhibition currently on display at the Foster Museum. Titled ***Sixty Years of Foster Theatre***, the exhibition features FAMDA memorabilia including costumes, photographs, programmes, videos and props from past productions and references to many of those involved with the company over its sixty year history.

## Network news

1. Leongatha and District Historical society Inc invites all Foster Historical Society members to the **Shingler Memorial lecture and Dinner on Saturday 19 October 2013** at 6.30. Tickets are \$35.00 with BYO drinks. The guest speaker, well known local historian Mr Patrick Morgan, will give a talk entitled *The Mysteries of Gippsland*.

Tickets may be purchased from the Mechanics Institute in Leongatha on Thursday and Friday 12am to 4pm. Phone 5662 2492 or contact Robin Williams 5662 3013 or Margaret Stokes 5662 3492

2. **Heritage railmotor trips.** As part of the Seniors Festival the South Gippsland Tourist Railway will operate on Sunday October 6th and Sunday 13 October between 11 am and 4pm. Return rail travel on a railmotor includes light refreshment at Korumburra station, 1 Station St, Korumburra. The cost is \$12 for Seniors on presentation of a seniors card.

Train times:

Depart Korumburra	11.00 am or 1.15pm	Depart Leongatha	11.50am or 2.05pm
Arrive Korumburra	12.20am or 2.35pm	Arrive Leongatha	11.30am or 1.45pm

For further details :

Email: [admin@sgr.org.au](mailto:admin@sgr.org.au) Web Address: [www.sgr.org.au](http://www.sgr.org.au) Telephone: 03 5658 1111

# Membership

This is a reminder that all membership subscriptions are due NOW. If you have not yet renewed, drop your subs into the Museum, or send to Norm Sparkes, our Treasurer, at PO Box 231 Foster 3960.

One of our new members this year, Peter Fitzpatrick, is to be congratulated on being the recipient of a National Biography Award for his double biography, *The Two Frank Thrings* that has been published by Monash University. The judges described the book as "a well-paced and clearly written biography in which the author brings to life two very different and determined self-mythologisers, and gracefully deals with what can be known about them and what cannot".

This year we have instituted membership cards for the convenience of members. They will also make it easier to take advantage of some of the benefits of membership of the Society:

1. **Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV).** As our Society is affiliated with the RHSV, our members are entitled to free use of the RHSV library facilities located at 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne. The library is open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm.
2. **Museums Australia (Vic).** As Foster Museum is an accredited museum, the Foster Historical Society receives the following Museums Australia benefits:

Society:

- Five issues per year of *INSITE*, the MA (Vic) magazine, and four issues per year of the national *Museums Australia Magazine* (kept at the Reception Desk in the museum)
- A weekly e-bulletin of news, events, and funding opportunities (Committee).

Individual Members:

- Up to 50% off Museums Australia (Victoria)'s professional development seminars, training workshops, and other events.
- Discounted registration fees for the Victorian Museums and Galleries Conference and the Museums Australia National Conference.
- Free or discounted entry to participating museums and galleries, including the ACMI, the National Gallery of Victoria and Museum Victoria.

## From the Archives

### Did you know that?

- Mount Singapore on Wilsons Promontory was named after a 300 tonne ship the 'Singapore' that was involved in survey work in Corner Inlet in 1841.
- Two men were blown apart at Hoddle during the construction of the Great Southern Railway line.
- It is said that the rail line at Toora was laid across the town's small cemetery and one body still lies beneath the permanent way.
- Hedley was named after a Doctor Hedley from Sale.
- Amey's Track was named after a former convict who farmed at Benison. He cut the track to carry potatoes and stores to the Turton's Creek gold diggings.
- Anatasia's Lane was named after Anastasia Thornby who owned and ran the Exchange Hotel following the death of her husband William in 1874 till her death in 1907.

- Fleet Street was named after James Alexander Fleet allegedly an American Civil War soldier, born in Canada in 1841. He died in 1909 and is buried in the Foster cemetery.



### **William James McHaffie**

William James McHaffie came to Australia aboard the 'Palmyra' and arrived in Melbourne in 1839. His younger brother James died on the vessel on the way to Australia probably of typhoid fever. William then sent for his younger brother, John, to join him. By 1843 the McHaffie brothers were preparing to move to Phillip Island. They had purchased a licence to occupy the whole island for €10 a year. After 5 years the Government increased the annual licence fee to £17.10s for a total of 9841 acres. William returned to Scotland shortly afterwards but John remained and married the daughter of a captain in the Royal Navy.

In 1868 the sale of land on Phillip Island commenced and the McHaffie holding was reduced to 499 acres. Prices for blocks of land ranged from €8 to £14. McHaffie then purchased a property at Yanakie on the isthmus of Wilsons Promontory. John Leeson was sent down to manage this property and the first load of wool from the property arrived in Melbourne in 1873.

## **Do you have an email address?**

In order to reduce costs associated with the delivery of our newsletter it would be helpful if we could send the newsletter electronically to as many members as possible. If you have an email address and would be happy to receive your newsletter in this way could you please let us know in order that we can devise an electronic mail list. An email notification to [cgi@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:cgi@unimelb.edu.au) would be welcomed.

## **Roster**

With many people on holiday over the Christmas and New Year period we are keen to hear from anyone who could volunteer to be part of the roster at this time. If you can volunteer please contact Meg Rogers or Nola Taylor.

An induction for new and existing volunteers will be held on **Wednesday, 13 November at 10am**. All members of the Society are encouraged to come along to hear about the new exhibition and processes for assisting visitors to the Museum.

# Christmas Dinner Invitation



You are warmly invited to attend the Christmas breakup dinner of the Foster and District Historical Society. This is a great opportunity to meet up with friends, to make new ones, to reflect on the year as well as to contemplate an interesting 2014 as the Society enters its fortieth year.

**When:** 3 December 2013

**Where:** Crawford Hall at the Museum

**Time:** 6.30 for 7pm start

**Cost:** \$25 per person

**Menu:** Traditional Christmas dinner

For catering purposes please return the acceptance form below with your payment by **15 November** to The Secretary, Foster and District Historical Society, PO Box 231, Foster VIC 3960.

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## Christmas Dinner Acceptance Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment total: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address if available: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this acceptance form with payment by 15 November to:  
The Secretary, Foster and District Historical Society, PO Box 231, Foster VIC 3960.