

President's Report to the ADHS Inc AGM on Monday, 4th November, 2019

A large part of this report, and the Society's Annual Financial Statement, appeared in Edition 292 of "Pyrenees Pioneers" circulated to members and other Societies a few months ago. This report contains updated information about happenings since then.

The Scanpro is proving its worth in enabling us to utilise the microfilm of early newspapers, rate books, etc., and thereby improve our own knowledge of early local history. We have had several customers who have wanted to give an elderly relative a novel birthday present, comprising of a copy of the local newspaper published on the day of their birth many years ago. They have been delighted by the quality of copies produced by the Scanpro, and happy to pay \$20 to the Society.

We have applied to the Avoca Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank for a grant to enable repairs and repainting of the Courthouse double doors at the front, repainting of the north and west-facing windows, repainting of the rear door, and rubber matting for the disabled ramp. The Bank's current grants programme via the Community Enterprise Fund plans to distribute \$100,000 to local organisations, of which we are hoping to receive \$4,539.

Since the last report we have received two more orders for plaques on the Memorial Wall, and we had a mini "working bee" consisting of Doug Saunders (the wall builder), Ron Southern and myself to fix the four new plaques to the wall.

Some of our members may not be aware of the "Umbrella Body" for several dozen Historical Societies in this part of the State; "**Central Highlands Historical Association Inc.**" of which Avoca is a member. **CHHA** was founded around the same time as our Society, and we have been active participants for all of that time. The CHHA 2019 AGM was held in Ballarat on Saturday, 2nd November in the Tower Room at the "Eureka Centre", and we were treated to a tour of the new "Ballarat Research Hub". This incorporates the Ballarat PROV, the former "Australiana Room" from the Ballarat Library, and the Ballarat Genealogical Society, and has two Scanpro 3000 to read the microfilm. The 3000 is a newer version of the ones at Avoca, Carisbrook and Newstead. Tony O'Shea was elected as CHHA President and Dorothy Robinson as a Committee Member.

Please note that the Avoca Courthouse will be closed from 4.00pm 11th December 2019 and will re-open at 10.00am on Wednesday, 5th February, 2020, apart from "Special Openings" by appointment for a \$30 fee.

Tony O'Shea
PRESIDENT
4th November, 2019.