

# INVERLOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

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Patron: Eulalie Brewster 03 5674 3012  
President: Nancye Durham 03 5674 2796  
Vice President: Patrica Williams 03 5674 1606  
Secretary: Phyllis Hipworth 03 5674 2449  
Treasurer: Elizabeth Catt 03 5674 1354

Correspondence Address: 5 Abbot Street, INVERLOCH 3996.

**NOTE:** On the next meeting day, **September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008** Ruth Tipping has organised an excursion to the Tooradin area. The cost is \$28 which includes \$15 for the bus and \$13 for lunch at the Tooradin Sports Club. Morning and afternoon tea is provided. The trip will finish at a vegetable farm near Tooradin. The bus will leave the V-Line stop at Inverloch at 9.00 a.m. Contact Ruth for bookings which are progressing well, so don't delay.

**President Nancye** thanked all involved in the running of the Society, their help and enthusiasm is invaluable. Please remember to leave your badge with Iris Earnshaw at the end of each meeting, and collect it on arrival at the following meeting. Kathy Edmonds will continue with afternoon tea duties, and Janeen McLauchlan volunteered to be back-up should Kathy be away. We have vacancies for a Cataloguer, Curator-Registrar and a Web Master. Nancye appealed for writers to record their anecdotes and memories of Inverloch as we need to produce more books. Topical Files have been updated in the computer so we can thank Helen Jones for this.

**Christmas Raffle.** It is not too early to remind everyone that our main fund raiser will again be held this year. Kath Bendle is co-ordinator needs your support, and donations towards the hamper will be greatly appreciated. More details will be available in future Newsletters, but please give it your attention as our year is rapidly drawing to a close.

It was decided at Committee and at the General Meeting that a couples membership fee of \$32 will apply from now on. A motion to that effect was moved at the General Meeting and accepted. Refunds will be offered to couples who have already paid.

**Guest Speaker.** We were very pleased to welcome as Guest Speaker Joan Ginn. Joan is a member of I.H.S. and grandmother (Nana) of Drew Ginn, Olympic oarsman, triple Gold medallist and one who grew up in Inverloch. Joan travelled to Beijing with her son Dennis, Drew's father, also a well known member of the Inverloch community. Joan was at the Olympic Rowing Course to cheer on her grandson, and so we were very fortunate to learn about her experiences which were so fresh in her mind.

Joan began by telling us about Drew's early days before he became involved in rowing. He was born in Leongatha in 1974, and as a little boy was very active, and had a natural ability for any sport in which he took part. He went to school at Inverloch Primary School, and from there he moved to Newhaven College, Phillip Island. In 1994 he attended Scotch College as a boarder, however his father came for him each weekend and this was a bonus compared with pupils who were away from their families the entire term.

While at Scotch, Drew earned the highest award in sport for attaining colours in a range of different sports, an honour only awarded to a few. He is also the only Olympian who has attended Scotch College to have won a Gold Medal.

At one stage of his time at Scotch, he was encouraged to try rowing. Initially Drew wasn't keen on the idea, however he was eventually persuaded to give it a try, and gradually he became more involved. He joined Mercantile Rowing Club and while still at Scotch, his crew won the Head of the River Title. In 1995 he was chosen to attend the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. He began there in 1996 and was involved for about eight months. Also in 1996, he was chosen to join the crew known as 'The Oarsome Foursome', and together with James Tonkin, Nick Green and Mike MacKay, Drew went to the Atlanta Olympics where he and his crew won Gold Medals. After the Atlanta Olympics Drew developed back troubles. He had surgery and was unable to row for eight months. Because of the back problems he was unable to prepare for, and compete at the Sydney Olympics. He was extremely disappointed. After Sydney, he began rowing again with James Tonkin and they were successful again at the Olympics in Athens, winning Gold Medals.

Joan pointed out that to prepare for the Olympics is a three and a half year project. Drew's Olympic success target was made harder by Duncan Free living and working in Queensland.

Thank you Joan for a marvellous talk, much enjoyed by all present. There is more to the story but not the space available. Contact the editor if you would like to borrow the audiotape.

**Membership Subscription. Couples \$32.00 Single \$20.00 Newsletter only \$6.00**