



## INVERLOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

ARBN – A33738Z      ABN – 79 652 460 440      **ISSUE NO: 141**  
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**Next meeting:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009. 2.30 – 4.30 RSL Hall.

Visitors are always welcome to attend. It is our usual practice to have a cup of tea or coffee at 2.15 p.m. before the meeting commences. This is followed by a business meeting prior to hearing from a guest speaker or participating in an activity.

**Next Meeting:** This month we will have the opportunity to reminisce about our schooldays. Until then, store up the memories of your time at school ready to share with each other on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**“Tales from the Inlet”:** A recommendation from our Patron, Eulalie Brewster. “Tales of the Inlet”, an oral history presentation written and directed by Gill Heal, has twice recently been presented to appreciative local audiences. Historic photographs of Inverloch’s development with the voices of local actors speaking for the personalities and places shown ensure fascinating viewing for those who attend.

We have been advised that **“Tales of the Inlet”** will be performed again, on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. July 25<sup>th</sup> will be a Matinee performance whilst on July 26<sup>th</sup> performances will be presented during the afternoon and evening. Tickets will be on sale three weeks before July 25<sup>th</sup>, and will need to be pre-purchased. They will be on sale during the week 8<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> July in the Arcade near the IHS display. More information is available on the Notice Board.

**Excursion/Bus Tour:** Many thanks to Eulalie Brewster and Phyl Hipworth for the following report regarding the tour to Leongatha. The reports have been combined and will be continued in the next issue of the Newsletter.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 39 Members and friends went on a bus tour organised by Ruth Tipping to the Leongatha area. First stop was the Leongatha Historical Society which had opened their rooms for us to view their displays and work space; and where Mr John Murphy OAM. Local historian, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and author of many books on Leongatha gave us a talk. We were enthralled by the amazing display of Historical artefacts, equipment, clothing and other items too numerous to mention. The building was erected in 1912 as a Mechanics Institute, the Historical Society gained entry in August 1984. John mentioned that plaster of paris and river reeds were used in part of the construction. In early years there were billiard tables for the community to use, and three fireplaces made it a cosy place in winter.

John pointed out a pedal Dentist’s drill, some of our group were convinced that their Dentist had used this torturous apparatus on them as children. In 1960 when work took place at the old Dental building a huge pile of teeth was discovered, they had been dropped through a hole in the floor after extraction. Mention was made of Knox’s farm (Rockhill). Ross presented John with a framed photograph of Home Pride Bakeries for the Society’s collection.

We then went on a tour of Leongatha, John pointed out significant sites mentioning - Blacksmith’s Shop now Autobarn, McCartin’s Cattleyards, the Anglican Church now on land which during the War was used as a lookout site with searchlights in place. Methodist Church where Stradbroke Hospital used to be, 3000 babies born there Sister Potter was senior nurse. Members on the bus who were born or had lived in the area were revisiting happy memories of Leongatha a rather lovely town. The BBB Mattress firm bequeathed finance for 4 horse troughs and a monument to Strzelecki. Strzelecki was a stretcher bearer during the Napoleonic War. In 1912 an Agricultural High School opened. In 1919 a Labour Colony was established on 800 acres to train the unemployed. 200-300 men were trained at a time. Later the area was divided into 5 soldier settlement blocks.

The Butter Factory (now Murray Goulburn) has always been an Employer and an excellent business for the area. Victory Gates at the Football/sports arena erected in 1951. The pavilion is built of Koonwarra bricks. Morning tea was held in the very beautiful McIndoe Park. We farewelled John, the President. Nancye Durham presented him with a book and thanked him for his valuable talk.

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