

STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winner of Australian Museum Victoria Award 2016, for Volunteer- run Museums and for the outstanding development of a new storage facility



Old Pleasant Creek Courthouse, now Stawell Historical Society's Museum

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 / 2017

Our new building, which includes new offices, and climate controlled storage facilities



MISSION STATEMENT

Stawell Historical Society Inc. aspires to preserve the history of Stawell and District

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Stawell Historical Society will: -

- Provide** a quality and community based amenity in a friendly and helpful manner, and in an informative way.
- Strengthen** our position as a preservation benchmark with respect to quality conservation of historical information.
- Provide** a high level of safekeeping through the vision of members and a proactive management approach.
- Achieve** the highest standard of collection, care and storage
- Establish** Museum displays which explain the educative role of the society.

VALUE STATEMENT

The Stawell Historical Society Values:-

- The well trained volunteers
- The trust that has been vested in it by the community.
- The inherent wealth of each individuals contribution.

Regulatory Information:

Association Incorporation Number –
A0016205E
Australian Business Number – 48396833108
Endorsed Deductible Gift recipient.
Charity Tax Concession Status
Australian Museum Victoria Member.
Stawell Historical Society Inc.
36-40 Longfield St.
Stawell VIC 3380

Phone (03)53583789
Email: stawhist@bigpond.com
Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~shinc

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 2017

With compliments of the President,
Dorothy Brumby and the
members of the committee.
Presented at the General meeting
of the Society ,12th October 2017

Unaccredited auditor former Bank
Manager Mr Ron Sanders.

Table of CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT	1
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	1
VALUE STATEMENT	1
REGULATORY STATEMENT	1
ABOUT STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY	3
STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORG. CHART	5
STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXEC COMMITTEE	6
REPORTS	7
LIFE MEMBER AWARDS	14
SPECIAL AWARDS	15
MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA ACCREDITATION AWARD	16
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS	18
THE YEAR AT A GLANCE	19

About the Stawell Historical Society

The Stawell Historical Society was first established in 1962, sponsored by the Rotary Club, but interest waned and was forced to close in 1963. The Historical Society was reformed in 1965 and operated in the Mechanics Institute in Main St for several years but did not have a permanent headquarters.

The building located in Longfield St, Stawell, which was previously used as a Court House in the latter part of the 1800's, was sold to the Stawell Town Council at auction in November 1973. Before the sale the Stawell Town Council was approached to buy the building and was also presented with a petition, signed by 650 Stawell citizens requesting that the building be preserved.

The building was purchased for \$5000.00.

The Pleasant Creek restoration committee was then formed and the building was restored to its former condition.

The building became the newly formed Stawell Historical Society's permanent Headquarters on the 26th of May, 1982.

The Society continued to work from the premises until 2016.

In the late 1990's the Society's committee realised the working space available in the Old Court House was becoming overcrowded.

The committee resolved to approach Council in order to seek funding to build an extra room to assist with gaining more space.

In 2008 the Society received a surprise announcement that the late Stewart Bradley had bequeathed \$100,000.00.

The Society resolved to use the money for the purpose of extending the Society's Museum area, and set up temperature controlled storage areas in order to protect the records.

The Society again approached the Council in an endeavour to obtain a monetary grant to erect a suitable building.

In September 2014 the Council invited the Society to a special meeting where it was announced that the Council had arranged funding for a new building.

The new building to consist of new offices for the Society, including climate controlled storage rooms, and our administration area, and a lunch room, also included in the new building.

Centered between the old Pleasant Creek Court house and Shire Hall is the Gallery which is used by Local Govt and Stawell Community groups. At the rear of our main building is the Lions Club meeting room.

The total cost of the building was \$1 Million, funded by \$500,000 State Government grant, \$400,000 contributions from the shire, and \$100,000 from the Historical Society.

The new area, occupied by the Society, was officially opened on the 26th April, 2016, and was named The Stewart Bradley Research Centre, in honour of the Society's benefactor.

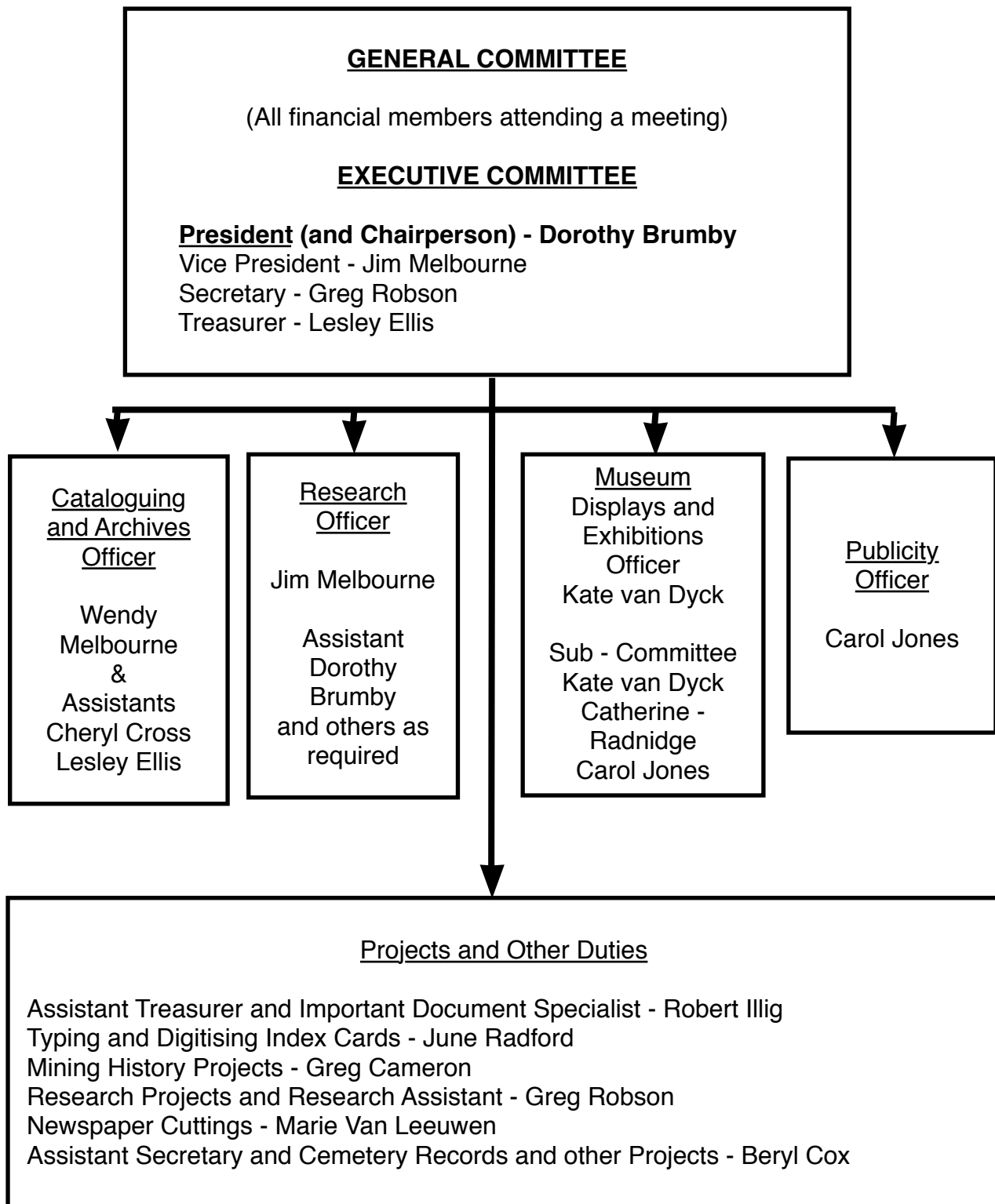
The Society possesses a large collection of museum and historical records. This collection includes:-

- ⊗ 35.000 individual cards on which is written the history of local residents, businesses and clubs, dating back to the 1860's.
- ⊗ 4000 Photos depicting many of the events which occurred over the years.
- ⊗ Local newspapers dating back to 1868
- ⊗ Realia (Museum objects)
- ⊗ Family enquiry files
- ⊗ Maps including Parish plans from around the district.
- ⊗ Cemetery Records
- ⊗ Library which includes reference books, and local research findings

The Society's Museum is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM and everybody is welcome to visit.

Stawell Historical Society

ORGANISATION FLOW CHART



STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

DOROTHY BRUMBY – PRESIDENT

Dorothy has been a member the Society for 13 years and President on four occasions. Dorothy has been very involved in community, and Church activities and delivering Meals on Wheels for many years.

Dorothy was a Primary School teacher and farmer, before retiring.



JIM MELBOURNE – VICE PRESIDENT

Jim has been a member of the Society for 30 years and as President on six occasions. Before retirement Jim worked for Telecom Australia and was manager of Stawell Telecommunications District. during his time at the Society Jim has written six books, all detailing various histories of Stawell organisations.

Jim's diverse knowledge of Stawell's past is an invaluable asset to the Society and the citizens.

GREG ROBSON – SECRETARY

Greg has been a member of the Society for many years, but as an active member since his retirement, he immediately took on the role of secretary . Greg has, as well as being the proprietor of the Navarre General Store, been involved in other business ventures. With his experience he brings a great deal of business acumen to the Society.

Greg is an ex-councillor of the Northern Grampians Shire and has been a Justice of the Peace for over 20 years.



LESLEY ELLIS – TREASURER

Lesley has been a member of the Society for six years and has been treasurer for the past four years. Lesley and her family moved from Queensland six years ago and immediately became a member of the Society.

Over her time as treasurer, Lesley has managed the Society books in an excellent manner, making sure that all facets of the job were carried out with expediency.

DOROTHY BRUMBY

PRESIDENT

STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Congratulations to all our members on a very productive year which has involved new innovations and procedures. We have settled into our new quarters and have made the necessary adjustments. Members have attended numerous events such as the Lake Fyans Centenary, the opening of the WW1 Memorial at the library, the Stawell Gold Reef Ladies Probus Club (which resulted in 41 of their members visiting our Museum), the presentation at Brambuck by students from RMIT, who undertook research at the Society about the Stawell Field Naturalists Club: the Lions Club Centenary dinner and the opening of the precinct in May.

A generous monetary gift from an ex Stawell resident has enabled glass display cabinets to be purchased and William McLachlan's grave to be refurbished (He was the discoverer of gold at Stawell). The family of the late Morris Robson donated a framed display cabinet containing aboriginal artifacts which have been photographed and catalogued by members of the Koori Heritage Society and Aboriginal Affairs. Our Christmas break up was held at the Brix Hotel with much fun and laughter from Greg's quiz and "Who am I". Jim again produced the yearly calendar and our thanks go to Jim, Cheryl and those who sold so many. The Museum display of "Women through the Ages" was quite popular and the newly appointed Display Committee welcomed any ideas for forthcoming displays. The Gold Room is always popular with visitors, especially when they see the working model of a poppet head constructed from photo by local Ron Coward. The present display is of hotels and breweries.

The role of Publicity Officer was given to Carol Jones who has updated the Web site and sent articles to Debi for our Facebook Page – our thanks to Debi for her monthly reports. These initiatives have seen a rise in visitor numbers. Carol tried to valiantly to have articles put in local papers but with little success. She has also created a digital display for the Museum which shows photos of various subjects as a slide show.

Over the last 12 months we have had many community groups visiting the Museum – Probus Club, Laurel Club, Navarre Hist. Society; Preps from St. Patricks School, children from Stawell 502 School, the Uniting Church Afternoon Fellowship, Heartbeat, the Ararat Presbyterian Church as well as students from Monash University.

Presidents Report Continued on next page

Presidents Report Continued from previous page

Jim and Wendy Melbourne conducted a Training Day which proved very beneficial to all members. Many new policies, thanks to Jim and Robert have been formulated, such as a Code of Conduct and Food Handling which is now mandatory. There are now 33 of these policies.

After weeks of tireless work, again by Robert and Jim, who sent in the reaccreditation Submission, we were visited by Caroline and Maggie from Museum Australia. It was not quite what we expected. However, in due course we received provisional accreditation, with over 20 points that needed addressing. These are being worked through, however on the positive side we received 5 Commendations which we were told were rarely given out. Congratulations to Robert and Jim for their efforts.

The Society hosted the WVAHS AGM at the end of April, with participants from as faraway as Port Fairy and Cohuna. Following the various meetings a dinner was held Magdala Motel Restaurant and visitors saw through the Hall of Fame and RSL before turning home.

A work experience student from Stawell Secondary College has found her days here interesting and has worked well. We have also welcomed visits from the NGS CEO and several councillors who have liaised with us about our concerns, and these have been acted on.

The numbers of our working group have remained static, however we were sorry to lose Cathy Radnidge whose considerable knowledge was invaluable. Finally, I would like to thank you all, each and everyone, for making my job much easier. A real team spirit has emerged and members' talents utilised. I look forward to even better things in the ensuing years.

JIM MELBOURNE

VICE PRESIDENT
RESEARCH OFFICER
STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



REPORTS

Over the last 12 months our department has been kept busy with research enquiries from throughout Australia plus four enquiries from overseas. Most of the research work comes from Western Australia and Queensland.

One of our members is currently writing Part 2 of "The Gold Mines of Stawell" and another member is compiling the history of Great Western, which is celebrating the 150th year of education this year. Lake Fyans Recreation Committee celebrated their 100th anniversary in October 2016 and were supplied with a brief history of the Lake from our research centre.

We continue to assist the Northern Grampians Shire Council with road naming and historical information when requested.

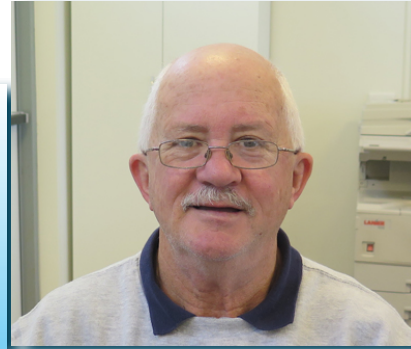
Over the last 6 months, a lot of time of time has been spent on the Re-accreditation process of which we have been provisionally re-accredited for the next 5 years, but more updates are still required. Many policies have been formulated for the future use of the Society.

Society members are currently enjoying our new premises since moving in early last year, with its modern facilities and far better working conditions.

GREG ROBSON

SECRETARY

STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Society submitted its application to Museums Australia Victoria for re accreditation for the 5 year period 2017 – 2022. It took a great deal of work by a number of volunteers to complete all the work required by the due date, but we succeeded. See later on in the Annual Report for a more comprehensive report on the accreditation process.

During the year we applied for five grants;

- 1] Stawell Gold Mines - \$2000 for glass display cabinets
- 2] Small grants for Rural Communities - \$2860 to purchase a new photo copier
- 3] Museums Australia Victoria. Roving curators Program to assist with the establishment of the Museum area

The above three applications failed to get funding.

The successful applications were;

- 1] Northern Grampians Shire – Community Development Grant of \$1375 for the purchase of a new photo copier. Whilst the society did not gain any money from this application to purchase a photo copier, the Northern Grampians Shire provided a photo copier from its office which was far in advance of the one we originally wished to purchase.

- 2] Public Records Office Victoria – Local History Grants Program. \$3527 to purchase a counter type glass display cabinet for the Museum. This grant was successful.

During February 2016 the Society transferred all the administration section of the society into the new building.

The new set up enhanced our working conditions tremendously.

During the year we were lucky enough to gain three more volunteers; Kate van Dyck, Carol Jones and Kathie Radnidge whose knowledge in their different fields has become an asset to the society.

Since the beginning of May we have had work experience student, Sharnee Bailey from the Stawell Secondary College working with us. She has shown a genuine interest in the setup of our museum displays and has been a great help in the research area.

LESLEY ELLIS

TREASURER

STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



REPORTS

I am pleased to report that the Society finished the financial year in a sound financial position with a total of \$53870 in hand.

This amount represents an increase in funds over the last twelve months of \$5146.

Last year's result was \$48724

During the year the society was fortunate enough to receive a significant donation of \$5000 from Edith Burgess.

The donation arose because of the society's work in researching her family history.

The society resolved that the funds would be spent on improving the museum area, with naming rights being attributed to the glass display cabinets.

During the year the society's term deposits were renewed every three months. The interest on these investment accounts amounted to \$931.

The budget for 2017-2018 was adopted at annual meeting showing the anticipated receipts to be \$11476 with anticipated payments of \$9856. The estimated cash surplus for 2017/2018 is \$1620.

The largest expenditure item for the year was \$1744 which was for the purchase of new furniture for the new office area.

WENDY MELBOURNE

CATALOGUER

STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



REPORTS

The past twelve months have seen many interesting donations of photos, memorabilia and and archival items to our society.

We do appreciate our new premises and our SR2(store room 2) is filling up quickly.

Our society has continued to use the metal storage cabinets(lockers) which were purchased many years ago. These 18 cabinets as we refer to them contain over 200 archival and realia items of various sizes which would be very hard to store on open shelving.

Stawell Historical Society recently received Re-Accreditation status, in the process the panel awarded 5 commendations, one was to the catalogue department.

The panel wished to commend the Society on the state of the collection storage spaces, which is clean, logical and organised with appropriate shelving and archival products in use. **Commendation**

CAROL JONES

PUBLICITY OFFICER

STAWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



REPORTS

With the new position of Publicity Officer being created during the past year it has taken a little while to get familiar with the role and to realise the possibilities that this role has.

To get the message out into the community we need to access as many different types of media and to take the opportunities as they arise.

We have tried local print media with limited success, so the emphasis has shifted from local print media to social media, namely Facebook and Web site, with local print media still being contacted.

Our web site has been redone to enable the Society to communicate better and quicker to the wider community, at the time of writing this report the web site has attracted 1743 hits.

Our Facebook page is a tremendous asset the the Society, with posts attracting a wide audience and is an excellent way to get our information, both in and out, and helping our efforts in research. Our Facebook admin Debi Gramson has been a huge help in posting articles and is very proactive in her work.

Attracting visitors to the Society by encouraging school and community groups to take advantage of our facilities is of critical importance and advertising our services and facilities on social media is starting to reap benefits.

We have to engage the local Stawell community and we hope to have local photographic displays utilising the display area at 108 Main St, Stawell.

I look forward to the next 12 months in the role of Publicity Officer, and encourage members to relay any ideas or topics that we may be able to use in the media, and thank you to the members that have submitted ideas in the past.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Stawell Historical Society revised its constitution in 2012 and included in it the power for the Society to bestow Life Membership upon those members who it deemed, through their work for the Society, to be worthy recipients.

In the 2017 Annual meeting the Society declared that the following three members be granted the honour of being the first Life Members of Stawell Historical Society.

Mr. Jim Melbourne

Jim has given 30 years of service to the Stawell Historical Society. He has written five books which have been added to our collection, volunteering his time and effort. Jim was President for a number of years, and since Dorothy King retired, has been the Research Officer. His attention to detail when answering each query has been inspirational. As well as that, Jim has spent 12 years producing our annual Calendar. His efforts have raised about \$12,000 for the Society over those years.

Jim has contributed to the Society in many other aspects, and we salute his dedication.

Dorothy Brumby President



Mrs. Marie Van Leeuwen

Marie, a member for 35 years, was our Treasurer for some 20 years. It was a task Marie accurately and diligently worked at. She took on the job of searching the local papers for items of interest to put into our records. This involved putting these items into the various files and adding the information to the Index cards. As well as selling raffle tickets each year, cleaning out rubbish bins and many other tasks, Marie has always been a cheerful, positive and valued member of the Society and we are grateful for her contribution.

Dorothy Brumby President



Mrs. Wendy Melbourne

Wendy has spent 30 years with the Stawell Historical Society and the last 15 years as the Cataloguer. Her attention to detail has been meticulous so much so that of the Five Commendations received by the Society at our last Accreditation (early 2017), Wendy was responsible for two of them. Wendy has catalogued and indexed hundreds of items such as books, photos and clothing. She has taken many a bus tour, showing tourists the town's heritage; given talks to students and other organisations and other tasks too numerous to mention. We thank her for her dedication to all these tasks.

Dorothy Brumby President



SPECIAL AWARD



At a function held at the Melbourne Library on Wednesday July 13th 2016, the Society was honoured to receive a prestigious Victorian Museum Award from Museum Australia Victoria. The award bestowed upon the Society was "The Archival for Volunteer run Museums for outstanding development for a new storage facility"



Robert Illig, representing the Stawell Historical Society receiving the Archival Survival Award from Angela Hennickson of Archival Survival.

The following is an extract from the citation which accompanied the award presentation

Stawell Historical Society has received the Archival Survival Award for Volunteer- Run Museums for their outstanding dedication over eight years to a major redevelopment of their facilities. The Society collection was located in the Old Court House that provided inadequate space for storage and working with the collection. Volunteers at this Accredited museum capitalised on a \$100,00 bequest made in 2008 by Stewart Bradley, a former Stawell resident and a long term member of the Stawell Historical Society. The volunteer committee worked with the Shire Council to find further funding for a new multi-purpose building and were successful with 500,000 from the State Government and \$400,000 from the Northern Grampians Shire. The new space at the rear of the Court House opened in April 2016 and has climate controlled storage areas for the collection, a resource centre, community gallery and a meeting room, freeing up the heritage court house for dedicated displays depicting Stawell's mining era and history, and temporary exhibitions. The Society has succeeded in turning a \$100,000 bequest into a \$1000,000 multi-purpose building that will enhance their management of the collection and provide a worthy museum for Stawell.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

The judges recognised the extraordinary achievement of a volunteer-run Historical Society in the planning and building of a million dollar facility. The Judges were impressed by the persistence of the volunteers over many years to bring about a comprehensive development of their site on an extraordinarily challenging budget. They commended their "stand-out" nomination, careful planning and success in gaining a great resource for Stawell

Museum Australia Accreditation Program

16



In February 2017, the Stawell Historical Society received notification from the Museum Accreditation Program (M.A.P) that it was due to go through the re-accreditation process for the period 2017-2022.

On the 16th March 2017, the Society submitted the application.

The task of completing the application form was very time consuming and a large task for a voluntary run organisation.

Included in the application form was the Society's Business Plan for the period 2017-2022.

The Business Plan consisted of:

- ⚙ Mission Statement
 - ⚙ Forward plan consisting of a SWOT analysis, goals statement and action plan for the period covered.
- It also included a budget and financial statement for the period.

The Society called a special meeting for the purpose of establishing a SWOT analysis: - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

The various aspects of the analysis were discussed by members and from that meeting the Society was able to establish six goals to what it wanted to achieve over the next 5-year period.

It also established an action plan for each goal setting out how the goal would be achieved, the cost, and the time frame for completion.

The six goals that the Society adopted were: -

- Goal 1. To grow and enhance the Stawell Historical Museum by developing varying Programs and Rotating Displays for the benefit of the local community and visitors to the Stawell region.
- Goal 2. To implement the newly established Succession plan.
- Goal 3. To digitise the Society's records in accordance with Museums Australia, Victoria guidelines.
- Goal 4. In collaboration with local schools, to develop and implement a program to complement the established curriculum in Humanities and Social Sciences (History)
- Goal 5. To create a living history of Stawell by interviewing elderly residents and creating visual and audio records of their memories.
- Goal 6. To increase our online presence-to include upgrading the Society's website.

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The Society was also requested by M.A.P to provide updated copies of its : -

- Collection Policy Procedures
- Disaster Plan
- Education Policy and Plan
- Exhibition Policy and Plan
- Volunteer Policy
- Procedures Document

Overall the Society has adopted a total of 33 policies to assist in running the organisation.

The outcome of our accreditation application was that the Society received conditional accreditation status.

After receiving full accreditation status since 2002, the Society was disappointed to receive only conditional accreditation.

The Society must meet five requirements before attaining full accreditation status.

The requirements relate to : -

- Creating a disaster kit.
- Code of ethics document for the Volunteer Policy.
- To work with M.A.P.S Managers on the Acquisition forms process.
- Increase in skills of Volunteers.
- Begin to implement a computerised system for cataloguing museum objects.

The last requirement is by far the most difficult to comply with, however, the Society has entered into a contract to begin the task.

The Society would like to extend its thanks to M.A.P's for bestowing five commendations on the Society for: -

- Providing new facilities with climate control collection storage and improved working conditions for volunteers.
- Working with Aboriginal communities to take appropriate steps regarding Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.
- Creative ideas for thinking about when visitors are most likely to want to visit.
- Holding key knowledge relating to the catalogue.
- The state of the collection storage places.

The Society wishes to acknowledge the assistance given by Caroline Wall, M.A.P Co-Manager, Museums Australia (Victoria), and Maggie Solly, Chair, M.A.P Advisory Committee in the preparation of our accreditation application.

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

31st JULY 2017

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDING 31ST JULY 2017

RECEIPTS:-

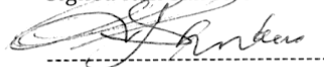
SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$670.00
RESEARCH	\$2948.60
BOOKS	\$644.20
CALENDARS	\$918.00
DONATIONS	\$1292.40
DONATION EDITH BURGESS	\$5000.00
SPECIAL EFFORTS	\$65.00
GOLD MINES BOOKS	\$450.00
MUSEUMS ADMISSIONS	\$663.00
CREDIT INTEREST	<u>0.51</u>
	\$12651.71

PAYMENTS :-

GAS & ELECTRICITY	\$323.41
TELSTRA	\$896.40
MAINTAINANCE	\$1280.92
EQUIPMENT	\$556.97
AFFILIATIONS	\$883.30
STATIONERY	\$1244.10
MISCELLANEOUS	\$533.46
MUSEUM DISPLAY	\$1010.51
NEW EQUIPMENT	<u>\$1744.36</u>
	\$8473.43

I certify that I have examined the books of Account of the Stawell Historical Society Inc' and certify that they are a true and correct record of the Society's financial position as at 31st July 2017

Signed Ron Sanders



Retired Banker

Non Accredited Auditor

WORKING ACCOUNT:

FUNDS ON HAND. - AUGUST 2016	\$8469.50
PLUS RECEIPTS - 2017 / 2017	\$12651.71
LESS PAYMENTS - 2016 / 2017	\$8473.43
BALANCE OF FUNDS 31st JULY 2017	\$12647.78

INVESTMENTS

TERM DEPOSIT

RE-INVESTED TO 6 AUGUST 2017	\$411142.76
TOTAL FUNDS IN HAND -	
31st JULY 2017	\$53870.56

The Year at a Glance

