Presidents Annual Report 13.10.16

Another amazing year for the museum has passed and it gives me great pleasure to present this 52nd annual report of The Millthorpe & District Historical Society.

I must commence my report with many thanks to all who have put so much effort into the organising and running the museum in such a busy year.

I must particularly thank the three ‘office girls’, Rosemarie, Jackie and Hayley. They each have spent many hours in organising all aspects in the smooth running of the museum; it is no small task and seems to becoming more and more arduous each year. Well done girls!!

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief, when the Trevor Pascoe Pavilion, the upgrading of the Exhibition Building, the concreting of the footpaths and the Pioneers Gallery Verandah was completed in time for the official opening, it has made a huge difference to the presentation of the whole museum complex to visitors coming to the museum.

The first function in the revamped Exhibition Building was the 50th Anniversary Dinner on 20th November 2015, when 67 of our members sat down to an enjoyable the meal in our new catering venue prepared by caterers. We gave our catering committee a well-deserved night off.

Our big event for the year was the official opening of the Trevor Pascoe Pavilion on November 28 last year. Everything was in place for Dick Smith to do the honours but the weather on the day had other ideas, fog over the mountains making it impossible for Dick to fly his helicopter to Millthorpe and land it in Peter Amos’ paddock. Fortunately Max Hazelton was on site and in discussion by phone with Dick, Max pulled the string on the plaque while Dick on his phone and our mobile phone held close to the microphone of our public address system did the official opening.

The day was a huge success with over 700 people celebrating with us. Because it was such a special occasion we made the day free entry, but there were substantial donations collected in the donation boxes placed around the buildings. Many thanks to all the members who worked so hard to make the day such a success.

We or more accurately ‘the office girls’ have quite a few projects underway or in the planning stages, just to name a few,

* The Millthorpe Historic Book, collecting photos and information on interesting homes built before 1934 in the 2798 postal area, John Willing instigated the idea.
* The new Museum Web Site and a new Cataloguing Programme is underway led by Hayley.
* A Photographic Exhibition of interesting scenes and buildings around Millthorpe, for the 150 year celebrations at the end of next year is being worked on.
* The Audio Visual Upgrade is underway, with 2 already upgraded, but not completely automated.
* A new showcase has been donated by Steve Kay to display some of the war memorabilia including Arthur Kay’s Paratroopers Uniform & Beret, and new showcases are planned for even more displays.
* Revamping the kitchen from the GTH to the Pioneers Gallery, and changing the pioneers gallery around, with the kitchen area in the GTH being used to display some Millthorpe History.

A new ride on mower with a catcher has been purchased and Hilton is doing a wonderful job keeping the lawns in order, and Marnie and John Mason established a new garden in front of the Gold Stamper Battery, as well as keeping the rest of the gardens in top shape.

The catering Committee has been kept very busy with morning and afternoon teas, lunches, dinners, and wakes both on site and other venues. The revamped exhibition building is proving to be an ideal venue for these functions, particularly over the winter this year.

Judy Hill and the education committee has been doing a fantastic job organising the ever growing school visits, thanks Judy. The free ticket given to all the school students for a return visit if they are accompanied by a paying adult is proving very popular with many coming for another look.

Judy and Sharon also do an amazing job finding people to fill the roster month in and month out. Many thanks Judy and Sharon, and thanks also to all the volunteers who fill the places on that roster.

The Craft Cottage continues to be a very popular venue particularly for some of the visiting coach groups, thank you to Ruth and Joyce for the work they put into organising all the items that are for sale.

The Collections Committee are always busy sorting and cataloguing and sorting new donations to the museum thanks to Hayley and her committee for all the work they do.

Harold & Hilton spent considerable time working on the old Sunshine Header and finally have it operating with a press button, the school kids, as well as some adults really enjoy seeing the different machines operating, many thanks to Harold and Hilton.

Peter has been keeping us on our toes with the various maintenance jobs that seem to be never ending. Another job that is to be started as soon as the weather improves is, filling in the end of the breezeway between the TPP and the Spring Grove Pavilion. Thanks Peter.

Total visitors for the year July 2015 to June 2016 was around 3913.

All in all I think it has been a very successful year for the museum, but it would not have been at all possible if it had not been for the willing help of all volunteers.

I must pay tribute and a very big thanks to all the members of the various committees who did a sterling job over the whole year.

Peter Whiley

President

**CATERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 13.10.16**

Well the Catering Committee has had another busy and profitable year, and has finished the financial year with a healthy account. It is very satisfying to see the fruits of our labour at work around our wonderful museum.

Since 1st July 2015 to the 30 June 2016 we have catered for many and varied functions both on and off site.

1 Christmas in July, 4 Wakes, a 90th birthday, a 50th wedding anniversary, a wedding reception for 75 guests, 8 Devonshire teas, 1 afternoon tea, 2 BBQs, 6 lunches, two being large numbers, one 150 and another 80.

November was our busiest month, starting off with the wedding reception, then on the 20th we celebrated our 50th anniversary with a formal dinner. We had outside caterers and christened our new exhibition building. 67 guests were seated with ease, and it has proven to be an invaluable function centre many times since, particularly over our wet winter when we have had a number of functions. Our biggest day though was the 50th anniversary on 28th November. Food and drinks were served all day, and many hands made light work.

The concreting on the Convent verandah is another big asset to our catering needs, and acknowledgment must go to Kelvin for organising this. During the warmer summer months we will see it in operation again.

We were saddened in January to lose one of our long time members and a former catering committee convenor Elaine Streatfield.

Heartfelt thanks to our amazing treasurer Rosemarie. She handles all the finances with seemingly ease and I’m so grateful, and her Pumpkin Soup is pretty awesome too!. To wonderful Jacki, thank you for keeping me up to date with all the bookings, numbers and what menus to serve, and as for Hayley, I’m always trying to keep out of her way as she always has that camera poised! Our resident photographer.

To the wonderful catering committee who are always so willing to help. To each and everyone of you, thank you. It certainly has been a busy year, but we have had some fun along the way, and I value your friendship.

And last but not least, Peter. He is my rock. I couldn’t manage without his help and support, and he can now set tables and arrange flowers quite well!

 Already this financial year we have had quite a lot of functions, with our account balance steadily rising. May we continue to work as a team to make funds available to add those little extras to The Golden Memories Museum Millthorpe.

 Thank You,

Joan Whiley.