

# Nobelius Heritage Park & Emerald Museum

Newsletter No. 4

Winter 2013

**“What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.”**

— John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*

Winter means many things to many people and like it or hate it, we have to put up with it. Cosy fires with a mug of hot soup or your favourite beverage cannot be dismissed too readily, and who doesn't enjoy the sound of rain on a tin roof whilst snuggled up in bed?

Just because winter is upon us doesn't mean you have to give up walks in the park either.

Nobelius Heritage Park has been undergoing a few transformations to make it an even more enjoyable place to visit.



*New picnic tables*

Recently Cardinia Shire Council has been busy providing better facilities in the way of picnic tables and seating. Post and rail fencing has also been added along with a new conifer garden bed to the west of the museum.

The swale that was installed a few years ago to alleviate drainage problems within the park is also being revamped by removing the vast amount of weeds and placing a new gravel bed along the spillway.

Future plans will include new BBQ facilities making this park an even better place to visit or enjoy a picnic.



*New conifer garden and fencing*

Winter is also a good time to visit as the true growth of the trees is visible and the conifers and evergreens can display their beauty without the interference of the sometimes more majestic deciduous species.

Visitors to the park and museum will also notice other changes over the coming months.

The museum applied for a capital works grant for the supply and installation of solar panels back in March and found out recently that we were successful.



*Revamped swale*

Although not open every day, the museum needs to maintain a constant temperature in order to protect the exhibits from deterioration and the solar panels will go a big way in reducing our power and heating costs.

Recently the Bi-ennial General Meeting of the Nobelius Heritage Park and Emerald Museum was held with some notable changes to the committee. We had a two retirees who will be sadly missed but have confirmed they will remain as friends and can be called upon for support when needed. We say a fond farewell to Beryl Bartacek and Kevin Teasdale and thank them for all they have contributed over the years as committee members.

The new executive committee comprises: -

President - Carey Williams

Vice President - Bob Ayres

Secretary - Chris Britton

Treasurer - Dennis Alexander-Hale



In order to maintain and develop a local history museum we need people and in our case this means volunteers. Attracting volunteers to small organisations such as Emerald and District museum has been and always will be a difficult task but we keep striving and have been very fortunate over the last few months to have gained the varied experiences of six new members to add to the valued volunteers we already have.

We take this opportunity to welcome to our team the following people: - Kim Oakes, Leon Mickalski, Judith Heagney, Kitty Vale, Norma Pugh and Arthur Wintle.

Although the museum is only open to the public two days a week during the winter months and three during the summer, it is the work that is done behind the scenes that really makes the museum tick.

On a Thursday when the museum is closed to the public, at least six volunteers with their vast array of experience and knowledge from very different backgrounds, give up their valuable time and can be seen busy collecting, conserving and cataloguing the large amount of artifacts and other material we have in store.

Apart from the above there are always the everyday chores that need to be undertaken just to keep the doors open and the museum running smoothly. These tasks include keeping accounts, paying bills, maintenance, arranging exhibits, producing advertising material, chasing grants and liaising with both public and private organisations. Our team is proud of its achievements over the last financial year and look forward to challenges that may lay ahead.

As mentioned previously we are always seeking new volunteers, no matter what background or the time to commit. You may even have knowledge of local families who have contributed to the progress of this area and whose story hasn't been told yet. Also any artifacts that you believe the museum may be interested in would be most welcome.

Occasionally whilst cataloguing new items, the team will come across something unusual or rare. This recently happened during the cataloguing of a collection of photographs donated to the library. Although the photo was of a beautiful child, it became apparent that the photographer was the more interesting subject in this instance. The hand written inscription on the front of the photo says: Peggy at 3 years old. With love to her godfather May 1907 and signed by famous female photographer **Mina Moore**. This was truly a fantastic discovery and caused a great deal of excitement amongst the volunteers. Yet another example of the rewarding moments you can experience while researching the history of uncatalogued items within our collection.

## WORKING BEES

The next working bee will be on **Monday October 21**. Please feel free to come along and join us for a couple of hours to help improve the park by weeding, mulching or generally tidying up. Tea and biscuits provided.



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