

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT

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During the last 12 months both the Surrey Hills Historical Society and the volunteer team working with the heritage collection have continued to meet in slightly modified ways as we adjusted to the ongoing challenges of operating with the background of COVID. During the later part of 2021 the historical society meetings were held via Zoom. This resulted in members from other historical groups joining some meetings, but made them less accessible to older members. It was a welcome relief to again be able to meet in person in March. However, sadly a number of older members have not come back to participate in meetings and we lost the last 'foundation' member of the Society with Arthur Tonkin's death in April.

The heritage collection volunteers returned to onsite work at the beginning of the year but have met for shorter individual sessions as a means of limiting crowding in a small space. In both these cases, the challenge going forward will be to rebuild capacity. One step facilitating this has been the recent purchase of key computer equipment items used to research, catalogue and share our history. This was made possible through a successful grant from the Federal government's Strengthening Communities Program - Round 7.

With 3127 crossing two municipalities, we endeavour to contribute to public events in both. This year's Whitehorse Heritage Week runs from 8-15 September around the theme of 'We came to Whitehorse'. Members of the Society will team with members from the Box Hill Historical Society to deliver a cemetery tour on



Historical society volunteers setting up the new computer equipment



Friday 9 September, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Bookings are through <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=918386&>. This follows tours held to mark International Women's Day in March and a pioneer tour marking Victoria Day in July.

October is The Royal Historical Society of Victoria's Heritage Month and our speaker on Tuesday 20 October will be Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison (AO). Graeme is well known for his books on urban history. Amongst many roles held, he is a former President of the Australian Historical Association, Chairman of the Heritage Council of Victoria and a Fellow of the Australian Academies of Social Sciences and Humanities. Graeme is also a local resident and his presentation will focus on the Windsor Park Estate. Also, in October we will hold our first Trivia Night with quiz master Graham O'Rourke. Consider forming a table or joining one for a fun night – not all history questions! Bookings are through <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/939057>

Finally, an update on progress towards the creation of a shared heritage facility as part of the Canterbury Community Precinct (CCP). As previously reported, this will be located in the former Canterbury Library (currently Playstation Occasional Care). Retrofitting this building is part of Stage 2 of the CCP and will commence as soon as Stage 1 is completed, projected to be October. We have been working closely with members of the Canterbury History Group, with whom we will share this space. However, until such time as the Surrey Hills Historical Society and the collection move some time in 2023, the Society and the volunteer team will continue to meet and be part of the Neighbourhood Centre's program. Volunteers meet on Mondays in the Cerini Room of The Cottage between 10am and 3pm, and continue to catalogue the collection and respond to research enquiries from the public either in person or by email.