

President's Report 2019

As we approach our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 13 August 2019, we can look back on another very successful year. The Camperdown & District Historical Society is very fortunate to have an enthusiastic and hardworking group of dedicated volunteers who serve on our committee and/or work at the Camperdown Heritage Centre.

Highlights for 2018/19 include:

- Very successful Robert Burns Festival lecture series, arranged as usual by Bob Lambell, featuring speakers Stewart McArthur AM, Dr Iain Buckland, Dr Raymond Madden and Dr Ben Wilkie.
- Other Burns Festival contributions included Saturday and Sunday openings of the Heritage Centre and a Scots Exhibition; provision of displays and information sheets for the special opening of the Masonic Hall; and high input into the planning and coordination of the very successful Burns Festival Gala Dinner.
- Completion by Corangamite Shire of capital and maintenance works at the Heritage Centre, including construction of a new internal toilet block and demolition of the old and outdated external one. The supper room was also totally renovated to provide improved storage and display space.
- Facilitation of the donation of James Dawson's scrapbook by the Cole family to the State Library of Victoria, which has now digitised it to enable widespread public access.
- Very enjoyable visits to the historic pastoral properties of Marida Yallock (Mackinnon family) in December 2018 and West Cloven Hills (Cole family) in May 2019. We also had an interesting talk by Elizabeth O'Callaghan about her award winning book *Silent Lives* on Warrnambool's women.
- Donation by Camperdown Hospital of historic records dating back to the early 1900s along with a cabinet to house them at the Heritage Centre.
- Acclaim for our Camperdown founding Scots book and impressive sales figures.

Special thanks must go to all Heritage Centre volunteers for the many hours they put into historical research and the sorting, cataloguing and promotion of our collection. They also host numerous visits by school and other groups.

Thanks also to Bob Lambell, Heritage Centre Coordinator; Maree Belyea, Research Manager; Jan Whamond, Treasurer; Gillian Senior, Communications Officer (for producing our quality newsletter and managing our popular Facebook site); Ray Watson, Photography; and Angela Preiss, Web Design and Computer Services.

Our membership remains very healthy at 147. We sincerely appreciate the continued support of our loyal members whose subscriptions and donations enable us to research, record and promote the Camperdown District's diverse history.

Rob Wuchatsch,
President