

President's Report 2019/20

The 2019/20 year has been like no other in the 60 year history of the Camperdown & District Historical Society. After business as usual from July 2019 to February 2020, life was quite different from March to June, as we all strove to adapt to the changed circumstances. But while the Camperdown Heritage Centre was closed from late March we were kept busy behind the scenes.

Notable events during 2019/20 include:

- Donation of Manifold Family artefacts from Talindert by Mrs Sally Emanuel to the Camperdown Heritage Centre.
- Redesign of the Camperdown Heritage Centre display area. We have now installed new Womens, Talindert and Hospital displays and the Aboriginal artefact display has also been revised.
- Very enjoyable visits to the World Heritage Site at Budj Bim near Heywood in October and Chocelyn Homestead in December.
- Talks by Rob Wuchatsch on the Stony Rises Hotel in August and Graham Arkinstall on the changing face of Mt Leura and the Sugarloaf in February.
- While the 2020 Robert Burns Festival was cancelled, a Virtual Burns Festival was held online, in which we participated with a short video about the Society's activities and our intended 2020 Burns Festival lecturers David Jellie, Andrew Lemon and Ruth Pullen spoke briefly on the subjects they will now present in 2021. Ian Clark will be the other speaker next year.

Our newsletter *Past Matters* continued to include well researched and written articles about people and events in our district's history, including previous pandemics. Our Scots book is still selling well; the Dawson Scrapbook is now available on our website; and Maree Belyea, who handles our research enquiries, has been even busier than usual during the lockdowns as more people explore their family history.

Pat Walsh, a member of the Walsh family of South Purrumbete, recently published *Milking Our Memories* about his family's 150 years in the area. Pat has kindly agreed to speak about his book, which is full of warmth, wit and wisdom, when we are able to hold meetings again.

Thanks to all our members for their continuing support of the Society and its activities during 2019/20. Thanks also to those who made financial donations, plus Laffs, the Camperdown clothing and Manchester store, which sponsored us in May. During 2019/20 our purchases included an air conditioning unit for the supper room; display panels; and mannequins for the Womens exhibit.

On behalf of all members, I thank our committee members and volunteers who keep the Society and Heritage Centre functioning, even when we are closed to the public, as we are again now. Bob Lambell, our Vice-President serves as Heritage Centre Co-ordinator; Maree Belyea, Secretary and Research Manager; Jan Whamond, Treasurer, curates our displays; Gillian Senior, Communications Officer, manages our newsletter *Past Matters* and the FaceBook site; and Angela Preiss provides computer services and is our website and newsletter designer.

Finally, special thanks to Ray Watson, who has decided to step down from committee duties after years of dedicated service. Ray will continue to act as our photography specialist, however, so he will continue to be a familiar face at the Heritage Centre.

Rob Wuchatsch
President