

President's Report 2020/21

2020/21 has been another disrupted year for the Camperdown & District Historical Society, caused mainly by COVID 19, but also by health problems of committee members and volunteers, or their families. However, a quick glance at our four *Past Matters* newsletters published during 2020/21 shows what has been achieved, as well as the activities which had to be postponed, such as the popular Robert Burns lectures.

Highlights for 2020/21 include:

- A Commonwealth *Stronger Communities Programme* grant for landscaping works and plantings in the backyard of the Camperdown Heritage Centre. Bob Lambell prepared this successful application and is overseeing the implementation of the project. When complete, our volunteers will have a pleasant outdoor place to sit and relax.
- A very successful Natural History Seminar and bus tour held at Mount Elephant in May 2021. Thanks again to Bob Lambell for arranging this event in conjunction with Emily Mercer from Camperdown Community House.
- A very interesting talk by Lyle Tune entitled *The Fascinating History of the Camperdown Public Park* in March 2021.
- We welcomed over 20 new members to the Camperdown & District Historical Society during 2020/21 with one, Maureen Hemley, now serving on our committee.
- A very enjoyable Christmas Party and tour led by Janet O'Hehir at the Camperdown Botanical Gardens in December 2020. Life Memberships were also awarded during this event to Ray Watson and Maree Belyea for their outstanding service to our society.
- Jan Whamond researched and prepared a Camperdown Settlers Exhibition for the Heritage Centre; Maree Belyea continued to answer the many and varied research enquiries we receive each year; and Gillian Senior and Angela Preiss prepared four issues of *Past Matters* and also promoted the society and provided timely updates via our website and FaceBook.
- Many well-researched and written articles in *Past Matters* which have added to our understanding of the Camperdown district's history e.g. Jackie Clark, the champion Camperdown-born cyclist, by Clive Allen Paisley; Quinton Bone and his family by Jan Whamond; and Maree Belyea's article *Every Picture tells a Story*, based on a 1892 photograph of Camperdown.

On behalf of the Camperdown & District Historical Society's committee, I thank all members for their continuing support during 2020/21, especially our volunteers who attend the Heritage Centre on Tuesdays to prepare displays, catalogue the collection and attend to research requests. New volunteers are always welcome.

Rob Wuchatsch
President

17 August 2021