

Camperdown and District Historical Society

President's Report 2022/23

We have had another successful year at the Camperdown & District Historical Society and the continued growth in new memberships has also been very pleasing.

Highlights for 2022/23 include:

- **Bob Lambell was presented with his Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) Award of Merit by RHSV Vice-President Rosalie Triolo** at the recent 2023 Robert Burns Lectures. **Bob's award was for exceptional service to history in Victoria over the past 35 years.** Well done Bob.
- The **2023 Robert Burns Festival** was a great success. **Our Society helped arrange the Gala Dinner** on Friday evening **and organized the Saturday lectures.** Thanks to **Bob Lambell, Maree Belyea, Jan Whamond and the many others involved** for their outstanding efforts to ensure these events were so successful.
- **Two very interesting talks at the Heritage Centre.** In April 2023, **Pat Walsh AM** spoke about his uncle **Cyril Augustine Walsh** from South Purrumbete, **who was killed in 1943 when his RAAF 460 Squadron Lancaster bomber was shot down over Denmark.** Then in July 2023, **to mark the 140th Anniversary of the Colac-Camperdown Railway, Norm Houghton OAM** spoke about the railway's construction and operation since its opening on 2 July 1883.
- The **European Settlement Seminar and Bus Tour** was held in November 2022. Thanks to **Bob Lambell and Maree Belyea** for arranging this very successful event in conjunction with **Emily Mercer** from Camperdown Community House.
- **Four high quality editions** of our newsletter *Past Matters* were published during 2022/23. Thanks to **Gillian Senior** and **Angela Preiss** for all their hard work and our members and friends who contributed material for the newsletters. Gillian and Angela also keep our website and FaceBook page up to date.
- **A very enjoyable End of Year picnic dinner and tour of Jancourt Homestead** on 4 December 2022 **thanks to the generosity of our hosts Nick and Jo Lillie and their daughter Emma.**
- **The Camperdown Chronicle for 1875 and 1876 was digitized and uploaded to Trove** thanks to a \$1,500 grant from the **Bendigo Bank** and the *Western Press* and *Hampden Guardian* from 1866-77 were also **digitized for Trove** with a \$5,024.25 grant from the **Victorian Government's Local History Grants Program.** Well done to **Maree Belyea** for successfully applying for these grants and making this project happen.
- We also received \$2,000 grant from the **Shire of Corangamite** towards the purchase of a laptop computer and data projector. We thank the Shire for its continued support.

On behalf of our Society I must also thank our wonderful committee and volunteers for their hard work over the last year. As I have decided to step down as President I must note the great privilege and pleasure it has been to preside over such a high performing group for the last five years.

Rob Wuchatsch
President
8 August 2023