

Marion Historic Village Museum

Members Newsletter No. 21

April - May 2019



- **History Month** is the main event for May and once again the Museum is hosting a Heritage Walk and afternoon tea. This event will take place on Sunday May 19th beginning at 1:30pm at the Museum and includes entry to the Museum, the Walk (approx 1.5hr) and a sumptuous Devonshire Tea. Numbers are strictly limited so bookings are essential. Cost is a modest \$7.00 per adult and \$5.00 per child. For bookings please phone me (Kathy) on 0411043344 or via the email address below. **Places are filling fast!**
- **Bunnings Warehouse** has sponsored an Easter Poster competition this year and our own Graham Watts created an entry for the Historic Village of Marion. This poster is hanging in the Bunnings store and is in the running for the \$200.00 prize money so please get into Bunnings and vote for No. 4.



Graham Watts and the Marion Easter Poster

- On Friday April 12 the Museum played host to the Magill "Seen Ya's" Group. 15 members of this organisation visited the Museum and experience a modified version of the Heritage Walk conducted by Heather Latz while another 15 less mobile members took a "virtual" Walk in the Chapel Hall conducted by David Jarman. All guests were treated to a Devonshire tea before heading off to a luncheon destination. Many thanks to Judy Morphett for her wonderful scones and tasteful decor.

- **On April 23 Marion City Council reviewed the study they had commissioned into the viability of a City wide museum. There were a number of suggestions presented and voted upon by those Councillors who were present. The results are copied below exactly as they appear in the minutes of said Council meeting:**

Museum Report - investigation outcomes and options Report Reference GC190423R02

Moved Councillor - Raelene Telfer

Seconded Councillor - Luke Hutchinson

That Council:

1. Notes the report
2. Adopts, in the provision of future museum services in Marion, including any associated further investigations, the allocation of resources and staff to support the Marion Historic Village Museum (a qualified curator managing the collection)
3. Requests that any investigation required be based on a Council registered model for museum operation.
4. Commits a funding allocation of up to \$25,000 in 19/20 financial year to engage an appropriately qualified curator to manage the Marion Historic Village Museum.
5. Defers, until after the City Property Review of Council buildings, any further discussion on showcases in Council buildings (using the model of the Edwardstown SRMG building), plus an appropriate storage solution for the Marion Heritage Research Centre, and the Marion Historic Village Museum.' Carried

We will keep members informed of further outcomes.

- **A “Heritage Hero” has died:**

Rhonda Woodward, a well-known Marion historian, passed away on 21st April 2019, aged 91 years. In 1927, Rhonda was born into the Hamilton family, once famous for its local vineyards and winemaking. Throughout her long life, Rhonda witnessed many changes that saw houses take-over from vineyards, cars replace horses and electric lights substitute for candles and lanterns. She became an avid collector of newspaper cuttings and photographs, mostly stored in scrapbooks or shoe boxes; always for sharing, though not necessarily for easy finding. In the mid-1980s, when the Marion Historical Society was formed, Rhonda played an important role in preserving and communicating Marion’s history. Besides writing about life and happenings in early Marion, she also drew maps and drawings, and soon became the ‘go-to’ person when historic matters needed answers. She loved to recall the occasions when, upon hearing a steam train leaving the Brighton station, she would cycle furiously across paddocks from her Sturt Road home to board the city-bound train just in time at Oaklands. When the Marion Historic Village Museum began nearly 10 years ago, Rhonda was quick to offer some items for display and to recall the history that went with them. She was always welcomed as a lively, well-motivated lady who was keen to involve herself in all matters historic. Her warm, friendly and generous personality endeared her to many. Many legacies from our “Heritage Hero” will enrich future generations. Rhonda was a beloved and wonderful lady.



- As a result of our extended opening hours we would be delighted if any of you could give us a couple of hours once or twice a month to act as host on Tuesdays or Sundays. You would be supported by a Committee member at all times and the work is mostly just chatting and drinking the odd cuppa. If you can assist please phone either myself on 0411 033 344 or Max Bowden on 0403 831 155.

Until Next Time

Kathy Creer, Secretary

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www.communitywebs.org/marionmuseum