

UPPER YARRA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

JULY 2024

We're so glad you're here!



SNOW FUN AT MT.DONNA BUANG

Museum Report

BY ROSS

It has been a busy few months with school tours and meetings happening regularly. We are progressing well with publicity from various directions. Leila has been posting on Facebook, and **Mr Excited** publicising his events at the museum, has a large audience. **Hide and Seek Paraquest** has posted their museum event on their pages.

Maintenance is progressing as usual with some fix ups being done on time, other fix ups being delayed for various reasons. Tour bookings are happening and the Caulfield Grammar has a regular tour until November.

AGM 2024

The AGM was held on 25th May 2024. Attendance was 12 people with Andrew Martin Chairing the meeting. This year the **Executive Committee** consists of John Bramley as President, Frank Colverson as Vice President, Lee Pannett as Secretary, and Kate Lamb as Treasurer. The Committee is Dale, Ross and Barry T. carrying over, and Barry B. Peter Turner, and Rosemary coming on board this year.

MARKETING

The Website and Facebook pages are now a great asset. With Leila taking over and promoting the Museum and Crank Up constantly, earlier this year, definitely made a difference to attendances.

Door takings and book sales are up, also partly due to the using of our new technology (a card reader by Square). The Website also has old newsletters for viewing, where people can also subscribe to our newsletter. A Volunteer sign up page is also paying off with several local people wanting to volunteer their time (great for the Archives Department!).

BLACKSMITH

The Blacksmith has been working regularly and making things. Requests via his facebook pages are increasing. This also creates good publicity for the Museum.



SCHOOL TOURS

Caulfield Grammar School has given us a list of dates for their visits. These run until November so a regular attendance of 20 – 30 students and teachers every second or third week is helpful. Finding members to assist in the guided tour is the difficult part. Between **Ross** and **Dawn** and **Bob** (when available) the tours have worked out okay so far. Being on Wednesdays when the Museum is also officially opened to the public makes for a hard time (especially when a bus load of tourists turn up unexpectedly). **More helpers would be greatly appreciated!**

THURSDAY CREW

The Thursday work crew have been altering the garden near the windmill. The overgrown garden along the fence line towards the Blacksmith has been removed. The plants that were any good were replanted around by the cottage. The bicycle rack now has a fixed position near the guards van. It has been edged and wood-chipped to look tidy. The mess from the crank up has been rectified with woodchop chips and bog holes in the back yard filled. These guys are kept very busy. Thank you **Barry B., Russell, David,** and **Andy** (and **Lyle** for the cuppa tea).



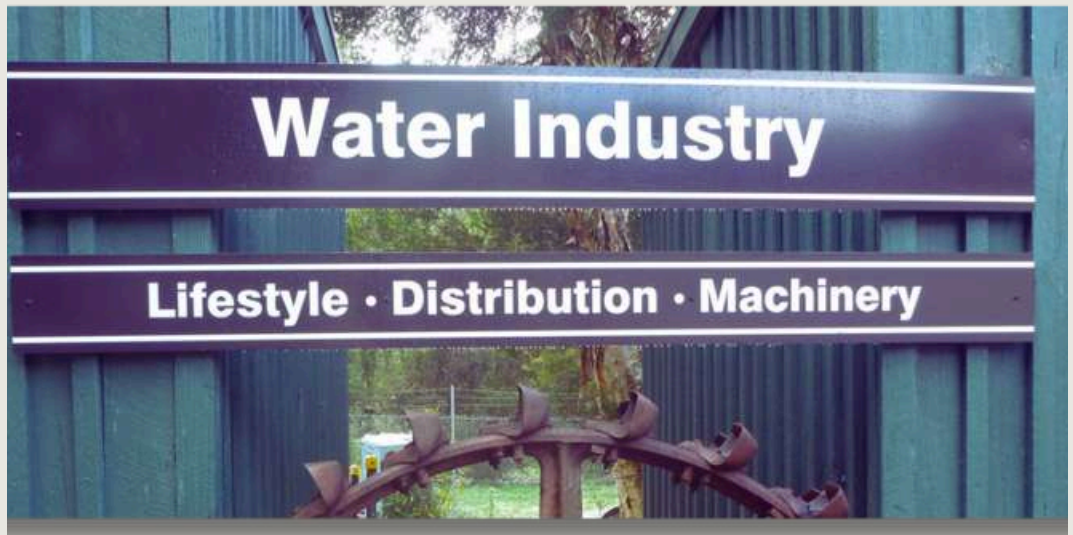
Bicycle rack

LAUNDRY REPORT

Not much to report since last time. Quotes for chimney rebuild have been discussed, and prices for timber.

NEW SIGNS

The new signs for some of the displays have been made and now need to be installed. Gold, Timber, Blacksmith, Tramway, Cottage, Water, Farming, Police Station and Lockup, all labelled. The three map signs, (Water Gold and Tramway) will be handy when it comes to school tours.



Collection of 'rusty art' looking better

New Signs

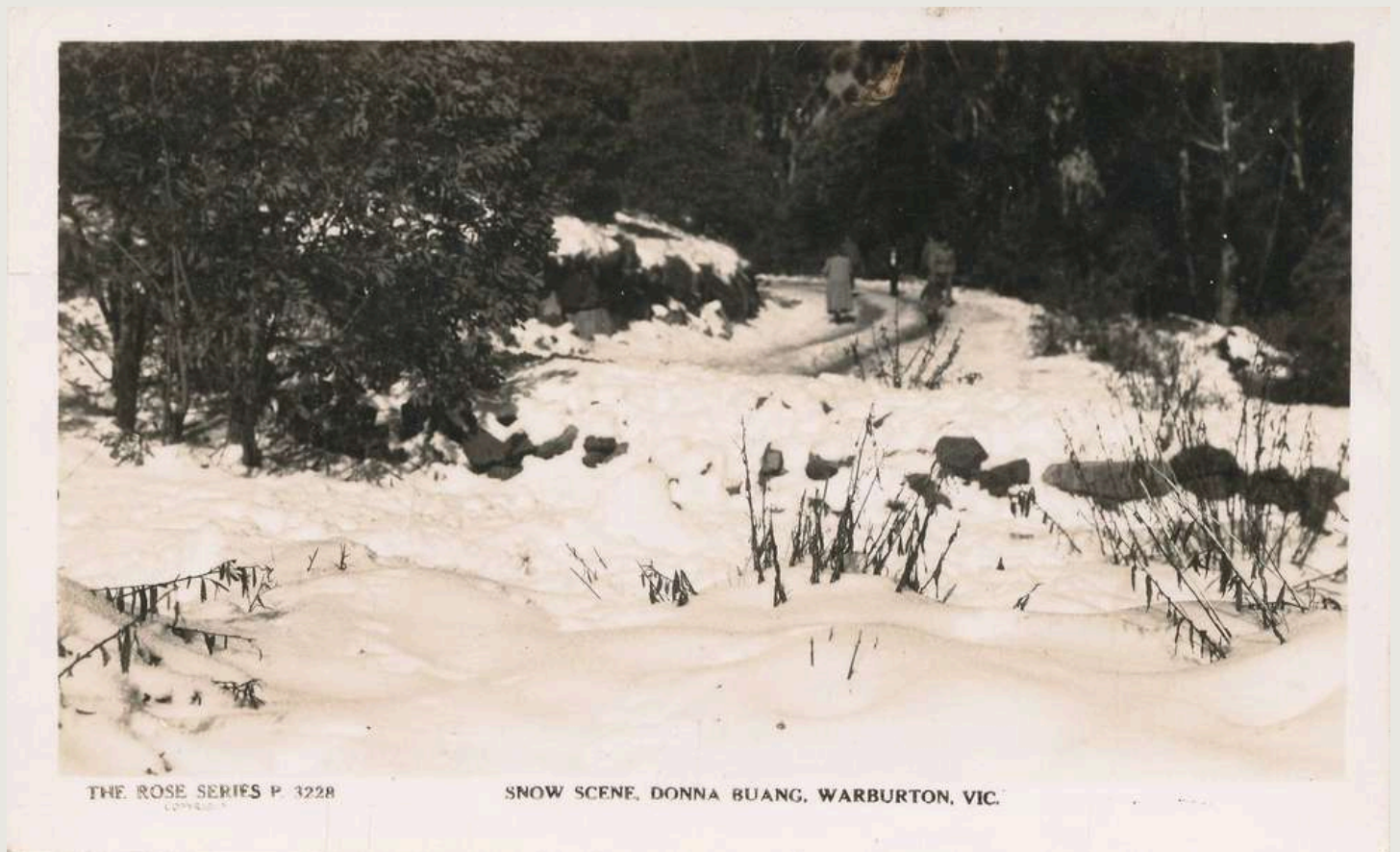
Archives Report

Archiving and Cataloguing is still continuing. A further 200 items have been catalogued. These are new additions to the collection. Some from **Rosemary Crowley**. A few donations have also been catalogued as they arrive.

Thank you to **John Bramley** who has volunteered some time to assist. His scanning and cataloguing is helping the job progress much quicker. An additional member, **Becki Vandenboom** has been assisting on the occasional Thursday as well. Keep up the good typing, Becki, less for me to do! :)

The documents from the 1988 Shire of Upper Yarra History Book Project have revealed a lot of family histories previously unknown. These are becoming searchable as we catalogue the pages of notes and copies of documents such as birth, deaths and marriages, and other miscellaneous certificates worthy of copying.

Requests for information have been processed. The Ingram family asked for some history which led me to some new discoveries as well (featuring Millgrove). It is amazing what a little research can uncover, and how being side-tracked can lead to some unexpected results. So come along to the museum and surprise yourself.



DONATIONS

We have been regularly getting donations of items from various local people. **Dawn Cantwell** donated a few items, **Rosemary Crowley** donated a box of documents (to do with the 1988 Shire Book), a working typewriter for the kids to play with, a 1948 Sound Recording Machine on magnetic paper, some memorabilia from the Upper Yarra Probus Club, and miscellaneous other items. All to be catalogued.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers to mention are **John Bramley**, who has been helping with Cataloguing and Archives since the New year started. **Becki Vandenkoorn** has also volunteered to help with the Cataloguing of new items. **Kate Natsume** has offered to help with Grant assistance, which is what we lack in badly (a very big 'Thank You', Kate!)

Glenn Wright from Warburton helped out Crank Up weekend. Hopefully he can find some more time for us. **Lina** is cleaning and dusting, and loves to have a good chat, which is great! Come and meet her sometime!



Events Report

CRANK UP 2024 QUICKIE

Crank Up was successful despite the wet weekend. Larger than usual with extra vendors made for a challenge. The machinery guys as usual and the wood chop and the Steam guys out front. The the car show by Mr Excited and the live band on the truck out the back bolstered visitors on the Saturday. Rebranding as a Community Festival I think also helped with the visitor count. There were a lot more families with children this year. There was also a lot more publicity generated this year with Facebook and Mr Excited spreading the word.

Crank Up 2025

Crank Up 2025 will be held on the weekend of April 5 &6. If you have or receive any enquiries regarding the event, get in touch with us:

Phone: 03 5967 2167

Website contact form: www.uyvhs.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheUpperYarraMuseum

Email: uyvhs.info@gmail.com



MR EXCITED - non Crank up Run a few weeks later

Mr Excited had a car run from Lilydale Lake, through the Yarra Valley via Yarra Glen and Healesville to finish at the Museum. About 50 cars took part and his mate Rocky set up a coffee and food van to keep the car owners happy. There were cars of all shapes and ages in attendance and his videos on his Website gives us plenty of publicity. Only about half a dozen car people came into the museum, (which is half a dozen more than what we probably would have had without the car run).

The highlight of the run was the arrival of Bob Logan's car (out of our shed). Every car owner paid attention (because of the noise and the smoke) and was the most popular car on the day (according to me).

Mr Excited plans on more visits when the weather improves.



HIDE AND SEEK

A special event to occur is the 'Hide and Seek, Paraquest' group. They called earlier in the year asking if it was possible to come and investigate the museum for any paranormal activity. This was agreed to and they came up beforehand to plan their investigation.

They were quite overwhelmed by the extent of what the museum had to offer and the possibilities of their investigation. The date was set and Frank and Ross opened up on a Saturday evening at 7pm until 11pm, with the light off (can't upset the ghosts after hours). The Paranormal crew of about ten people turned up and set up lots of technical equipment and cameras and proceeded to do what they do.

After they had finished they told us that there was plenty of interest to warrant another visit later on in the year. From their investigations there was a weird happening in the General Waiting Room where their electronic flashing ball jumped of the window ledge and rolled uphill across the floor, and the presence of a person in the cottage by the name of Irene. If you wish to see the results of their evening, they put together a 1 hour video of their experiences. You can watch it [from here](#).

The Hide and Seek, Paraquest people do investigations of interesting places and like to promote these places on their website. As part of their projects, they organise tours of these places (which attract a fee) and helps to promote the places they visit, The tour fees of which they share 50/50 are a way of raising funds and publicity for these places.

They already have their first tour booked for August with tickets costing \$100. Tickets [via this link](#)

YARRA JUNCTION.

(By "Berri.")

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.

Only a small number attended the meeting of the Progress Association on Tuesday night. No doubt these cold, wintry nights home and fire-side proves more attractive to most people, and one can hardly be blamed for being loth to leave either comfort. However, sometimes the results achieved justifies the sacrifice, and ratepayers who desire to see Yarra Junction advance with the times and be placed on the map must be prepared to make sacrifices. Its no use staying away and saying, "Why isn't this or that done " The opportunity is open to all to come along and help, and new ideas are welcomed and acted upon if the majority thinks them beneficial. The deeds of the past prove that the Progress Association has more than justified its existence, and much greater work could be accomplished by united effort. All personal feelings should be forgotten and united efforts made for the general good of the community. Sometimes members turn up when they have an axe to grind, in the way of a little road improvement near their own property, and when they succeed forget to come along again. Well, we want them to keep coming and help others grind their little hatchet. This town can be made a better place to live in if all make the effort. The Progress Association should not be a body organised for the purpose of interfering with the good work of the shire council, but by discreet and careful interest in local matters should prove an assistance to that body in their efforts to study the best interests of ratepayers.

YARRA JUNCTION.

(By "Berri.")

THE PASSING OF A GIANT.

Last week it stood out boldly against the picturesque background of mountain, tree and fern—the great timber mill of the Victorian Hardwood Co. at Powelltown, probably one of the greatest in the world. Now all that is left of our mighty monster is a pile of debris and ashes, a few twisted girders, saws buckled and broken spars and beams reduced to cinders, and the great travelling bench and breaking-down saws, the pride of manager and men alike, now but a shattered and broken idol. At 6 o'clock on Saturday night the great mill stood like a grim sentinel over a silent town; before nine o'clock the mighty power of fire and flame had claimed it for its own! Roaring and cracking flames and sparks reached skyward and licked up everything within its reach. So passed our great national asset; and the blow is a severe one to the company and to the hundred or more workmen affected by the disaster.

We can only extend our sincere sympathy to all who will suffer, also to the manager (Mr. C. Ingram) who suffered a severe personal loss through the fire, but still wore a smiling face and found time to give the press representative a few official particulars, the main feature of which was that the mill was not insured, also that the company will rebuild and carry on again. Work will immediately be found for all married men, and for the others as soon as opportunity offers.

KING'S BIRTHDAY CARNIVAL.

The arrangement of the energetic committee for the carnival on Monday are well in hand, and, weather permitting, all patrons, young and old, will have an opportunity of witnessing a vast variety of attractions. As the afternoon is only too short, the promoters request an early attendance. The large program of age races for both boys and girls will begin punctually at 1 o'clock, consequently, to prevent disappointment, those wishing to take part should be on the ground before that time. The hurling match and open hunters' events are expected to take place before the scheduled time. Competitors for all events can assist the organisers by completing their entries at the secretary's office on the ground before starting time, and by being punctual. Mr. W. H. Everard, M.L.A., will be in attendance.

LITTLE YARRA BRIDGE.

A start has been made with the erection of the new bridge over the Little Yarra on the main Warburton road. A temporary bridge will have to be erected to accommodate the very extensive traffic which uses the road. The new bridge will be a great improvement, as the old one was getting rather unsafe. Optimists still hope that in time the notice, "This bridge is unsafe," will entirely disappear from our main roads, and bridges provided capable of withstanding every strain put upon them.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

We are always looking for volunteers! If you have some spare time and would like to join our friendly team, you can make a real contribution to preserving our local history.

[FIND OUT MORE & APPLY](#)

(03) 5967 2167 | uyvhs.info@gmail.com

WWW.UPPERYARRAMUSEUM.ORG.AU

