

Newsletter March 2015

New Year greetings to all members. We commence our next 50 years with a change in governance of the Society.

The IDHS Management Committee has been established in accordance with the constitution in order to formalise the decision making processes of the Society. In the past decisions have been made by those members who attended general meetings and they have not always been the same group at each meeting.

To address this situation a Management Committee may ensure the governance and responsibilities of the Society will be shared by the Management Committee. As President, I have felt more like a manager, and while the Society has enjoyed several years of success, both financial and other wise, I feel a democratic system is more appropriate.

Members of the Management Committee:

Anne Jefferys, president
Bob Cail, vice president
Shirley Scotter, vice president
Lois Spehn Jackson, secretary
Alan Jefferys, treasurer
Graham Grundy, committee member
Sally Connelly, committee member
Bronwen Scott, committee member.

The Management Committee will meet bi-monthly, with a general meeting/event/outing in the alternative months. The Committee met on Friday 30 January and set some parameters for 2015. They also discussed the forth coming 2015 Great War exhibition at Old Police Station Museum, together with a new volunteer program, enabling the museum to remain open and two people in attendance during opening times.

March Meeting.

**Members and the public are invited to the next general meeting of the Society on
Friday 13 March, 2.00 pm at Old Police Station Museum.**

Program.

Report from Management Committee
Presentation of History medals to students from Dongara District High School
Viewing of Museums Australia Mid West chapter DVD
Opportunity to view the Great War Exhibition
Afternoon Tea

Congratulations to member Leonie Butler on her Premier's Australia Day Active Citizen award.

The Great War Exhibition.

This major event in world history will be the main theme of the exhibition currently under construction at the museum. During 1915 six Dongara men lost their lives. WA Burges was the first West Australian to be killed in the Great War, as he was a career soldier and member of the Royal

Irish Rifles who fought in France from late 1914. His story is included in this newsletter. Thomas Carroll died on 25 April, 1915, one of 101 Australians who died that day. His brother Joseph died in August of that year as did R J Moore and Denis Du Val. Martin Duplex died of illness, in October, in Egypt without ever firing a shot.

The exhibition will tell the story of these men, others who enlisted and life in Dongara as the war wore on and more and more men enlisted, leaving few behind with the women and children to cope as best they could.

History Medals.

The History Medal awards (books) were presented to Daniel McKendry and Joe Harwood at the school presentation night in December. The students have been invited to the March 13 Meeting to receive the actual medals and to tell members of their projects which won them the award. Those attending last year will recall the wonderful Powerpoint presentation by Willow and the talk by Daniel, (who is now a second time winner) in his quest to enter the Premier's Anzac Day Tour. We look forward to hearing from both winners.

Recent Publications.

The History of The Grange is now in its third reprint and available for sale at \$20 per copy. A fabulous new leaflet, **Birds of the Irwin Estuary** has been researched, collated and published by Lois and Dave Jackson. This new colourful information leaflet will be for sale at the Museum at \$2.00 per copy and will enthuse visitors and 'twitchers' alike, as they walk the river paths.

A series of biographies is being written of each of the Dongara men listed on the War Memorial. These booklets will complement the Great War display and available to family members should they request a copy.

Acquisitions.

Many thanks to Diane Knapp and Shorty Hoey who have donated several items to the collection. Diane has lent a wonderful collection of Wilton photos for us to select and copy, and Shorty has given us a complete railway lantern, a lovely old clock and a 60s hair dryer, which has already had a 12 year old visitor round eyed with amazement. "How long did it take for the hair to dry", she asked. When we explained you could walk around the house (as far as the cord could take you) with the hood on your head, she was even more amazed. The whole outfit is a lurid shade of mauve, even the case..... our young visitor just shook her head..... 'what oldies had to put up with!' she said.

Membership fees are now due. The treasurer Alan will be pleased to accept any membership moneys. \$10 per person.

Easter Market Day

Our annual fund raiser will be held on **Saturday 4 April** at Old Police Station museum and grounds. Bookings for stalls are filling fast and we are looking forward to a bumper crowd once again. As usual the request for assistance goes out to all members; if you can help in any way, please contact Anne or Shirley. We also run a huge food hamper raffle and seek donations to fund the purchase of a trolley of food.

Partnerships

The Society is delighted with the establishment of partnerships with:

- Dongara Charities for the Cemetery Enhancement Project
- Dongara Knitters. We thank them for knitting 25 red poppies for the Great War Exhibition
- Dongara Community Resource Centre. Together we have researched and published the 'wrap around' for the Anzac Day service program for the Dongara service
- Mission Australia, for our new volunteer program, which over a period of several months is providing volunteers to open the museum.

Future Programs.

The Management Committee is hopeful a Bookara Tour can be undertaken in May and a GPS picnic planned for the Spring. The Committee welcomes any suggestions for outings and/or guest speakers for future events. Details of these events will be advertised in the local rag as well as through the Society's newsletter.