

Newsletter August 2015.

Greetings to all members, most of whom are praying for rain. The fine weather has not encouraged visitors to the museum... they are too busy enjoying the unseasonal sunshine.

### **Coming to Old Police Station Museum .....**

The Australian National Maritime Museum has offered the Irwin District Historical Society the opportunity to exhibit the *War at Sea: the Navy in WW1*, a graphic panel display in December 2015 – February 2016. The travelling exhibition and panel display are sponsored by the Returned Services League. The maritime museum has provided marketing materials, an education pack and copies of five films, which can be screened at our museum. Also included are eight 1 x 1.5 metre banners.

The display will arrive in good time in order to build the exhibit and arrange showing of the films. This exhibit is in conjunction with the main exhibit which will be on display at WA Museum Geraldton at the same time. IDHS will meet the cost of hiring any machinery to show the films and printing advertising material.

*The War at Sea: the Navy in WW1* graphic display panel highlights the contribution the Royal Australian Navy made in the 'war to end all wars', less widely known than those of the soldiers at Gallipoli and the Western Front.

The main War at Sea exhibition will travel to approximately 10 venues in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, WA and Tasmania. The graphic panel display will travel to satellite venues (that's IDHS) near those locations to give visitors unable to see the travelling exhibition the opportunity to also experience this important story.

Exhibition content and interactive elements are also featured on the museum website:

<http://www.anmm.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/On-now/war-at-sea-the-navy-in-ww1>

The World War 1 Exhibition continues to interest visitors to the museum. Plans are under way to extend the display in 2016, and again in the latter years of the commemoration of the Great War. The War at Sea will complement the existing exhibition at Old Police Station Museum.

IDHS website has been upgraded to include the 1915 soldiers and their stories. Check it out at [www.irwinhistory.org.au](http://www.irwinhistory.org.au)

### **Outings.**

The Bookara Picnic at the end of May was enjoyed by a number of members, some of whom took advantage of the Sunday timing. The Seventh Day Adventist Church, Bookara Inn and Hunting Kangaroo Arms were just some of the places visited. Folk are still talking about the fabulous scones produced by Chris .... Many thanks from all.

Plans are afoot for a spring outing. Expressions of interest are called for a proposal to visit the Greenough Community Museum. If you are interested, please contact the museum on 99 271323, email – [idhs@midwest.com.au](mailto:idhs@midwest.com.au)

Expressions of interest are called from members interested in a proposed guided tour to Stockyard Gully in September. Cost for this tour will be \$75 per person. If you are interested please contact the museum on 99271323, or email [idhs@midwest.com.au](mailto:idhs@midwest.com.au)

### **Schools In**

School visits have kept museum staff busy with 42 in one visit ( two classes) which Lois, Shirley and Bob entertained with stories of the Great War, machinery and of course the games in the back yard. The purpose of the visit was to create an awareness of the war and assist students plan their entries into the Clem Burns Award. Mingenew Primary School also visited with the same purpose and also took in Russ Cottage and Denison House before a picnic in the park and returning inland. The same afternoon Years 8 and 9 Photography class, Dongara District High School, came armed with cameras to take some very interesting shots of buildings and objects from some extremely interesting angles. Some of the girls' work is on display in the Prisoner Day room.

### **Heritage Walk**

This leaflet has proved very popular over the years and about to have its third print run. Thanks are extended to Dongara Visitor Centre who sell many copies on our behalf. Other walk leaflets continue to interest visitors; these are printed by IDHS in house.

### **Cemetery Enhancement Project.**

Research has commenced on this project, identifying those Dongara people who were buried at Dongara Cemetery prior to 1940 and without headstones. This task is time consuming, using the extensive records held by IDHS and also will involve some visits to the cemetery.

### **Wise Guys**

This is an initiative of the Uniting Church to create awareness of the Advent Season. 26 Wise Guys will be placed around town, with a 'passport' for children to locate each Wise Guy, one of which will be resident at Old Police Station Museum for the advent period.

### **Seniors Week. 8 – 15 November 2015.**

IDHS will host a White Glove Tour on Friday 13 November at Old Police Station Museum. It is hoped many members and seniors will join in this special celebration of 'seniority'. More of this as the time approaches.

### **Recent Acquisitions.**

The collection has been boosted by several documents pertaining to St John's Anglican Church. Two paintings of the Dominican Priory have created great interest. A bag of embroidery and linen has also arrived.

Two men have joined our bevy of beauties. Many thanks are extended to corporate member Trudy and St John Ambulance. We will now be able to display men's garments more effectively.

A new computer printer has been purchased, giving excellent photographs for folk who order family photos.

### **Recent visitors.**

We welcomed Rev Rod Williams, who was locum at St John's church and assisted him with a power point presentation for the 130<sup>th</sup> celebration of the founding of the church. Elizabeth and Adrian Broad have been welcome visitors while they winter in the north. Roy Criddle also popped in, pleased to be enjoying the 'warmth' of Dongara. Roy's books are very popular and are available for sale at Old Police Station Museum. Of particular interest and topical, is *And Six Sons Went to War*, the story of six Criddle boys who fought in the Great War.

Several visits from folk looking for family sometimes sends up a bit of a flurry, but mostly they go away happy.

### **Coming Events.**

Thursday 6 August. Members are invited to attend a forum at WA Museum Geraldton with regard to the construction and content of the new WA Museum in Perth. This forum will take place on Thursday 6 August. More details are available from Old Police Station Museum.

**Spring events** – Late August, early September. Calls for expressions of interest.

4 - 6 September. Royal WA Historical Society Annual State Conference, Geraldton. Details available from Old Police Station Museum.

Tuesday 29 September. Shire of Irwin Heritage Award presentation – Irwin Rec Centre. All members are invited to attend this event.

Friday 16, Saturday 17 October. Museums Australia Mid west Chapter meeting, Carnarvon. Details available from Old Police Station.

Friday 13 November White Glove Tour, celebrating Seniors Week. Old Police Station Museum. Members and seniors of Dongara are invited to this event.