

## 2016 Annual Report for Chapman Valley Historical Society Museum Inc

The following members were elected for the year 2016.

**President:** Mrs Barbara Sheilds

**Vice President:** Mr Warren Kennedy

**Secretary:** Mrs Pam Batten

**Treasurer:** Mr John Stokes

**Management Committee:** Mr Lyall Gray, Mr Peter Batten, Mrs Jenny MacKay and Mrs Val Exten. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer form the Executive Committee and as per the CVHS Constitution, at least one will be a member of the Management Committee. In 2016 it was decided all should be.

**Membership:** There were 41 financial members of the Chapman Valley Historical Society Inc (CVHS) for the year 2016 and the membership fee was \$5.00. Meetings were well attended with an average of 18 members attending the four meetings held during the year. The CVHS renewed their membership with Museum's Australia and also renewed their membership to the Midwest Chapter of Museum's WA.

**Honorary Life Membership:** Was awarded to Mr Phillip Snell for his dedication and service to the CVHS since the Society was formed in the early 1980's. Phil was an inaugural member of the Chapman Valley Historical Society and President when the Society made the decision to start collecting objects and develop a Museum on the Reserve land at Nanson.

**Visitors to the Museum:** During 2016 there were 1126 people that visited the CVHS Museum. Nearly double what was recorded in 2015, but the recording in 2015 was not exact. A record is now being kept of the number of visitors each time the Museum is open. A member volunteered to open on a Saturday afternoon during the wildflower season and what is classed as the busier tourism months for this area. This was quite successful.

**Financial:** The Society was successful with a Federal Government Stronger Communities grant for \$5,000. Donations totalled \$2,727. Other revenue was \$9,043. An inventory and its value are being prepared and will be included in the 2017 Annual Report.

**Collection Policy:** The Management Committee continued to work within the guidelines of the Societies Collection Policy and the numbering and accessioning of objects were entered into the Ilyarie database programme.

**Acquisitions:** Various objects were considered for acquisition at the Museum and most were accepted. Following the Cathy Day workshop and the moving of objects, it was necessary for the changed locations of objects to be entered into the Ilyarie database programme

**Deductible Gift Recipient Status:** During 2016 much time was spent working towards this objective. The CVHS Inc now has an Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Number and DGR status. The ACNC number is 12 348 290 893.

**Management Licence with Chapman Valley Shire:** A Management Licence has been worked on in consultation with the CEO of the CV Shire. CV Council approved the Licence in December and it has gone to the Minister for Lands for approval and signing.

## **Workshops**

**Cathy Day Heritage Consultant:** In April a workshop was held with Heritage Consultant Cathy Day and members became far more conversant with the acquisition requirements of determining significance and provenance, following the workshop. The workshop was held over three days and funding was made possible through a Chapman Valley Shire Community Growth grant application. On the first day Cathy met with a few of the members to familiarise herself with the Museum and its history. On the second day Cathy did a presentation in the morning and a workshop in the afternoon. The community was invited to attend on this day. During the afternoon the process for accessioning donated objects was undertaken and members made decisions on a number of Museum acquisitions. On the final day Cathy worked with members to move items in the Museum shed to form more cohesive displays.

**Oral History:** A presentation was held at the Museum by Trudi Cornish from the Geraldton Library. This was organised through the Chapman Valley Shire and the CVHS hosted to morning. A few oral history interviews were conducted during the morning and the CVHS has been presented with a copy.

**Building Maintenance:** The Chapman Valley Shire undertook the necessary maintenance to ensure the Museum was kept extremely presentable to the wider community. Members continued to volunteer their services for cleaning and opening the Museum and many accolades were received for the cleanliness of the seven sheds that make up the Museum, the heritage listed Upper Chapman Road Board building, the Railway Carriage, the Arbour area and the Ted Porter Cottage. The pruning of the large gum trees along East Terrace by the Shire very much appreciated. A number of large branches were constantly falling from the trees. A possum was caught that has been living in the roof of the Road Board building but he or she is not the only one in the roof. The floor of Shed Number 4 was painted by a member and the paint purchased by the CVHS.

## **Grant Applications**

**Pathways:** A grant application for pathways at the Museum was submitted through the Federal Government Stronger Communities programme. We were successful with the grant application and \$5,000 was received. Members of the Society provided 113 voluntary hours, the CV Shire provided assistance to the value of \$1,244.50 and \$2,2487.00 was

provided from CVHS funds. The new pathways have provided greater mobility for visitors and ascetically they have linked the whole Museum together.

**Anzac Tribute:** Members have continued to research the ' WW1 Fallen Soldiers of the Upper Chapman District' planning to source funding for display boards and a structure to be built in the grounds of the Museum. The project is a tribute to those soldiers who lost their lives serving their country. An application for funding was submitted to Lotterywest late in 2016.

**Nanson Railway Bridge & Weighbridge:** Member John Sharpham worked on this project and submitted an application which was successful through the Chapman Valley Shire Community Growth Fund, for two display boards providing the history of both.

**Equipment:** Ten new chairs were purchased, a small ladder and a First Aid Kit from St John Ambulance Association through the Chapman Valley Sub branch. A flag with 'Open' on it was also purchased. This is now placed to capture the attention of motorists passing through.

**Donations:** A display cabinet was donated to the Museum and two CBH Grain Elevators were purchased by John Stokes as a donation to the Museum. It was envisaged they would be used for signage.

**Busy Bees:** 2016 has not been as busy as the previous year, but whenever it was necessary members have generously given of their time.

**Fundraising:** A Sausage Sizzle was once again held in Geraldton at Bunnings which proved to very successful, both financially promotionally.

**Group Visits to the Museum:** Villa Carlotta Touring Company visited the Museum during the months of August, September, October and November. Other groups to visit were the Harbour Pines, QE2 Seniors Group, Morawa Museum and Acadia Waters. The Midwest Chapter of Museums WA meeting was hosted by CVHS in April and the Midwest Development Commission Board visited in October. Yuna Primary School Junior class students visited as did the Chapman Valley school children.

**Other:** Investigation continues to be undertaken regarding volunteers living on the Reserve Land at CVHS Museum for up to 3 months. Approval for this to happen has been granted by the Shire of Chapman Valley. With such voluntary assistance it would mean the Museum could be open more often during winter months and the wildflower season.

Secretary Pam Batten

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