

2019 Annual Report for Chapman Valley Historical Society Inc

The following members were elected for the year 2019.

President: Mr Warren Kennedy

Vice President: Mr Peter Batten

Secretary: Mrs Pam Batten

Treasurer: Mr John Stokes

Assistant Secretary: Mrs Julie Clark.

Management Committee: Mrs Jennifer MacKay, Mrs Julie Clark, Mrs Coral Pridmore and Mr Robert MacKay were elected to this Committee. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer form the Executive of the Society and they are also members of the Management Committee as per the CVHS Constitution.

Membership: In 2019 there were two Life Members and 48 other members of the Chapman Valley Historical Society Inc (CVHS). The membership fee was \$5.00. There was an increase of six in membership, compared to the previous year. Meetings were well attended with an average of 14 members attending each of the five meetings held during the year. In 2019 the CVHS was a member of Museums Galleries Australia, the Midwest Chapter of Museums WA and paid for a Bronze membership with the Geraldton Visitor Centre.

Training for Members: During 2019 members took advantage of several training opportunities. The CVHS and the Geraldton Tourist Guides shared the cost of a member attending a website and Facebook workshop in Geraldton. The workshop was conducted by Tourism WA. The CVHS member found the Website session on SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) and Google Analytics of great benefit. A grant writing workshop was hosted by the Shire of Chapman Valley and two members attended. Three members attended an 'Open the Doors Digital Storytelling' workshop at the City of Greater Geraldton Library. The two-day workshop was conducted by AMaGA WA (Australian Museums and Galleries Western Australia). The fee was paid for two members to take part in online webinars covering 'Copyright' issues. The webinar was conducted in two parts, on two separate days, by Museums & Galleries Australia. Both participants agreed the issue of Copyright is a mine field. A member was one of four people sponsored by the Shire of Chapman Valley to attend a Governance workshop/breakfast.

Volunteers Morning Tea: A morning tea was held in May, focusing on celebrating volunteering in the district. It was extremely well attended; five new memberships were received and there was some interest expressed regarding volunteering at the Heritage Centre.

Financial: The Society was successful with one grant application during 2019. This was a \$3,000 grant for a mural which has enhanced the shearing display in Shed 4 of the Heritage Centre. The CVHS contributed a similar amount of funding to the project. The CVHS funded a new roof and

insulation to Shed 1 and covered the machinery door to Shed 2 at a nett cost of \$14,498.13. Work has also been undertaken to improve the floor in Shed 1 and the cost for this was \$1,391.97. Donations for the year totalled \$4869.52, which includes the donations received for entry to the Museum. Purchases of new equipment during 2019 totalled \$1656.03. \$993.51 was invested by the Society in the replacement of Binders and Archival Sleeves to 72 display files. With all the 2019 improvements to infrastructure, equipment and displays at the Heritage Centre, there was a deficit of \$16,418.64 to the CVHS account.

Fundraising: A Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Geraldton was held again this year, proving to be very successful, both financially and promotionally. All fundraising is input credited.

Insurance & Utility Charges: The premiums for the three policies in the name of the Chapman Valley Historical Society Inc are paid by the Shire of Chapman Valley and the Shire of Chapman Valley insures the buildings on Reserve 13226 of the 'Heritage Precinct'. The cost of the three insurance policies was \$5,502.63. The Shire also pays for the power each year and in 2019 Utility Charges totalled \$1,354.38.

The Insurance Policies are;

- Business Pack Insurance Policy covering Fire and Peril on the contents of \$150,000, removal of debris \$25,000, theft of \$10,000 with forcible entry and \$2,500 without forcible entry. Electronic Equipment Breakdown of \$5,000. Upper Chapman WWI Fallen Soldiers Tribute is insured for \$14,000.
- Public Liability Insurance Policy for \$10 million.
- Voluntary Workers Compensation Policy.

Grant Applications:

Geraldton Bendigo Community Bank: The CVHS was successful in a grant application for \$3,000 to part fund a mural in Shed 4.

Federal Government Stronger Communities Grant Application: The CVHS applied to Round 5 of this grant opportunity through the office of the Federal Member for Durack Melissa Price. We were not successful in the application for a new roof and insulation to Shed 1 of the Heritage Centre, as the allocation of funds to the electorate was only \$150,000 and applications totalling nearly \$1 million were received.

Equipment Improvements to the Museum:

- Twenty Chairs.
- A new television to show heritage photos was purchased.
- Five dress models were donated by the Geraldton branch of Noni B.

- A sea container was donated to the CVHS by the Midwest Cultural & Heritage Group. The Society paid for the transport of the sea-container to the Heritage Precinct.
- The City of Greater Geraldton installed new shelving in May and the CVHS took advantage of choosing 8 sections of timber shelving. The shelving was available to community groups at no charge.
- A new 'Open Flag' for the roadside was purchased.
- Replacement of Binders and Archival Sleeves. \$993.51 was spent on this project. 72 A4 Ring Binders were purchased, 17 boxes (1,700) A4 display sleeves, 1 box of laminating pouches, 5 A3 Ring Binders, 5 boxes of A3 display sleeves and Sand colour photocopy paper in both A4 and A3 size.
- A stainless steel barbecue was installed in the grounds of the Heritage Precinct in March.
- A lifter and chain to assist with movement of objects at the Heritage Centre was purchased.

Donations:

Visitors to the Museum: During 2019 there were 1100 visitors to the CVHS Museum. This figure is slightly more than the 1041 visitors of 2018. The Museum was opened by CVHS volunteers on Wednesdays between 9.00am and 3.00pm and on Sundays from 1.00pm until 4.00pm from the month of April through until the end of November.

Volunteer Caretakers: We had two volunteer caretakers during 2019. Both were males and one volunteered from June until July and then the other from the end of July until the end of September. The Heritage Centre was opened for three hours on five days of the week by the volunteer caretakers.

Group Visits to the Museum:

- An 80th Birthday was catered for at the Heritage Centre in May.
- Cervantes Seniors Group visited in May.
- Villa Carlotta Touring Company visited the Museum in September.
- Dongara Autumn Group visited in September.
- A Pensioner Group visited in September.
- St Francis Xavier Primary School in October.
- Geraldton Community Care Social Club in October.
- Bambi Child Care Centre in October.
- Geraldton Silver Chain in November.
- Shire of Chapman Valley Seniors event held at Heritage Centre in November.

Collection Policy: The Management Committee continues to work within the guidelines of the Society's Collection Policy.

Acquisitions: Various objects were considered for acquisition at the CVHS Museum and 57 donations were accepted and acquisitioned in 2019. A highlight for 2019 was the donation of the Geraldton Tomato Gardeners machinery by the Geraldton Historical Society. Members enjoyed Stan and Joy Gratte joining us for morning tea and informing members of the history of the pieces of machinery.

Midwest Chapter of Museums WA: Delegates from the CVHS attended and reported to the meeting held at Walkway in April. There were no members available to attend the Annual meeting in October, held in Wubin. A report was provided for the meeting.

Building Maintenance: The Chapman Valley Shire continues to undertake any necessary maintenance to the Museum buildings. New LED lighting was installed in Shed 1. Members continued to provide valuable voluntary service towards cleaning and opening the Museum and accolades continue to be received for the cleanliness of the 'Heritage Precinct'.

Busy Bees: When it has been necessary members have given generously of their time. A busy bee was held to cut back the trees in the grounds of the Heritage Precinct. We were very thankful for the donation and the use of a machine from a business in Geraldton. This ensured the task was undertaken safely by the volunteers.

Projects

CVHS Website: Developed in 2018, the website continues to be managed by a member. We were delighted in 2019 when we were contacted by the State Library of WA, requesting to archive the website with Pandora. A 'Copyright Licence' between both parties was signed. The archiving has ensured the Chapman Valley History website of the CVHS will remain on the web for 100 years. The link to the Pandora website for the CVHS listing is <http://nla.gov.au/nla.arc-176568>

Shearing Display Mural: This project was approved in 2018 and officially unveiled in August 2019. The mural is three separate shearing scenes, painted on three wooden panels prepared by CVHS members. Two local artists painted the shearing scenes.

State Heritage Award: This was applied for in 2018 and awarded in March 2019. A 'Commendation Framed Certificate' was received. The judges commented that all finalist entries in the Community-based Organisation category were of a high standard and difficult to judge.

Other 2019 Happenings & Achievements:

Samille Mitchell from the ABC prepared a short video about the Heritage Centre at Nanson and it was posted on the ABC Facebook page. This took place following the announcement of the 2019

State Heritage Awards and the CVHS success. Samille also prepared a video on the story of the Beaufort Bomber crash on Carney Hill Farm during WWII. Delma Attrill had been interviewed by Samille and the story was also posted on the ABC Facebook page. There were over 4,000 views of this video and 3,000 of the CVHS video.

The Fallen Soldier's Tribute is an historical site and has been registered on the 'Places of Pride' website. This was done following a woman speaking on the ABC radio encouraging organisations to register 'Places of Pride'.

A 'History Group' was formed of CVHS members to plan and research the history of the Chapman Valley district since 1998.

A small booklet of photos, with the names of wildflowers in the district was prepared in-house and over 90 photos placed on USB's for sale at the CVHS Heritage Centre.

Two Activity Sheets have been developed for children visiting the Heritage Centre. One for the younger children and a more detailed sheet for older children.

A special display was mounted at the Heritage Centre to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Chapman Valley Agricultural Society.

We were visited by two members of the Vintage Wireless & Gramophone Club of WA. Richard Rennie & Rodney House provided valuable information on the care of the two historic gramophones that we have at the Heritage Centre. Rodney House serviced both gramophones free of charge.

In the November monthly newsletter of AMaGA WA, a CVHS photograph of the Mining Arms Hotel in Nabawa was featured. The building was purchased in 1889 and the photograph was taken in 1913 after renovations.

Christmas Luncheon: There was no Christmas luncheon in 2019 due to the decision to remove all objects from Shed 1, in readiness for the installation of the new roof and insulation.

Secretary Pam Batten

March 2020