

2020 Annual Report for Chapman Valley Historical Society Inc

The following members were elected for the year 2020.

President: Mr Warren Kennedy

Vice President: Mr Peter Batten

Secretary: Mrs Pam Batten

Treasurer: Mr John Stokes

Management Committee: Mrs Jennifer MacKay, Mrs Julie Clark, Mrs Dorothy Stokes and Mr Robert MacKay were elected to this Committee. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are also members of the Management Committee as per the CVHS Constitution.

Membership: In 2021 there were two Life Members and 41 other members of the Chapman Valley Historical Society Inc (CVHS). This figure was 7 less than last year and that could be contributed to Covid restrictions. The membership fee was \$5.00. Due to Covid restrictions the Annual meeting was not held until June and the Museum/Heritage Centre opened to the public on the 12th July. Three general meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 14 members. In 2020 the CVHS paid a membership to Museums Galleries Australia and the Midwest Chapter of Museums WA.

Training for Members: Training was limited in 2020 due to Covid but two members participated in the Collections WA training. One member registered for the launch and an overview of the Collections WA site. The following month there was a training session via Zoom, which the member participated in. In October 2020, two members attended the training held in Geraldton by Collections WA AMaGA WA team members. Collections WA is an online searchable platform that brings together the many different collections held across Western Australia.

Volunteers Morning Tea: There was no 'Volunteer Morning Tea' held in 2020 as the Museum/Heritage Centre was closed due to Covid restrictions. We did participate in **International Museum Day** during May. Over the 5-day period commencing 18th May, 5 acquisitions from the Database were posted to the CVHS Facebook page. This proved that interest could be kept in the 'Heritage Precinct' by Virtual means. The Chamberlain tractor had the most views with nearly 1,000 viewers.

Financial: The Society was successful with one grant application during 2020. This was a \$1,000 grant from the Shire of Chapman Valley Community Growth fund, for signage applicable to the Tomato Gardeners machinery display and the 2019 acquisitioned water boring plant. Donations for the year totalled \$3,485.07, which includes the donations received for entry to the Museum. Expenses were \$3,793.14 and the majority of this figure was for displays, equipment, and improvements. There was a surplus change in the closing balance of the Society account of \$4,364.57.

Fundraising: The annual Sausage Sizzle normally held at Bunnings Geraldton was cancelled due to Covid restrictions. As the CVHS Sausage Sizzle was listed to be held before the end of June, a \$500 voucher to be used in the store, was received in lieu of the lost fundraising opportunity. Equipment for the Museum/Heritage Centre was purchased with the voucher.

Insurance & Utility Charges: The premiums for the three policies in the name of the Chapman Valley Historical Society Inc was paid once again by the Shire of Chapman Valley. The Shire of Chapman Valley insures the buildings on Reserve 13226 of the 'Heritage Precinct'. The cost of the three insurance policies was \$5,747.00. The Shire also pays for the power each year and in 2020 the amount paid for 'Utilities & Other' totalled \$1,363.00.

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:

Shire of Chapman Valley Community Growth Fund: The CVHS was successful in a grant application for \$1,000 for display signage.

Improvements to the Museum:

- Shelving was donated by Wayne & Sandra Brown.
- 5 Display cabinets were donated by Milton and Sandra Harrison.
- A large, water-cooled air-conditioner was donated by Robbie Barnettson from Geraldton Transport. This was installed at the end of Shed 2 and an external power point was financed by the Shire of Chapman Valley.
- A 'Disability Ramp' was added to the heritage listed Road Board building. This project was completed by the Shire of Chapman Valley through the Shires Geraldton Corrective Services programme.

Visitors to the Museum: During 2020 there were 502 visitors to the CVHS Museum. This figure is half the number of the 2019 visitors. The Museum was opened by CVHS volunteers on Wednesdays between 9.00am and 12 noon and on Sundays from 1.00pm until 4.00pm from the 12th July through until the end of November.

Volunteer Caretakers: We did not advertise for a volunteer caretaker this year due to Covid restrictions.

Group Visits to the Museum:

- 84 children from Geraldton Grammar School visited in August.
- Villa Carlotta Touring Company visited the Museum/Heritage in August.

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 21 donations were accepted and acquisitioned in 2020. A highlight of 2020 was the visit by Roz Lipscombe, Manager Regional WA Museum, when 80 photos of CVHS acquisitions were taken by a professional photographer. Four of the CVHS acquisitions were chosen to be placed on the WA Museum Tourism Portal with their stories. The stories were written by Samille Mitchell. The objects chosen were the Jim Berry Pharmacy Ride-on Elephant, a tractor from the Clarrie Milne Collection, a handbag crafted by Mrs Maude Gould from string and bush button nuts and the hot pink lace slacksuit donated by Pam Batten. The WA Museum Tourism Portal and the visits to regional museums is a State Government funded initiative to promote regional museums.

Midwest Chapter of Museums WA: There were no Chapter meetings during 2020 due to Covid restrictions.

Building Maintenance: The Chapman Valley Shire continues to undertake any necessary maintenance to the Museum buildings. The installation of the LED lighting to Shed 1 was the major maintenance undertaken in 2020. 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: Once again members have given generously of their time. Before Covid lock down a busy bee was held in March in readiness for opening. On the 24th May there was a 14-hour period of exceptionally strong winds, which covered and filled the 'Heritage Precinct' with fine dust. It was a massive effort by volunteers to clean the Museum/Heritage Centre once again, before opening in July.

Projects

New Logo for Museum/Heritage Centre: Following the suggestion in 2019 that the complex at Nanson has become more than a museum and the decision that it now be referred to as the 'Heritage Centre', the logos were updated at no charge by Jess Hadley from Art Gecko.

CVHS Website: Developed in 2018, the website continues to be managed by a member. In 2019 the website was archived through the WA State Library with Pandora. The CVHS listing is <http://nla.gov.au/nla.arc-176568>.

History Database: There were several updates and improvements to the software during 2020 by Graham Grundy.

Christmas Luncheon: There was no Christmas luncheon in 2020 due to Covid restrictions.

Covid Requirements & Safety: 2020 has been a difficult year for volunteers to make decisions, not only for their own Covid safety, but for the safety of visitors to the Museum/Heritage Centre. We have complied to State Government Covid requirements with the assistance of the Shire of Chapman Valley.

Secretary Pam Batten

March 2021