

The Village Clarion



LOXTON COMMUNITY HERITAGE GROUP

NEWSLETTER No. 4

JUNE 2024

A VERY BUSY THREE MONTHS...

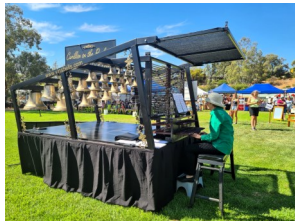
What a busy three months we have had this quarter!

ALIVE DAY AT EASTER

First the Alive Day was a huge success even though it was one of the hottest Alive Days we have had at Easter!

The attendance was in excess of 670 visitors and we had some new areas of interest.

The Carillon Bells (right) were an unusual attraction and very well received.



Also the photography booth where visitors were invited to dress up in old yester-year clothes was a very popular site. Michelle Gray, the Photographer, produced beautiful sepia



photos for those visitors who were brave enough to don the old-style clothes on such a hot day.

Patsy, of course, was still very popular and that dear Clydesdale persevered pulling the visitor-laden cart up and down the Main Street of the Village all day.

It was a great day enjoyed by so many.



HISTORY MONTH BUS TRIP TO ALAWOONA

This year, to celebrate History Month, a number of people went on a bus tour to Alawoona via Malpas returning through Veitch. Always a popular event, most of the travellers were past residents of these places and had many stories to tell on the way.



They enjoyed morning tea served in the Alawoona Institute and toured around the area visiting the Cemetery, old School site and the Vietnam Veteran's Outback Camp (Camp Andrew Russell), as well as touring the sites of the railway siding hearing stories of the 'good old days' when Alawoona was a very busy place.



BRIDAL GOWNS OF YESTERYEAR EVENT...

Our biggest event of all was the Bridal Gowns of Yesteryear Event held recently in the Village Institute.

There were 12 lovely models wearing gowns that had been found when the LCHG first moved into the Village plus gowns that were loaned for the day from Friends of the Village.



👉 The final presentation of models, helpers and assistants after the parade.

The event was attended by 80 paid guests plus helpers and models. The 12 girls (some from Adelaide and Interstate) arrived at the Village in Vintage and Classic cars and were assisted by two young gentlemen dressed in top hats and tails. The gowns ranged from the 1920s through to the 1960s and three of these were worn by descendants of the original brides.



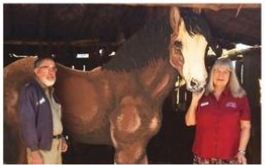
Although the borrowed gowns have been returned to their owners, a display of gowns found here at the Village is still in the Institute until the end of July to allow those who missed out on

tickets for the event to see the dresses and some of the decorations from the day.



OUR NEW ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE...

Meet "Bonnie"



Come & visit the Stables and meet our new horse!

A large Clydesdale horse exhibit was recently installed at the Loxton Historical Village. Village Carpenter - Chris Georg built the horse, which was designed and painted by Village Co-ordinator & Artist - Julie Noble. 79 suggested names for the new horse were received at our recent Alive Day, with the winning name "Bonnie" being chosen as a reference to the Clydesdale breed of horse, through the American bandit couple, Bonnie & Clyde.

It has been well-received by visitors and stands proudly in the Stables on display.



COMPLETION OF THE STORAGE SHED

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, the **History Trust of South Australia** through a 'MaC SmartyGrants' had presented the Historical Village with a grant of \$20,000 towards building a new Storage Unit in a section of the Men's Shed.

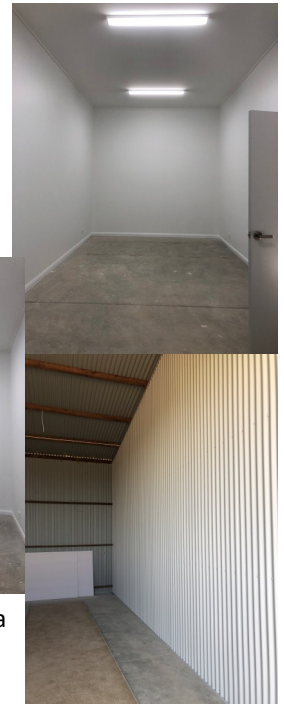
This unit has been finally completed and the work of storing goods will begin shortly. The first exercise will be to build shelving for storage purposes, then to transfer stores to the new area.

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful help and support that the **History Trust of South Australia** has given the LHV with this huge grant and we look forward to putting the storage unit to good use.

The unit will be air conditioned with a controlled atmosphere to make sure that all items of value will be kept in good condition.



Two views of the empty storage area and dividing wall



AND COMPLETION OF THE RAILWAY LINE

After a lot of work, the railway line replacement of the sleepers has been finalized including the cross over giving access to the fruit packing area, etc. The volunteers have worked hard to replace old wooden sleepers (that had rotted and worn away) with steel sleepers from the original Yinkanie line. They have managed to have the line repaired in readiness for the centenary celebrations of when it was first laid between Yinkanie and Wanbi line opened on 4th September 1925 and closed May 1st 1971.



NEW THATCHING IS ON ITS WAY

We are so grateful to a Friend of the Village who does not live locally but is very passionate to assist.

Ian Wedding has supplied the Village with bales of new hay, plus helped to re-thatch the roofs of the Barn and the Mallee Root Shed and after completing his farm duties, will be back to complete the large thatched roof in the Agriculture area as well as the small garden gazebo situated behind the entrance area.

To show our appreciation, Ian was presented with a Certificate of thanks at our recent Volunteers Thank You Night.



MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS:

Just a quick note that each month reminders are sent either by email or by text or snail mail (usually 12 months after you have joined as a member) to say that it is time to renew your membership. Current membership is \$15 for individuals— \$30 for family—and we now have a small card that can be shown each time that you come to the Village. This membership allows you to visit the Village at any time when it is open (including 'Alive Days') and it is a great way to enjoy the garden area on pleasant days with a picnic byo lunch and of course, access to all the interesting sites.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Are you bored with nothing to do? Why not think of volunteering! We are all part of a friendly group and have lots of fun working together towards making the Village the best display of its kind and keeping the stories of the past alive and well! If you are interested, come and join the volunteers on Tuesday or Wednesday at morning tea to see what it is all about. You would be made very welcome!



LAUGH A MINUTE:



I could not afford an Ancestry DNA Kit so I announced that I had won the lottery and soon found out who all my relatives were!

Today a woman knocked on my door asking for a small donation towards the local swimming pool.

I gave her a glass of water—I just love supporting the community!

How does a polygamist Hippie count his wives?

One Mrs Hippie..., two Mrs Hippie..., three Mrs Hippie...



👉 Not every volunteer gets to play with the 'train set'!



👉 Appreciation for a job well-done - netting and thatching



👉 Alawoona Trip - the old Church and the Vietnamese Memorial



👉 The Bridal Event

