

We wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2024.



Looking back over the past twelve months, such a lot has been happening at the Historical Village.

Earlier in the year we returned all items after the waters had subsided from the floods but prior to this (while we were forced to close through loss of power, etc.) we had a visit from the Governor General His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley, his wife and entourage. They came to the Village whilst in the Riverland to observe the flood damage when the river was at its highest.

For the Volunteers, it was an exciting experience as we joined the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley in a sing-song at the end of the visit (great fun –something that Mrs Hurley is well known to do.)



As reported in our first Newsletter, this has been a year of significant events: the lifting of the Taplan Time Capsule; our 50<sup>th</sup> Year celebrations on the Alive Day in September (with another VIP visit, this time from the Governor of South Australia Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC) – another delightful personality who made the Alive Day very special for all who attended.

Other events were:



## A SPECIAL DAY FOR THE GARDEN FESTIVAL

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, we participated in the Riverland Garden Festival holding a very successful day with various stalls in the Institute where Jetty Baks held demonstrations. There were three sessions, all very well attended with an enthusiastic audience enjoying the displays of various types of posies made with mostly native plants and a special demonstration on how to make a ball of succulents.



Accompanying these demonstrations, Devonshire teas were supplied along with other stalls making it a very special day for all who attended.

## RAILWAY SLEEPERS REPAIRED AND REPLACED

A team of Volunteers set to work sorting and collecting the better sleepers (121 in total) that were used originally on the Yinkanie line and had been stored on a property nearby.

These sleepers will be used to replace the many worn-out and deteriorated sleepers that hold the railway lines at the Village. (During Alive Days visitors can see the small shuttle making its way along these lines that are part of the Railway Display at the Village.)



👉 Loading the heavy sleepers



👉 Clearing the tracks and ready to work on the lines.



👉 Sleepers stacked and ready to go

## ALLAN HUCKS MEMORIAL

The engine shed (where Allan loved to show the engines in working order) was renamed “Allan Hucks Engine Shed” in a dedication ceremony on November 2<sup>nd</sup> with a number of Allan’s relatives in attendance.

There is now a permanent Memorial Sign with a lovely photo standing next to one of the engines. This was unveiled at the ceremony by his family. And yet to be completed there will also be a sign hung above naming the shed – all in his memory.



As mentioned in Newsletter No. 1 other activities during the year were the History Bus Tour to Taplan and the new glass panels in some of the buildings. The Coronation Day was also a great success (see all photos on page 3). So, there are always exciting things happening and improvements being done.

## THE NETTING OVER THE ORCHARD

For many years now, the Volunteers have been fighting a battle with the flocks of cockies that have chosen the trees on the banks of the river nearby to make their viewing points and when the fruit in the Village's orchard has become ripe, they have enjoyed the varieties there with a free will as there was no way to prevent this from happening.



But not anymore! With thanks to our lovely Volunteers led by Jim West and Bruce Tonkin there is now netting over all the special historic trees that are there in the hope that with care and good control, the orchard will be able to produce fruit that visitors can enjoy.

We are also hoping to make jams and preserves on the Village premises to sell.



## OUR FIRST GIANT GARAGE SALE – A HUGE SUCCESS



As previously mentioned in our last Newsletter, the Garage Sale was held on November 18<sup>th</sup> with many, many items going to new homes for alternative uses. As is commonly known, one man's trash is another man's treasure so quite a lot of goods that were no longer needed at the Historical Village were sold that day raising a large amount of money that may go towards lining a storage shed which is planned to keep items that are not currently displayed need repairs or more specifically, for times like last year when the river is in flood, and we need a safe place to store precious goods.



## 50<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATIONS

Of course, our Alive Day in September celebrated 50 years since the Historical Village was opened to the very day. With perfect weather, a special visitor to open the event and a large number of visitors it was an exceptional success. Our own book, "50 Years Loxton Historical Village" was launched on the day (and is now on sale in the Entrance Shop for \$20 – well worth the read!)



## INTERESTING STATISTICS FOR 2023:

Despite the fact that we were closed during the floods, from 20<sup>th</sup> December to 14<sup>th</sup> March and Covid prevented school visits until late June, this year we hosted the following events later in the year:

- 8 School Visits
- 17 Bus Tours or Groups
- 10 Parties/Fundraising Events
- 7 Car Clubs
- 6 Discos for Gum Tree (*social group for the intellectually disabled.*)
- 2 Dance Rehearsals

Current Membership numbers are:

- Individual Members: 96
- Family Members: 11
- Individual year passes: 45
- Family year passes: 26



As mentioned in our last Newsletter, we encourage people to join as Members (Cost: \$15) which entitles them to come to the Village as often as they wish during the year and they will receive a Newsletter on a regular basis to keep them updated on what is happening there, (or yearly passes are available for those who do not wish to receive this Newsletter or other information.)



## LAUGH A MINUTE

One Christmas, a mother asked her young daughter if she could name two of Santa's reindeer. "Rudolph and Olive" replied the young girl confidently. "Rudolph and Olive?" said the mother, quizzically. "Are you sure?" "Yes, mum, Rudolph, and Olive. Like in the song." "The song?" asked the mother. "What song?" The girl sang, "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose. And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows. Olive the other reindeer..."

Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.



The Loxton Historical Village Management Committee wish to all a Very Merry Christmas and look forward to a Bright and Prosperous New Year!





# 2023 IN PICTURES



**The Governor-General's visit  
(and the water damage – cellar and stump shed)**



**Alive Day: L: the Cake; Centre: the Governor's arrival and  
R: Her Excellency receives a souvenir card printed on the day**



**The King's Coronation  
Celebrations**

**Raising the Time Capsule**

**Pots for sale on Garden Day**



**Museum Changes**

**Car Club Visit**

**Glass Panel in the  
Carpenter/Shoe Shop**

**History Book**