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1922 Fordson tractor: believed to be the first wheeled tractor in the Oberon district.

From the President

If you are getting this newsletter it is because you have been added to our membership contact list. Welcome to the museum and thank you for your support.

Much has happened in our first six weeks. We were determined to reopen the museum ASAP, and this caused a flurry of activity including a revamp of the toilets, a new entrance sign and a major tidy up and dust. We opened the gates on March 2nd in conjunction with the Skoda Museum opening, and welcomed quite a few visitors during the weekend.

Much work has been done by Maree extracting provenance and working history of the outside machinery, and we can now provide interpretation for many of these items.

Sub-committees have been formed to focus on different areas that need attention in the museum, and there is an interesting job for everyone if you would like to come along and help.

Our priorities in the first 12 months will be:-

- Preservation, display and interpretation.
- Review of financials
- Reconnecting with the community

I look forward to discussing our plans for the Museum with you at our next gathering on March 24th at 4.00pm at the Museum.

Col Roberts

New Management Committee

After almost a year of closure an Annual General Meeting was held in early February and the new management committee was elected. It consists of:

President: Col Roberts

Vice-President: Laurie McMahon

Secretary: Pam Dellow

Acting Treasurer: Col Roberts

Committee:

Maree Arrow (also Publicity Officer)

Warren Rawson

Astrid Kriening

Since our financial year goes from July to June, our next AGM will need to be held about September this year.

Ray McMahon has stepped back from the committee and taken on the role of Heritage Advisor. Both Ray and Laurie McMahon have enormous amounts of background knowledge on museum items and this is mostly stored in their heads! Thankfully their memories are very sharp but nevertheless we are busy recording this knowledge so it can be displayed and passed on to visitors via a variety of media.



Pam updating membership records

Membership

So far, after less than six weeks, our membership has climbed to 58. The Committee hopes some of you will be interested in joining working parties which will focus on things like the streetscape; the Cottage; grounds and maintenance; outdoor displays and documentation; publicity and finance; and rosters for opening days, to name just a few. We have already had volunteers coming forward to help which is fantastic.

We would also like your help in canvassing for new members. Application forms can be obtained from the library, the St Vincent de Paul shop and from Committee members.



Mark Kellam & Col digging holes for the new sign



Ray getting Council's second motorised grader working

Oberon Township in the 1930s

Back in 1987 the Oberon Day Care group undertook the task of recreating the Oberon township as it was in the 1930s. They used their own memories and those of older people, including Auntie Ollie, plus old photographs, and over a little more than 12 months created some fantastic pottery replicas of town buildings, including snakes on woodheaps and numerous backyard dunnies! The original "model" is showing its age and Brenda Lyon (who was the Day Care co-ordinator at the time), Sue Roberts and Pam Dellow have been "breathing new life" into the display. This is an ongoing task involving a lot of time and effort - there are some 2,000 pottery pieces. The museum has a list of all the people involved in the original project.



Sue & Brenda hard at work!

Opening Times

- 1st Saturday of the month: noon - 4.00pm
- Sundays: 10.30am - 4.00pm
- (March only: Sat. March 16th, 10.30am - 4.00pm)
- Other times by appointment.

Date to remember:

General meeting of Museum members: **Sunday, March 24, 4.00pm**, at the Museum. Enter via Scotia Avenue