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From the President

Even though the museum has been closed to the public due to the Covid 19 restrictions, things have still been bubbling away in the background.

Sue and Janet have used the time to go through the bottle collection. This is a mammoth job that could only be done without the public around. As a consequence nearly 2000 bottles have been checked against the Register and sorted. The exercise showed what an amazing collection we have and how many have been donated to the museum.

The virus restrictions have held up negotiations that will help us manage items 'on loan' to the museum. As restrictions are lifted sufficiently the opportunity will be taken to meet with the Mc Mahon Family to discuss this issue.

Hamish and I had a video meeting with Council representatives to discuss the immediate past and future of the museum and administration costs associated with keeping the Museum open. Some options have been discussed and I am pleased to say we had a fair hearing, and were encouraged to continue with our plans.

The museum received news in April that its application for funds under the Community Building Partnerships has been successful. These funds have been obtained to carryout essential maintenance repairs to our cottage. The cottage is in need of work to keep it weather proof and

structurally sound. This work will start when contractors are able to inspect the work required.

Councils Development Officer Matt Webb held a meeting prior to the restrictions to discuss with the towns museums and markets some funding for signage. We agreed on a project for a Museums and Markets Trail which Matt will coordinate, and Museums were asked to submit proposals for signage and interpretation. The District Museum was subsequently given funds for new entrance signs, for brochures and for enlarged images in the pavilion. We are grateful for this opportunity and I am sure what we have in mind in the pavilion will be impressive.

What's happening to the new sheds you say. Well, to get Construction Certificated from Council further engineering specifications had to be met. The new enclosed shed has now been submitted for a Construction Certificate. Unfortunately the open sided shed we have in kit form cannot meet latest snow loading requirements and the committee is in the process of negotiating a solution. Stay tuned on this one.

All up there is plenty to do in the future so we look forward to your continued support when our working bees are again possible and when we can open to the public .

Col Roberts

Blacksmiths shed

Over the past 12 months some of the working bee members have been focusing on tidying up the blacksmiths shed. Items have been checked against the register, sorted and cleaned and the shed walls have had a paint job! The U3A Heritage Machinery Restoration Group, who now call themselves the "Rusty Restorers", have been trying to get the bellows working again, so all in all, there's the prospect that this shed will be open once again for public viewing sometime in the not too distant future.



Historic Photos

Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown Pam Dellow managed to get the bulk of the wall photos reframed and relabelled - another big job that had to be achieved at little cost. There are still a few to go but most of the job is done - at least till we are flush with funds that would enable a much fancier approach!

We are always on the lookout for good photos - particularly of the township of Oberon and the villages, of agricultural pursuits and early industry... If you have any that you think might be worth displaying please let us know - we'd love to scan them.



Other projects

Col has been busy repainting the walls in the main pavilion - a job he needs to finish while the

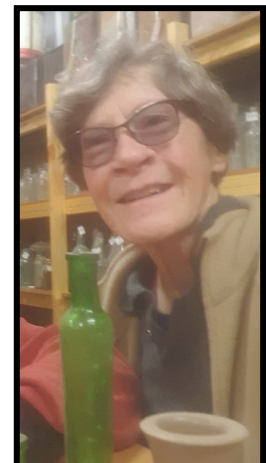
museum is closed and before the cold weather sets in. It's amazing how much a coat of fresh paint "lifts" a room.

Other committee members have been trying to wash and clean old bottles now that Sue and Janet have finished checking them off against the register. This cleaning is a necessary but time consuming task - let Sue know if you have any tips, or if you would like to help. Also, the museum is on the lookout for unwanted aquariums - these make excellent display cases and we think the bottles will look great behind glass. This also provides some security particularly for the very small bottles.



Museum re-opening soon!

Some restrictions are due to be lifted on June 1st, so **the Museum will re-open on Saturday June 6th and Sunday June 7th.** We are on the lookout for members who are prepared to volunteer their time on Sundays (10.30am - 4.00pm), and the first Saturday of the month (10.00am - 2.00pm), to open the doors to the public. Ring Pam on **0418 671 754** if you can help. Similarly, working bees will recommence in June, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 10.00am to 1.00pm. We hope that members will come along - there are always heaps of things that need to be done. Just ask Sue, who was busy washing down partitions in the Cottage, and Janet who has been helping sort the bottle collection!



Remember: Museum re-opens on June 6th & 7th. Working bees re-start on Tuesday June 9th.