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From the President, Col Roberts

The visit by the Mayor and Australia Day ambassador Robina Beard was a January highlight with both very interested in our progress and Robina fascinated by our displays and their stories.

A great deal has been happening at the museum during January and February. Thanks to the generosity of Borg Panels, we have had a pack of Structafor delivered to line the Forest and Timber Pavilion. Our volunteers have now completed this process including trim to the windows, doors and display tables. This has been a great effort by both our regular volunteers and a few ring ins. We are now in a position to plan our display. The Forestry Corporation and Borg Panels have both agreed to explain and display in video, text and photos etc. their role in the local forest and timber industry. On the historical side a number of 'Indicative Draft' panels have been put up to help plan the look of the eventual historical display. To finalise and open the pavilion we are hoping to get funding for electricity and the final display panels. Well done our museum volunteers! Anyone who has old forestry or timber industry related items that might be of interest to this display can make contact with me or a committee member.

During the same period a number of authorised loads of machinery left the museum. This was part of a negotiated machinery agreement. The agreement ensured the museum retained items of

machinery it wanted, and the outcome, which is nearly completed, is a tidier more manageable precinct.

We have had a steady stream of visitors coming through the gates on weekends and three groups of visitors lining up for the next month.

This newsletter is also to promote our current 100 Club fundraiser. So don't miss out on your tickets and the very good odds a ticket offers.

The 'Rusty Restorers' continue to work on our machinery. This group are doing a great job getting items back into working condition. Their current project will see the little green Fordson tractor with its repaired mudguards, painted and on its new plinth at the entrance to the museum. The Rusty's are still in need of workshop items for their new workshop at the museum, so if you have anything that could be useful to them, please contact Tim Arnison.

100 Club raffle (to be drawn on April 18th)

Our first 100 club raffle took place last year and the lucky winner was Roger Arrow. This is one of the Museum's few fundraising opportunities, apart from membership fees and visitors' entry fees. Tickets are \$20 and only 100 tickets will be sold. 1st prize will be \$750, and second prize will be \$250. If you would like to be part of this raffle contact Secretary Pam Dellow on 0418 671 754, or Vice President Denise Harper on 0400 666 215.

The Forest and Timber Pavilion

Our last newsletter contained some photos of the newly constructed building. Lots of work has happened in the meantime and the interior is starting to take shape.



The top two photos show the beginnings of the timber and forestry display while the bottom photo celebrates some of Oberon's railway history.

As well, part of this building will house a workshop where volunteers can work on restoration projects instead of having to use their own sheds and equipment. To that end, the museum is hoping that some community members may have workshop equipment they are prepared to donate. If you can help out please contact Tim Arnison on 0428250402.

Photographic Displays

Pam Dellow has been working on these displays for some time now and the project is nearing completion. The museum has some wonderful photos of early Oberon and Pam's work has ensured that these are being displayed to their best advantage. Of course, if she had tons of money she would be putting them all in new frames, but for the time being the "cheapie" frames will have to do!



A little bit of history...

The museum's weatherboard cottage, built around 1887, used to sit on a property just on the outskirts of town and had to be moved because of the construction of the Albion St bypass. Once it was acquired by the museum it was transported along the new, but as yet untarred bypass, to the museum grounds. This was in 1994.



So the cottage has housed a number of families over 100 years, then survived a major move, plus the ravages of time and weather in the nearly 30 years since the move. Recent roof renovations, and impending wall and floor repairs, will ensure that this wonderful asset will give joy to visitors for many years to come.

Come visit!

If you haven't been to the museum for a while come again - you will be delighted with the changes and the improvements!