

# Inverloch Historical Society Inc

## Annual Report 2019-20

Patron	Eulalie Brewster OAM
President	John Hutchinson
Treasurer	Harry Dunn
Secretary	Lynn Kirk
Members	Lloyd Bennetts, Anne Hendry, Ray Burt, Graham Colvin and Pam Colvin



2020 has been an unusual year for everyone, dominated as it has been by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted dramatically on all of us and led to an almost complete change of private and community life in Victoria.

Despite the evident difficulties, there is much to report. Notwithstanding some disappointments, I believe we are in a stronger position, principally by solving our major long-term problem - the lack of a collection storage facility.

### GOVERNANCE

Regarding the Society's meetings:

- during the second half of 2019 our monthly general meetings were held at the RSL while the committee met monthly at the Uniting Church;
- during the first half of 2020, we were able to hold only one general meeting at the Anglican Church Hall, as the RSL Hall was unavailable; and only two committee meetings.
- the committee is communicating regularly and effectively by phone and email. When permitted, very brief, socially distanced get-togethers of the executive members occur, to consider, determine, and/or address pressing matters relating to the management of the Society.

### OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

The Society's Facebook page<sup>1</sup> and website<sup>2</sup> reach out to the local community and the wider world to make Inverloch's history available to anyone interested and to share information about the Society's projects and activities.

The committee always appreciates Rod Pettit's valuable contribution in the digital arena, however, it has been particularly valuable during this challenging period. We are fortunate to have such an up to date and active online presence, something often mentioned by other organisations who lack a website or one that is anywhere near as useful or attractive. If you still haven't visited our website or Facebook page, please do - you'll be surprised!

### EXHIBITIONS & DISPLAYS

The following three community-based exhibitions were staged during the year:

- a month-long annual exhibition at The Hub in September 2019;
- a 3-day exhibition over the Australia Day weekend at the Stadium, in cooperation with South Gippsland Yacht Club's *Annual Wooden Dinghy Regatta*;
- a half-day display in January 2000 as part of an Anderson Inlet Anglers' Club event.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.facebook.com/InverlochHistory/](http://www.facebook.com/InverlochHistory/)

<sup>2</sup> [www.inverlochhistory.com](http://www.inverlochhistory.com)

Exhibitions require much time to prepare exhibits, set up the exhibition space and supervise. The committee appreciates the time given by many members to help make last year's exhibitions a great success. In particular, I want to acknowledge the excellent work done by committee member Ray Burt in restoring photographs and preparing display panels as well as the very popular rocket installation. I also want to acknowledge the Inverloch Men's Shed for their expert work on the replica rocket.

## **THE ROCKET SHED, ROCKET EQUIPMENT & 'ROCKET MAN'**

Following the 2019 exhibition, Jeanette who manages the Information Centre at The Hub asked if we would display the replica rocket and rocket man in the Information Centre. The installation was moved from the rocket shed and installed at The Hub by members Ray Burt and Rod Pettit very early in January 2020. Because of the COVID-19 virus, the display remained at the Information Centre until June! Congratulations and thank you to Ray and Rod.

An important project for 2021 will be setting-up the replica rocket display in the Rocket Shed for permanent display. Ray Burt has indicated that he is ready to devote time to installing what will be an exhibit of significance and interest to both locals and visitors.

## **COLLECTION RELOCATION & STORAGE**

In 2019, the Society agreed to rent storage premises in Bear Street, to enable the collection to be brought together for the first time. Only a few months later, Bass Coast Shire Council ('BCSC') offered the Society a storage building at the rear of Warrawee, at a minimal annual fee. Executive members have since signed a lease on the building on behalf of the Society.

Early in 2020, the building was pressure cleaned by our Treasurer's sons, who also partly lined it with 9-ply timber. Collection and display items stored at Bear Street and the Rocket Shed were then transported to the collection store by a removalist supported by a small team of members.

Treasurer Harry Dunn has always been ready to lend a hand whether it be setting up the building, transporting equipment or sorting the collection. Harry's two sons were involved closely, and we thank them; their energy was critical to the early stages of preparing the building and to moving things from Bear Street and the Rocket Shed. Special thanks also go to the very small number of members we were able to involve in the process, which was a significant undertaking and members' efforts were all the more commendable in light of the need to adhere to the COVID-19 safeguards.

Eulalie Brewster, assisted by family members Alison and Leo, has packed and delivered four loads of collection material from her home; Eulalie is sorting and packing more material for transfer.

Secretary Lynn Kirk has developed an approach to storing and recording the collection and has established a new computer-based registry system that takes in collection items, display items and records relating to the Society's operations. The new register so far includes around 2000 records, or about 90% of the items moved so far. We estimate there are around 4000 more items yet to come.

A benefit of the new digital register is that it will enable quicker and easier identification and location of collection items by searching the register using key terms, including the names of people, streets, businesses etc. For example, someone researching Pine Lodge will be able to identify all records in the collection that contain the term 'Pine Lodge' within a matter of seconds; this will better facilitate research, exhibition planning and other investigations. As longer-term members know, the Society has always maintained an Accession Register; that register was the starting point for building the new register. As collection items are relocated their details are also relocated to the digital register, often with added details following some basic research. Many other items have been registered for the first time. When time and circumstances permit, more research will be undertaken. Much of the registration work has been done at Lynn's home as so far we have no power supply at the collection store.

As items arrive in A'Beckett Street, they are unpacked and assessed. After registration, they are labelled and placed into containers suitable for long term storage be that bookshelves, crates, photo sleeves and binders, storage tubes and standard or map sized filing cabinets etc.

Items of broad interest are emerging from the collection and will be shared with members when health restrictions permit; a visit to the facility will be arranged for members when we can resume meetings.

The Society is immensely grateful to Bass Coast Shire Council for its offer of storage premises and to Council's staff member Shirley Egan who has assisted us through the negotiation process. We are also grateful to Jack Miller, who has provided storage for the Society's wooden dinghy at no cost.

## IN CONCLUSION

May I wish all members the very best! I thank members who continue to support the Society, by attending meetings, talking about the Society positively and encouraging others to join, visit our exhibitions and buy our merchandise. Membership fees were due on 1 July 2020, and we appreciate your continued financial support in this way.

We have achieved one of our primary goals this year in finally having an ample, centrally located storage space. As the collection storage develops over the next twelve months, we aim to involve members in a variety of ways.

Prepared by John Hutchinson  
President 2019-20  
On behalf of the Committee  
30 June 2020