



INVERLOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

Newsletter No. 244 - July 2019



Part of our Australia Day Exhibition in 2019 at the Hub. It was well attended.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

On June 27th. I, along with Committeeman Ray Burt, attended a presentation at the Archies Creek Hall, for the presentation of the Community Grants 2019 Round 1. We were awarded two grants - one for the Model of the Rocket Launcher, and the other for funding of the September Exhibition. The meeting, to which we were invited, gave us the opportunity to speak to the Mayor, Cr. Brett Tessari, and Councillors Les Larke and Cr. Pamela Rothfield. Bunurong Councillor Julian Brown was not there. We had lengthy discussions with Crs. Tessari and Larke and both acknowledged the difficulties we face in Inverloch in finding a site / home / building for the storage of our valued artifacts. They realize the uniqueness of our situation, with no obvious sites or buildings on offer, with all our older buildings gone, and sites priced way out of our availability. Crown land still seems our only available solution, unless some Council site somewhere opens up an opportunity. In the meantime we continue to maintain our efforts to find a solution, which at times, seems further away than the last effort!

Recently we wrote to the Inverloch Recreation Committee, who, through the local press, invited ideas for usage of the reserve. We were told immediately that no new buildings would be permitted on the reserve, but eventually offered a space inside the green, sheet metal covered

building opposite the school. The whole Committee inspected the site which measured 3.6 mtrs. square, to which we had to build two walls and provide a light for the space. The Committee decided not take up the offer, for the space is far too small, and the physical situation is most unsuitable for the storage of our very valuable artifacts.

We thank the Recreation Reserve Committee for their offer, but sadly it will not fulfill our serious obligations in preservation and storage.

The September Exhibition will be with us soon. We are busy working on two three dimensional displays, along with the creation of our successful display cards. It is exciting to see through checking our 'archives', what Inverloch people have achieved over the many years - some by individual efforts, others by combined community effort, and others, when working in harmony with the local Shire, the State and Federal levels of government. Just think of the Clocktower Committee, the Lions and Rotary Clubs, and looking back, how about the Ullathorne's, William Youll, James Nation, Clive Newton, Cal Wyeth, Hazel Swift, Jane Wyeth - then what about current times - the Fire Brigade, the SES, our very own Patron Eulalie Brewster, and not forgetting the many who silently and quietly serve this town in many roles as that overworked group, happily and conveniently called volunteers. Let us with thanks, sincerely note them for their services. They don't get awards, but without them many

things in Inverloch would simply cease. Our lack of display boards are still causing us some problems, so if you can help or know somebody who can, please give myself or the secretary a ring.

Finally, our July 24th. meeting will be our Annual General Meeting, when all official positions are declared vacant, and we call upon members to step up and volunteer to help the group move forward. As per usual we meet at the RSL Hall at 2pm. Please attend and volunteer yourself!

John Hutchinson.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE JUNE MEETING - Alison Brewster.

Alison's topic was about the wreck of the vessel Batavia which was wrecked off the coast of Western Australia in 1629. Alison visited the area recently whilst on a holiday cruise.

She commenced her talk and slide show with details about the group of islands where the vessel was wrecked. The islands are known as the Abrolhos Islands and are 80km. off the coast from Geraldton. They were discovered in 1619 by Frederick de Houtman, and consist of a chain of 122 islands. Dirk Hartog had made the first authenticated sighting of Western Australia, and in 1606, the first authenticated voyage to Australia was made by the Duyfken. The

groups of islands were named Pelsaert, Easter and Wallabi. The smaller islands had names such as Suomi, Hummock, Coral, Middle and so on.

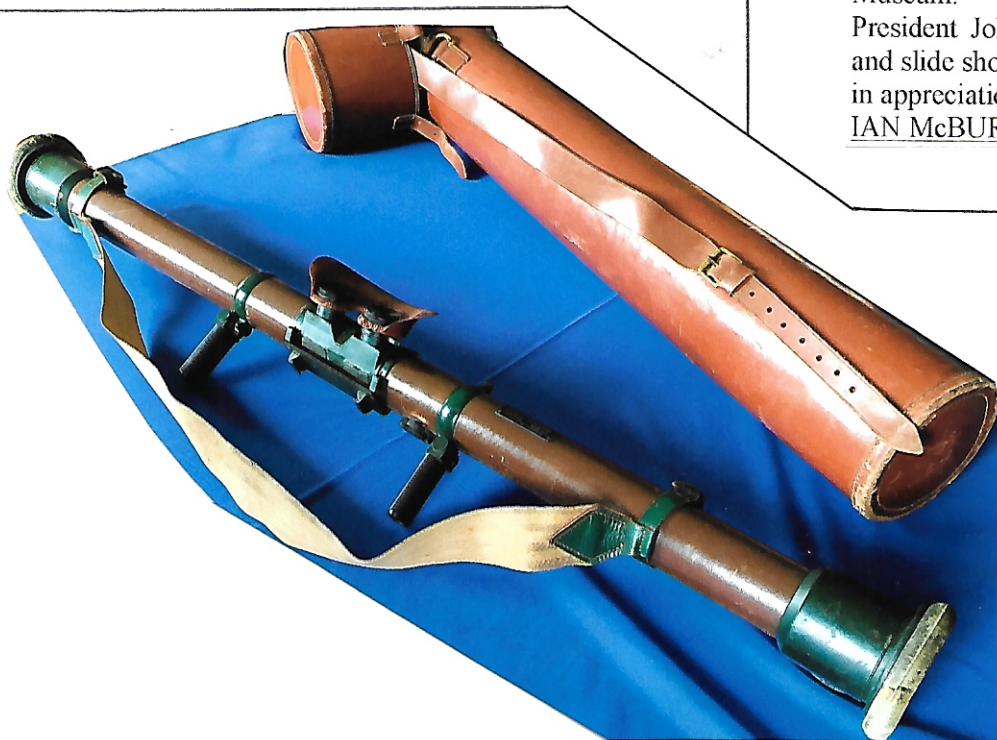
Alison talked about the early history of the Dutch East India Company which was formed in 1602. It was considered to be the first modern type of company as it had Directors and Shareholders. It controlled trade between Europe and the East Indies for 200 years. It was a ruthless organization, with its trade mostly concerning spices.

As mentioned earlier, some of the islands were the scene of the shipwreck and a tragic mutiny. The Dutch ship Batavia under the command of Francisco Pelsaert, while on her maiden voyage, hit a reef and broke up, 40 people drowned, the rest made it to shore. The shipwrecked people could find little fresh water and very little food. Commander Pelsaert and some women went for help in an open boat eventually arriving at the town of Batavia (*now Jakarta*). While the Commander was away, a group of mutineers who stayed on some of the smaller islands decided to terrorize and massacre many others including women and children. When Pelsaert returned a number of the murderers were executed.

For 300 years the wreck site was lost. However, in 1963, the wreck was discovered and identified, together with artifacts and other memorabilia. These items are held in the Western Australian Maritime Museum.

President John thanked Alison for her talk and slide show, and presented her with a gift in appreciation.

IAN McBURNIE.



The Barr and Stroud Rangefinder and leather case. The special stand and impressive box are not shown.