

Nathalia & District Historical Society



Nathalia Show October 2023

Annual Report July 2023 – June 2024

Members of the Executive

President	Jeanette Holland
Vice President	Steve Manley
Secretary (and Public Officer)	Leigh Giffard
Treasurer	Eve Attwood
Assistant Secretary	Averil Kennedy Crane
Research Coordinator	Lynette Franklin
Accessions Manager	Jeanette Holland
Assistant Accessions	Helen Ryan
Bookshop Coordinator	Averil Kennedy Crane
Precinct Committee Reps	Steve Manley Leigh Giffard



Nathalia Show 2023

N&DHS on Show October 2024

Major Grant Contributors 2023-24



President's Report 2024

We have had a productive twelve months and can see the fruits of our labours when we look around the Museum precinct.

The grounds and large displays are looking neat and tidy thanks to the ongoing work of Steve and maintenance done by Colin.

Our regular team of volunteers have made progress on recording and sorting of the museum collection and thanks must go to the willing participants who have regularly attended the working bees.

Thanks to Lyn Franklin for her tireless efforts in our research department. Even though at times her health has slowed her down, Lyn has provided information at Historical Society request as well as for those from the public, both local and from afar. Congratulations must go to Lyn on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the general division in the 2024 Australia Day honours. This award recognizes Lyn's contribution to research, her skills as an author, as well as her community work over many, many years. Congratulations Lyn. The 'Superb Reads' Book shop continues to be a great source of revenue for our Society. We thank Averil and her team of volunteers for their valuable work.

Our participation in the state-wide Heritage Festival in April was a great success. We opened the museum for one day and invited visitors to come and see some of the old trades and displays of items from by-gone days. Blacksmithing, spinning, ropemaking, and talks on finding your ancestors or the meaning of icons featured in cemeteries were all very well received. We had about 120 visitors who showed great interest in the displays. Thank you to our volunteers who helped prepare and run the displays on the day.

Some small changes making a big difference at the museum include the addition of power to the wagon shed, the completion of the window installation in the Mechanics Institute, and the purchase of a museum flag to indicate when we are open.

Our Museum Moments page in the local Red Gum Courier continue to be well received. Thanks to members who continue to supply me with information to include in the regular articles.

Thank you to our hard-working Secretary Leigh and Treasurer Eve, who keep all of our bookwork in order. And thank you to all of our members for your on-going support.

Jeanette Holland

Highlights 2023-2024



Lyn Franklin OAM Award

April 2024

- 1 Lyn Franklin awarded OAM for services to Nathalia community.
- 2 Successful PROV Grant for \$10,500 for digitization of Nathalia Herald 1884-1913 with thanks to the Victorian Government for this valuable contribution.
- 3 Successful grant from Bendigo Community Bank of \$2,300 to provide cover for the 5 Honour Boards in the walkway of shed area A.
- 4 Australian Heritage Festival Open Day 21st April 2024, demonstrating trades of cemetery icons and their meanings, yesteryear including blacksmithing, rope making, spinning, old children's games, a treasure hunt of memorabilia and a session on tracing your family tree.
- 5 Opening of the blacksmithing section with a member able to use the forge.
- 6 Good progress being made on cleaning up and developing the museum areas.



Bendigo Bank Grant to cover Honour Boards

Heritage Festival 2024



Display for Heritage Festival



Kids Games at the Heritage Festival



Blacksmithing



Laundry Work



Gaol cells ready for action



Catering for the masses



Cuppa time



The skill of rope making



Cemetery Icons and their meaning



Food in days gone by

Managing the Collection

Accessions (being items donated to N&DHS)

July 2023

- Nil

August 2023

- Joe's Journey, September 2013, written by Joe Thorp donated through the Leaf estate.
- Shire of Numurkah booklet, 1948, Interesting facts and features by Bruce Tunnock.

September 2023

- The Stanger Family from Stromness, Orkney, Scotland written 2023 and donated by Judith Tolman

October 2023

- A copy of The Soldier Settlement Story, a work written in 2009 by Nathalia District Hospital funded by a grant from the RSL.

November 2023

- Nil

December 2023

- No meeting

January 2024

- Heather Kerr (Corowa) provided some photos from her mother which have all been scanned. She also gave us several newspaper items.

February 2024

- Roll top desk donated by Dr & Mrs Poon; the desk belonged to Dr Harbison and was used in his practice. The desk is over 100 years old.
- Lyn Franklin donated a copy of her new book *Nathalia Cemetery 1888-1915*.
- Judy Ormond donated a copy of her new book *Weirs: Numurkah, Nathalia, Barmah 1880-2023*.
- A hand written poem of Tammy's called *The Settlers*, used in the book launch of one of the Pioneer Books.
- Sash window at IGA/Mitre 10: this window in back of the old Casual Step.

March 2024

- Nil

April 2024

- Peter Sutton shared some history on the Sutton

May 2024

- The 2022 Redgum Yearbook
- 1911 book by S Weir Mitchell called "*John Sherwood, Iron Master*". This book's significance is the stamp inside the book: sold by H D McDonald of Nathalia.

June 2024

- Moira Achievement Awards 2024.
- Handmade ropes which were made at the Heritage Day donated by H Ryan.

Open Days

The museum opens on the second Sunday of the month 1.30 – 4pm.

Visitors included July 4, August 3, September 0, October 4, November 6, December 3, January 0, February 4, March 3, April 6, May 5, June 0 plus 120 at Heritage Festival, 22 from Ky UC special visit, May 5.

Thanks to Karen and Steve who so willingly have donated their time to ensure the Open Days happen.

Member's Meetings

11 member meetings were held during the year.

July –7	Aug – 9	Sept – 10
Oct – 5	Nov – 7	Dec – no meeting
Jan – 8	Feb - 9	Mar - 10
Apr - 9	May - 9	June – 10

Average: 8-9 people at each meeting

Superb Reads – Bookshop Report

Just recently we heard the announcement that Booktopia, a large online bookseller, has gone into voluntary administration. In February one of its representatives said there had been an 8.3% decline across the bookselling market in January this year.

I am happy to report that the Superb Reads Bookshop has, over the last 12 months, increased its revenue by approximately 7%.

This of course has been made possible by the continued donations from our supporters of many high quality, and sometimes very recent publications, providing us with the ability to price items accordingly. There was one major change to the shelving when the space at the front of the bookshop was required by the G.R.A.I.N. Store for their 2 nights 'The Things We Do For Love' production resulting in the shop being closed for 6-8 June. With shelving being in some disarray it presented an opportunity to do some rearranging. Narrower shelves left over from earlier acquisitions were installed. This made more room for browsing, provided a further 8 shelves for display in the front of the shop &, an opportunity to 'weed' some stock.

Interestingly, at least one person who attended the G.R.A.I.N. Store night productions who was unfamiliar with the bookshop, later purchased books which they had 'discovered' on one of the nights.

The most profitable times for us were the occasional Saturday, Easter Saturday & New Year's Eve with takings of \$200+, \$290 & \$445 respectively.

The total takings: \$ 11691.84 (\$808.59 more than 2022-23)

The expenses: Rent \$2080.00

Power \$501.98

Petty Cash \$200.00

Total Expenses \$2781.98

PROFIT \$9109.86

Of course, the Bookshop could not remain open without the continued support of our 14 volunteers - Eve Attwood, Doug Brimble, Fay Brown, Carmen Gilson, Leigh & John Giffard, Alex Johns-Kula, Averil Kennedy, Maureen Power, Marion Murray, Nina Pell, Philippa Schapper, Marg Storer; & Colin Crane who assists with shelving & minor repairs. And...for the 2024-25 year we are pleased to add Rebecca Mahon - Smith - a very welcome youthful addition - to our roster.

Thank you everyone for helping to make the Superb Reads Bookshop more and more well known and enabling the Historical Society to pursue projects.

Averil Kennedy
Bookshop Co-ordinator
30 June 2024

N&DHS Inc Annual Financial Report July 2024

Bank Balance @ July 1st, 2023: \$16,654.57

Income during financial year: \$11,691.84 B/shop

\$260.00 Subs
\$2,300.00 Grant
\$730.00 Research

\$61.58 Vista Print Reimbursement
\$678.75 Visitors
\$67.75 IGA Com. Ben
\$10,500 DPC Draw Acc

Total income July 1st, 2023- June 30th, 2024: \$26,289.92

Expenses during financial year:

\$2,080.00 Rent
\$63.60 Cons. Affairs
\$154.00 P.O. Box
\$140.00 Gene. M/ship
\$1,098.12 RHSV Ins & Jo
\$374.09 Mawson Conc.
\$93.00 Scans & Copying
\$715.00 Willprint
\$578.28 Flashing
\$300.00 Petty Cash
\$197.60 Alum. sheeting
\$3,500.00 CDK

\$35.20 MRBG AGM adv.
\$501.98 Electricity
\$462.00 King Signs
\$270.00 Integra locks
\$386.98 Adv. banner
\$90.71 Toner
\$100.00 Blower vac.
\$990.43 Limo's
\$110.00 Lawless Lasers
\$143.57 Stationery
\$100.00 A. Henderson

Total Expenses July 1st, 2023 - June 30th, 2024: \$12,484.56

Bank Balance @ 30th June 2024: \$30,459.93

Term Deposit Account (Steam Traction Engine)

Opening Balance @ 1st July 2023: \$20,225.17

Deposits and Credits @ 19th May 2024: \$911.68

Closing Balance @ 30th June 2024: \$21,136.85

On May 19th 2024 the Term Deposit was reinvested for another 12 months @ 4.75% interest.

This report has been made by going through bank statements, cheque book and deposit book.
To my eyes, it is a straightforward explanation of deposits and expenditure and the figures tally.
Should there be any questions, please ask me to explain. Thank you.
Eve Attwood, 2023/2024 Treasurer, N&DHS Inc.