

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO A.G.M. 2017**

I am finding it hard to believe that another 12 months have gone past.

Joan Woolfe resigned from the Committee and Malcolm Sargent was voted on in her place.

We thank them both for donating their valuable time. The Executive Committee, the Committee members and the Roster Duty members are the incredible people who make W.G.I. such a fabulous organisation.

Thank you to ALL of you. We would be a very sad place without you.

We had the 20<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary party and Dedication to Merle Collins on May 11 2016. Such a wonderful get together, with so many people we haven't seen for a very long time. The "Sentinel Times" came to report on the occasion and Bass Coast library staff managed to get some time out to join in the fun.

Joan Woolfe and Valda Scrase were presented with Life Memberships in grateful recognition of their contribution to W.G.I.

Lucy Nuttall from Bass Coast Library came to speak to us about "Trove". Lucy was at National Library so is very conversant with all aspects of "Trove".

Members had a tour of the Public Records Office which was very enjoyable and an eye opener to all of us - incredible the things that they keep there.

We had Open Days in August for Family History month and again in October for Senior's Week. I failed in Senior's Week and couldn't find a 40 year old John Smith who was married at Walhalla in early 1900. I suspect he didn't want to be found.

We were able to purchase two new printers with a grant from "Ausnet" We are very grateful for the organisations that make grants available to the community.

Mr. Warren Joel graced us with his presence and wit once again, and hosted a wonderful "Antiques Evaluation Day." We made a profit of over \$1000 for the day, which will go towards new computers.

Our Newsletter is now on the Website and sent to other groups in Victoria. Beryl Farr was the main editor last year and Gail Adie has taken over the job for this year. Beryl did a wonderful job last year and Gail is continuing the tradition.

We have had National Broadband and Windows 10 installed on the computers. A huge thank you to Pam Harrison for co-ordinating all of this. The Committee gave her a criteria, she sourced a suitable provider and oversaw the installation and the teething problems that followed.

2017 started with a "Welcome Dinner" at the Town Hall. Those who attended had a very enjoyable night.

Pam Harrison is giving a talks on Family History at Inverloch Community Centre which are being well received.

We continue our "Days of Interest" with a talk on Aboriginal Family History on April 5, a visit to State Library on May 4, a film afternoon in June and a talk on Family Tree Maker in July. Check the website and notice board for more details.

Coffee Mornings are now on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wednesday of each month and continue to have a theme as well as attempting to solve problems. The February one was a Baby Photo Competition. Gloria Park managed 7 out of 11. Well done Gloria.

My grateful thanks to Glenys Dempsey, Pam Harrison, Peter Brown, Gail Adie, Susan Hill, the Committee members and the other members that we see frequently in the Research Centre, for all their dedication and help during the year. How lucky are we to have such a happy and accommodating group!

Anne Bevis

President

