



Knightia excelsa - rewarewa

Nobelius Heritage Park & Emerald Museum

Newsletter No. 2

Summer 2012

At long last the wet spell has left us and we can look forward to warmer weather with longer evenings. Many people are already taking advantage of this by exploring all the wonderful examples of both native and exotic trees within the park, whilst picnicking on the vast lawns or sheltering from the summer sun within the rotunda. Because of this the committee have decided to open the museum on Saturdays over the summer months between 11.00am and 3.00pm, except days of total fire ban or code red.

The museum volunteers have been very busy over the last 4 weeks introducing a new cataloguing system called the Victorian Collections.

Victorian Collections is a project developed in partnership by Museums Victoria and Museums Australia (Victoria), allowing smaller and regional museums the opportunity to display their collections online.

A very user friendly system, it has the added advantage of being a safe and secure back-up system should our computers fail or have a complete melt-down.

We believe this to be an exciting project and welcome you to explore our site and provide feedback.

Like all museums, what you see on display is only a fraction of our vast collection and a great deal has to be kept in storage. Emerald Museum is in the process of updating our storage facilities with the inclusion of a compactus, a sliding shelf system allowing more storage in a confined area. This will allow us to alter our displays with greater ease.

Saturday 5th January at 10.00am

LAVENDER HARVEST

This year we plan to harvest our English lavender on the first Saturday in January. A working bee will take place and a good turn out is expected to delight the senses. Join us and for a small donation you can take some home to freshen your linen press just as our grandmothers did. Bring secateurs, a hat and sunscreen if the weather is hot. A dry day is needed and the day may have to be changed but we will keep you informed. The park is looking spectacular after all the rain and we hope to see you.



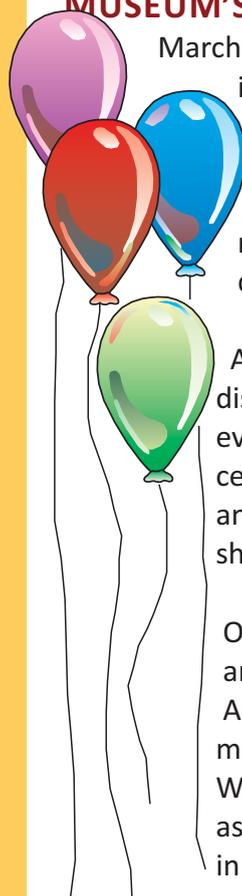
Sunday 3rd March at 11.00am

MUSEUM'S 20TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

March brings the 20th anniversary of the museum in its current location and we feel it is a time to not only celebrate the occasion, but to also reflect on our past achievements. Twenty years sees quite a passing parade and many people have made a contribution, all of it valuable in different ways.

A museum's purpose is not only to preserve the distant past, but also record recent and current events that will one day be "a long time ago". Our celebration is to honour those who have passed and is an opportunity to build social history by sharing memories and aspirations.

On the day we will provide light refreshments and hopefully some local entertainment. Among our guests will be past committee members, sponsors and friends of the museum. We are always looking for more sponsors as well as friends and volunteers. If you feel you can help in any way, it would be appreciated.



ACQUISITIONS

When the Museum acquires new objects or photos, on many occasions the full story behind the acquisition has not been told and follow-up research needs to take place. Recently the Museum acquired some of the contents from the former Infant Welfare Centre in Emerald (once named the Baby Health Centre and the Committee is researching the centres history. Do you have any photos or information that could help? i.e. the names of the sisters who worked at the centre, any early photos of the beautiful art deco building or other memorabilia?

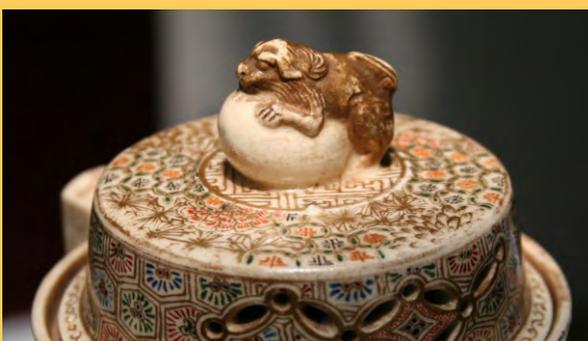


Can you tell us who the nurse in this photo is, was she a local person or does this photo belong in another museum ?

Below is another example of an object that was recently donated to the museum. It is one of a pair and appears to be an incense burner and understood to have come out of Japan after the war. However we have no history of this and we are unsure whether it



is Japanese or indeed Chinese. The mystery remains though, how did these unique items end up in Emerald? If you can throw some light on this, please contact us,



BEHIND EVERY GREAT MAN.....

Among the hundreds of photos the museum has in its collection depicting early settlers in the region, there are very few of the women who supported the men. In what can best be described as primitive conditions, these women endured just as much hardship as some of the men, in raising families and keeping the home. For many of these women, the church groups sometimes provided the only escape from the hardship and allowed the women the opportunity to socialise and dress up.

In many homes there will be hidden away in boxes, photographs of grandma or great grandma from those early days in the region that depict the social life that was enjoyed on those very few occasions. We would like to hear their stories and ask for help from relatives and others to search their cupboards and drawers for any interesting photos they may have of those early female relatives. We would also like to hear of the children and their experiences including sickness they may have endured.

Don't forget our new opening hours over the summer months:

Wednesday - 10.00am - 2.00pm

Saturday - 11.00am - 3.00pm

Sunday - 1.30pm - 4.00pm

except on days of total fire ban or code red.

The committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas along with a Safe and Prosperous New Year. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Cafe Marte and Gem Signs for their support throughout the year.



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