



## Historical Society

EST 1941

### July 2024 Newsletter



**Winter** has certainly hit with a vengeance. If the outdoors is just a bit too chilly and wet for you, then why not pop into Berninnet and visit the museum, and perhaps you can also swing by the research rooms upstairs and visit the cataloguers, who are there each Wednesday as they continue their tireless work, sorting, scanning and registering our collection.

In the museum, the committee is pressing on with securing displays for temporary exhibits which should be installed by Spring. We are immensely grateful to the Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank for their support in helping us acquire these and other fittings for the research room at Berninnet. These new display cases will allow the museum the flexibility to showcase and celebrate events of historical significance for the island throughout the year.

Our first temporary exhibition will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Cowes Primary School and will run for approximately three months. We are seeking any items related to the school that members would be willing to loan to the Society for the exhibit. If you have anything of interest, please contact us at [hello@phillipislandhistory.org.au](mailto:hello@phillipislandhistory.org.au)

I am delighted to announce that one of our life members, **John Jansson**, has been awarded life membership of the National Trust. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to John for this well-deserved honour.



**Next Meeting.** A reminder to everyone that we have our next social meeting at the **RSL next week – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 12 noon**, with lunch first in the Bistro and then the meeting afterwards in the ANZAC Room. We are delighted to advise that **Peter Fogarty**, Citizen Scientist and expert photographer will be speaking at the meeting. Peter,

resides on Phillip Island and specializes in nature photography. He is dedicated to minimizing environmental impact in all aspects of his work, using his lens to share his passion for nature and wildlife. As a retired police officer and now a Citizen



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Scientist, Peter has participated in numerous expeditions around the Island, capturing images of Humpback and Southern Right Whales to aid in their identification and research. He is often found in remote locations on the Island, striving to capture the perfect image to share with us all.

Looking forward to seeing members next week at the RSL.

Pamela Rothfield



**CALL OUT FOR  
ITEMS OF  
INTEREST**

**SEEKING THE LOAN OF  
HISTORIC ITEMS  
RELATING TO THE  
COWES PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**

Do you have any historical artefacts from the Cowes Primary School – such as workbooks, photographs, uniforms - please contact us at:

[hello@phillipislandhistory.org.au](mailto:hello@phillipislandhistory.org.au)

so that we can assess for inclusion in our forthcoming exhibition on the history of this wonderful institution.

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**MEETING  
NOTICE!**

**The next Social Meeting of the Society** will be at the Phillip Island RSL on Thursday 18th July at 12 noon. Lunch can be ordered individually at the Bistro servery and the meeting will follow in the ANZAC Room.

**Speaker:** Peter Fogarty, photographer and

citizen scientist.



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Whilst RSVP is not essential – it would be good to have an idea of numbers who can attend. Please RSVP to Judy Gittus on: [j.gittus43@gmail.com](mailto:j.gittus43@gmail.com) or call Judy on 0417 390 885.

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Annual membership fees are now due and we hope all our members will renew their commitment. Your membership is the lifeblood of our Society, enabling us to preserve and celebrate our rich history. Thank you for your continued support.

## TRUE TIDBITS FROM THE PAST

Miss Maughan was a local island identity who ran the picture theatre with Mr. Schooling, which was located in the Town Hall in Thompson Avenue Cowes.

During the day Miss Maughan worked at Shaw's Hardware store, also located in Thompson Avenue.

The year was approximately 1940, and young Isobel McFee, aged 16, was working alongside Miss Maughan at Shaw's Hardware on one particular morning, when Miss Maughan decided to 'pop the kettle on' for morning tea. In order to do so, she required a match to light the flame.

Just at that moment, a local resident Dick Bradley happened into the store, and thus Miss Maughan asked Mr. Bradley, "Would ya have a match on ya, Dick?"

His reply: 'What do you think it is woman – a smoker's stand?'

Isobel never forgot this exchange!

**Newsletter written and edited by  
Pamela Rothfield**

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