



Newsletter

The Glamorgan Spring Bay
Historical Society Inc.

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Merry Christmas fellow historians

This last newsletter for the year was meant to focus upon a house. After investigating our files I found that there were in fact no details that I could use and so a house profile was going to require considerable research on my part and there just wasn't time. It will have to happen next year. As a result this newsletter is devoted to a summary of the year's events, a picture display of a few of our celebrated and hard working members and a peep into next year's activities.

For the first time this year, the GSBH Society will have a float in the Christmas parade. As we decided some time ago that Louisa Meredith was our Patron Saint so to speak, the focus for this year's effort is Louisa. Our president Maureen Martin Ferris is to be the young Louisa and Judie Hastie is to be the aged Louisa. Judie will be supported by two children: Stephen and Meg, Children of Ellie and John Woolnough of Pontypool, who will pose around Judie' to listen' to the stories that Louisa wrote for and read to the children. One of Louisa's prints will be placed on the back of the truck in an easel to show the young Louisa hard at work painting pictures of native flora. Brenton will accompany the group as a sample of convict labour; his costume is too good to pass up. We hope that by becoming more involved in such celebrations that the people of our area are more aware of what the historical society does. Apart from which Maureen though it would be fun.

Ray Lewis. State wide recognition of his work for the Society



At recent *Keep Australia Beautiful* celebrations held in Campbell Town, Ray Lewis was recognised for his individual efforts for the society over many years. Nothing would induce Ray to accompany the Swansea Tidy Town representatives, to go to Campbell Town to accept his award as such fuss is an anathema to him. It did not stop us feeling

delighted that relative strangers were prepared to acknowledge the extraordinary devotion to duty of this very modest but very able man.



Maureen as Louisa Meredith

Maureen has had taxing year in many ways but also has much to celebrate. As Honorary Curator of the museum as well as President of GSHS she has worked hard and her most recent achievement has been to reorganise much of the collection thematically so that the displays make historical sense. This has included climbing ladders and removing pictures and artefacts and cleaning away years of dust and grime. Maureen has worked alongside Jai Paterson, one of Tasmania's Roving Curators, to learn what she can about how best to ensure our collection lasts for others. Jai is a highly qualified

professional who works in connection with QVMAG. It is she who assured us that the collection in our museum is one out of the box and worth a lot of effort to preserve.

Vale Bill Bailey Bill Bailey died on the 5.12.'08 I felt very sad at the news but have known that Bill has been ill for a long time. Such illness includes suffering and discomfort that makes life hard to celebrate. Our love and wishes go to Margaret and



Brenton in convict garb.
Costume made by Deputy Mayor Jeni Crawford and Photograph by Ray Joyce.
Swansea



Maureen in convict garb



the family. Margaret was our treasurer for so many years.

When I met Bill he was already retired and had begun to find much of life a struggle. He still managed to do what he could for the Society that included non-presidential type activities such as making letterboxes and so on and he continued as president even though it cost him some effort to attend meetings.

It was through reading files and looking at photographs that I learnt what a busy life he had led. He had been a Councillor, Warden and Mayor of the Municipalities of Glamorgan and Glamorgan Spring Bay and our president for many years

but apart from that he was a loving husband, father and grandfather. I had the pleasure of meeting two of his gorgeous grandsons who gave him much joy and with whom he spent much time in the last few years of his life. I also had the pleasure of reading a story he wrote for Tyler, one of these children. This story was published in an early newsletter as it provided such a lively picture of what life had been like for Bill when he was a child. By writing the account for his grandson, Bill achieved a view through the eyes of a child. We will miss you Bill.



Bill taken a few years ago.

Historical Tours

Judie, Brenton and Maureen continue to provide Historical Tours of the area. Some of these are for Adult Education but others are connected to different events. All are very popular and usually booked up well ahead of the tour date. Brenton and Maureen will do their tours in costumes of the period.

Planning in place for 2009

The Trooper Henderson Memorial and its renovation and removal has been held up whilst the search for descendents continues. We are getting closer as Maureen has tracked down one. The latest issue of the East Coast News had an excellent two page spread on Trooper Henderson featuring wonderful photographs from Maureen's private collection.

The Historical Society will be very busy during National Trust Heritage Festival, theme: Water, and we will be busy in supporting the local heritage festival as well. Our display will be one offering during the Swansea heritage Festival that has life in Georgian Times and early 19th century as an overarching theme. There will be more on this next issue.

A decision was made to print and publish a compendium of all the Society's Newsletters. It is interesting looking at these over time as they have changed in format although little in intent.

Our society is working hard to maintain books that add to the overall knowledge of the history of the area. In all instances copyright is our first concern. There are a number of

texts which need reprinting/republishing and these will take a great deal of energy next year. We'll keep you informed as we grapple with each.

Finally for 2008

A most exciting achievement for this year is our new incorporated status. Many thanks to our superb treasurer, Noel Stanley, for the work he did to achieve this. Noel turns up to all meetings and events in between, bearing delicious muffins and cakes. These have the disadvantage of adding to our overall weight but they make for a festive feeling for all events and give us added energy. Noel has also sorted out other nasty problems regarding finance that have now been laid to rest. We have been so lucky to have his support and his alibility.

A special thank you to Di Bricknell who is responsible for the layout design and printing of this newsletter. Di is a professional in every sense of the word. It seemed unlikely, at least to me, that when Di began to establish her business as a Freelance Designer that there would be enough work to keep her going. Her fame spread like wild fire and I suspect her only problem is how to manage the response. One thing about small communities is that they are good at ferreting out talent and using it. Thank you Di. It has made the job much easier for me.

Merry Christmas to all. By eating a roast and plum pudding in a hot climate you are proving your devotion to history and tradition.

President's Message

Elizabeth has summed up the year nicely so there is not much more I'd like to add, other than to say a big thank you to outgoing committee members Ray Lewis (Vice President) and Brenton Wheare (Secretary) for their tireless work help and enthusiasm. Others I would also like to thank are: our newsletter editor Elizabeth Hodson for the superb stories and publication as well as her help and support throughout my term as president. Di Bricknell for her help with the publication of our newsletter, Noel Stanley (Treasurer) 'keep them cakes a comin', Robert and Joyce Dunbabin (Vice President) for their wonderful work with oral history and other duties, Marion Harrison (Secretary), Gloria Willis (Assistant Secretary) who also spent many hours transcribing oral recordings, Carolyn Dillon, Judie Hastie (Vice President), Helen Hall and Grace Freeman for their devoted behind the scene work on cataloguing, researching, transcribing and turning up for duty, lastly to you 'our' members.

We will miss you Bill, our thoughts are with you Margaret and family.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Maureen Martin Ferris