

Ravensthorpe Historical Society - President's Report, March 2017

I sincerely thank all the RHS members for their ongoing support over the last year. Curating, managing the finances, managing research issues, keeping the grounds tidy, keeping the door open, cleaning gutters, fixing and building and generally putting their hands up when something needs attention – all these things contribute to a vibrant and interesting museum.

This is my final President's report. I'm afraid I am over extended and cannot give my commitments adequate attention to keep them progressing as they should, so I must stand down. I know that new ideas and a fresh approach will greatly benefit the society.

March 2016 to March 2017 achievements:

- A WA Heritage Council Award for the Kukenarup Project.
- Ann Williams wrote a history of Nurse Foard which nearly won first prize.
- Madeleine Norman wrote *The History of Mining in the Phillips River Goldfield* – now published.
- Our gentlemen members organised a wonderful float for the Spring Festival Opening
- Arrival of an EFT machine
- Donated harvester successfully moved from Hopetoun
- Cattlin shed floor cemented
- Sub-committee established in Hopetoun
- A tourism representative appointed to look after visitor information
- Employment of B. Thomas to deal with accession to photographs
- Work on the railway carriage platform has commenced
- Visitor numbers have increased
- Guards van protected from the weather.

Ongoing projects:

- Complete Cattlin shed workshop
- Complete railway carriage platform
- Publish Kundip book
- Re-employ B. Thomas
- Open Day with food of the world
- Photography 'Field Day' toward digitations of collection
- Encourage more individuals to volunteer by putting their skills to use
- Establish a water pumping system on the windmill.

Visitors to the museum repeatedly say it is one of the best they have seen in rural Australia. They marvel at our collection, with adults and children alike enjoying the experience. The Historical Society is a valuable asset and its members are providing local families, schools and visitors with a memorable experience, leaving them richer in knowledge. When we digitise the collection, this gem of a museum, started up by Jim McCulloch and Win Chambers so long ago, will be enjoyed on a global scale.

The Ravensthorpe Dance Cottage Museum is important.

Richenda Goldfinch
Out-going President.