

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

April 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Our newsletter brings together the latest events taking place in History and Heritage here at Cafs. It's hard to believe we're now well into 2023.

We kicked off the year with another fabulous Former Residents annual reunion in February, which also included an event for the opening of the new 'History and Memory Centre'. I'd like to say a big thank you to all of our former residents who attended these events. A special mention to the Former Resident Advisory Group members whose advice and guidance throughout the redevelopment of the new History and Memory Centre was, as always, invaluable.

For those who were unable to make it to this year's reunion, I hope that you can attend our next one in early 2024.

Kathryn Drum has joined the Cafs History and Heritage Records team on a part time basis. We welcome Kathryn to the team.

As we approach ANZAC Day, our thoughts turn to war's enormous cost and the toll it takes, not only on those who fall but on all who serve, as well as their loved ones. We pay tribute to, and reflect on, the service and sacrifice of the many former residents who served in wars across the twentieth century.

Take care everyone,
Wendy Sturgess



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Message from the CEO
- Former Residents Reunion
- Next year's annual reunion
- Cafs launches History & Memory Centre
- Welcome to the team, Kathryn Drum
- Kat away
- Peggy Warren nee Aubrey
- Following Blackie & Brownie
- Can you help identify the children in this photo?
- Accessing your records
- Calling for contributions

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

FORMER RESIDENTS REUNION

Another fantastic annual reunion lunch took place on Friday 24th of February at the Russell Square clubrooms. We had a wonderful turnout for a great catch up with old friends, and a nice roast buffet lunch with a bit of pav and sticky date pudding provided by J & M Catering. Thank you to all of you who attended. We really hope you had a fantastic day.

We handed out some feedback forms on the day but if we missed you, we'd love to hear your feedback so that we can continue to improve our events. Please call us or email your feedback to records@cafs.org.au



Thanks to David O'Connor for taking a number of photos throughout the day, and providing us with copies.

NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL REUNION

We would like to continue to grow our mailing list to ensure that we are able to send reunion invites to as many Former Residents as possible. We are very aware that our mailing list is not comprehensive and so we rely on 'the grapevine' for news of reunions to reach people whose contact details we do not yet have.

If you know of any Former Residents who did not receive a reunion invitation, please let them know that they can get in touch with us at records@cafs.org.au to provide their contact details. While our History & Heritage e-newsletters (sent 3 times per year) are sent via email, we will continue to send annual reunion invites via physical post.

The next reunion will be held early 2024, with invites going out November/December.

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

CAFS LAUNCHES HISTORY & MEMORY CENTRE

On Thursday 23rd February, Cafs newly re-imagined History & Memory Centre was opened in the presence of invited guests including Former Residents of the Ballarat Orphanage and the Ballarat Children's Home.

The project, led by Ashtree Projects in collaboration with former residents, has been 2 years in development.

The aim of the Centre is to provide a more contemporary response to the diversity of former resident experiences and utilise materials from Cafs Heritage Collection in a more engaging way.



Ballarat Orphanage former residents Barry Walters and Nora Walters with a mosaic they finished together at Open Place in 2019. Picture by Kate Healy, The Courier

IN THE WORDS OF CAFS CEO WENDY STURGESS:

“The original Heritage Centre met the needs of the organisation and our community at the time of its inception. This upgrade has been designed in consultation with Former Residents, creates a place to acknowledge their past and captures the range of experiences of children who resided at these institutions.”

THOSE WHO WERE PART OF THE PROJECT

It has been great to work with our Former Resident Advisory Group members together with our friends from Ashtree to keep changing and improving these displays so that former residents and their families can better connect with their history.

Former Residents, Care Leavers and their families are welcome to visit the History & Memory Centre on Mondays or Fridays by appointment. Please contact 03 5337 3333 or email records@cafs.org.au to book a day and time.



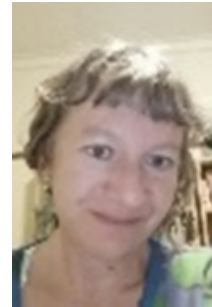
Former Ballarat Orphanage resident Alec Cimera discusses his A Road Travelled artwork with Ashtree Projects directors David McGinniss and Ember Parkin, and Cafs CEO Wendy Sturgess. Photo: TIM BOTTAMS, Ballarat Times

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

WELCOME & GOODBYE

We are so pleased to have recently welcomed Kathryn to our History & Records team. Kathryn works with us on a part time basis to provide support for accessing records and also to continue on with important archival work such as cataloguing, digitising and indexing.

Kathryn has a background in Librarianship and Visual Arts and we are pleased that she brings her strong information management skills to the team. She is also an artist with a particular focus on incorporating found objects in mixed media and small sculpture work. You can even find some of her artwork in the Le-Petit Patisserie in Mair Street, Ballarat!



Welcome, Kathryn!

KAT AWAY

Kat is on leave between March - July 2023.
Mary and Kathryn are doing a great job holding the fort during this time.

PEGGY WARREN NEE AUBREY

Peggy was born in 1935 and admitted to the Ballarat Orphanage in 1941. In her early teens she was sent as a housemaid to work for a family who ran a sheep farm at Newlyn. She met and married one of the local boys at the dance. They raised a family and after her husband passed away, Peggy continued the hard work running the farm, together with Rosslyn and Aubrey.

Several years ago she moved to an aged care residence, Hepburn House, in Daylesford where she is very happy and the life of the party.

She noticed that many of the residents were isolated and had no joy in their lives. A new bus was needed for shopping and outings, but money was scarce, so together with the Manager Dianne, the idea of a 2023 calendar, 'Ageing Disgracefully at Hepburn House', was conceived. With help from kind volunteers of the Daylesford Community and the full cooperation of the photogenic residents of the House, it was produced. It was an immediate hit and has already had a second printing.

If you would like to support Peggy and her fellow residents, Phone 0427 131 249 to purchase a calendar or check out the Ageing Disgracefully Facebook page.



HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

FOLLOWING BLACKIE & BROWNIE

You may recall a story about 'Blackie and Brownie' written by Pat Davidson (Sugden) in the August 2022 newsletter edition. Well, our favourite chooks 'Blackie and Brownie' are back! We are pleased to now share with you the sequel.

'Several months later Brownie began laying eggs again – just one or two occasionally and then every 2nd day a light brown egg appeared nearby to Blackie's regular blue-tinted white one.

Now and then we were visited by a 3 year old Dalmatian dog named "Pippi P", with her master who enjoyed his coffee well laced with Whisky or Vodka - whichever he remembered to bring with him in a small flask, whilst sitting in the large garden with our drinks plus yummy shortbread bikkies, Pippi's master usually dunked his shortbread in his coffee – YUK!

Once Pippi had sniffed the packet of shortbreads she was hooked and had to be limited to 1 per visit, as being brought up on bones and meat, her teeth were not to be ruined by sweet things! Even the chooks took to the shortbreads and they, too, were given only ½ a Bikkie each week, even though their "teeth" never needed saving from sweets!

One day Brownie, after hoarding a few eggs she'd laid in a secret nest in the tall grass beside the house, decided she'd go broody.

Brownie was ensconced in her way of life until Pippi arrived to enjoy a massive romp around the garden, scare all the pigeons off the grass, and generally enjoy herself with her one piece of shortbread, which incidentally, was never enough for her, UNTIL she discovered Brownie's secret nest.

Then Pippi barked and romped as loudly and madly as she knew how and poor Brownie - in self-defense - had to evict herself with screams and yells and flutterings of wings and feet to a safe place: up a tree and then into the chook house – no. 1. unit. What a to do!

Pippi P. was promptly ordered by her master, in no uncertain terms, to get into the car and stay there! Mind you, it was no ordinary car either but a really old Mercedes Benz, supposed to be yellow, with one grey door, windows that never shut, very rarely saw a garage mechanic and was one of a kind that littered Pippi's master's front garden, instead of lawn and flowers!

Subsequent to all these carryings-on, Brownie, once more, refused to lay eggs or even become broody again.

BUT- just before my trip to the 2023 Orphanage Reunion in Ballarat, next to Blackie's blue-tinted white egg lay, once more, a light brown one.

As we all know, good and bad adventures must always have an end. Brownie, because of her crowing in daylight savings, early mornings here (5am) was sent off to Chookie Heaven – not through her demise though! Rachel, in a not too distant hobby farm, well away from complaining neighbours, was invited to have another chook – Brownie by name.

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

FOLLOWING BLACKIE & BROWNIE CONTINUED...

Rachel had a beautifully coloured, enormous rooster and only one hen. When Brownie arrive Chookie Rooster fell in love at first sight, danced and crowed and crowed and stood between his own hen and Brownie when they had a fight. Eventually, all settled down and by the appearance of events Chookie Rooster may be a daddy this year, to little Brownies and coloured chickies just like him.

However, that left Blackie on her own – no good – too lonely as she – refused to lay! So off she went to join Brownie at Chookie Heaven, where a few ducks and then little ones swim in a lovely, little creek and where B and B are free-range with Chookie Rooster and his, once solitary, hen.

Of course, no shortbreads are dished out there, nor is Pippi P. ever allowed to visit, but when B and B do have other visitors, sweet corn is now on the menu and much appreciated by the whole chookie family.'

Thank you, Pat, for providing this. It's great to know how our favourite chookies are going!

CAN YOU HELP IDENTIFY THE CHILDREN IN THIS PHOTO?



'Toddlers seated – boys in uniform', 1946 – 1954

Cafs holds many unnamed and undated photographs. Each newsletter, we'll feature a new photo in the hope that our former resident community can assist with putting names to faces.

If you can help us identify anyone in this photo, please let us know by emailing records@cafs.org.au or call 03 53 37 3333 to speak with a member of the History & Heritage team.

HISTORY & HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH CAFS

Accessing your records

If you wish to access your records, please send an email with information such as the years that you were in Care, date of birth, names parents and any siblings. Please also include photo ID such as an image of your license.

Please know that we cannot facilitate walk-in requests. If you wish to come to Cafs to speak with us about accessing records, please kindly get in touch first to make an appointment to ensure someone from our team is available to assist, as we are only in the office 2 days a week.

Calling for contributions

Have you got a story or memory you'd like to share in the next newsletter? You may like to share a poem that you've written, some artwork you've created, share a photo you're your experiences about accessing your records from your time in Care. It's really up to you! If you'd like to contribute, please get in touch.



Cafs Heritage and History Records Service

Ph: 03 5337 3333
ask to speak to the History &
Heritage team

Email: records@cafs.org.au
Hours of operation:
Monday 9am – 5pm
Friday 9am – 5pm

