

DUBLIN HISTORY GROUP MAKES ITS OWN HISTORY

Louise Michael reports:

BACK in July 1997, four local Dublin ladies got together to form a history group to preserve the history of their town.

Little did they know, 20 years later, the group would still be 'going strong' with a thousand items now in its collection at the institute!

"At the time, the four of us – Phyllis Barkla, Dorothy (Doss) Collins (now deceased), Beverly Jones and myself – were members of the former Dublin Community Club, and being pro-preservers of history, we asked permission to form a history group," current member, Pat Thompson said.

The ladies were eventually given permission to do so, and started collecting information and historical items that were stored in private homes until a suitable public site could be found.

"Each of us had a particular history project we wanted to fulfill – Doss wanted historical photos hung in the institute (that was started in 2001,) Beverly's was the restoration of 12 framed photos of local WWI soldiers that hang in the institute (completed in late 2000), Phyllis had a computer and typed up the text for our first book (in 1998), and I wanted to erect a war memorial next to the rose garden in Lion's Park, with a pioneer path surrounding it (which was dedicated in November 2003)," Pat said.

The supper room of the institute was converted into an 'official' research centre, and the historical items were moved into their 'new home.'

The centre has since had various upgrades, including specially designed computer desks to house four computers which visitors can use to access the numerous family histories and photographs that have been collected over the past 20 years.

"That's in addition to the many pioneer and local family photographs, event and local history albums," Pat said.

The group also financed and installed an air conditioner which is appreciated by members and visitors alike!

While the group deals with 'old' things, current president, Ian Telfer,

said it has had to 'move with the times' and adapt to the use of modern technology, 'to comply with society's requirements for instant response.'

"The digital age has meant we can record everything we have in computers and on memory sticks," Ian said.

"The written word was the traditional means of recording history – now we have great developments in both visual and audio means of keeping records of the past."

"Leasing the room in the institute allowed us to bring the whole collection together, so our current emphasis is cataloguing every one of the 1000 items we have, giving priority to items specific to the Hundred of Dublin, as opposed to just old items."

"Technology allows us to scan an original photo or document, record it digitally, then put the original in safe storage where it can stay undisturbed, unlikely to be damaged by frequent handling."

In latter years, the group became an incorporated body and included surrounding areas in its collection.

Members of the group have been kept busy participating in SA History month celebrations every year since having hall access, along with other history related projects such as erecting stone historical cairns at former schools and churches, and tidying up the Dublin cemetery.

Plaques have been mounted on 74 previously unmarked graves, a new seat was installed, along with new front gates and a wrought iron fence around the cemetery.

In 2014, 25 WWI memorial trees were planted, and identity plaques placed at the institute grounds, by descendants of soldiers from the Hundred of Dublin, who didn't return from war.

The following year, seven more plaques were dedicated at the site in a special border.

Over the years, the group has collated and printed three history books, and is currently working on its fourth book titled, "Sport in the Hundred of Dublin since the 1870s."

The group prints a bi-monthly magazine which is distributed both in paper form and on-line.

"Our aim is to leave behind a



The Dublin History Group committee in 2012 when group signed lease of institute – back from left: Ian Telfer, Andrea Brow, Philip Brow, Tracey Calyville. Front Pat Thompson, Barbara Kennedy, Beverly Jones. Absent: Marcus Strudwicke.

true and comprehensive record of the development of the area and the characters that built it," Ian said.

While there have been a few secretaries and treasurers over the 20 years, there have been just two presidents – Pat Thompson from 2000 – 2014, and current president, Ian Telfer, who took over from Pat.

If you'd like to see the great displays at the institute, go along to the History Group's open days on the second Sunday of each month from 1-4pm, which also often feature a guest speaker or a workshop.

Check out the Facebook page, or contact Ian on 8529 2472 if you have any queries.

Pictured right, clockwise from top left: Beverly Jones, Pat Thompson, Phyllis Barkla and Dorothy (Doss) Collins (dec.), were members of the former Dublin Community Club, who started the Dublin History Group.



Burra gallery celebrates art teachers through exhibition

BURRA Regional Art Gallery will host a public forum and exhibition celebrating the achievement of art teachers and their lifetime commitment to creative and critical learning pathways in schools.

The 2017 SALA event is aimed at bringing attention to the importance of visual art in the lives of young people.

The public discussion will comprise art teachers, parents, students, artists and interested others, and feature panellists Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP and Art Gallery of SA Education Officer Kylie Neagle, with Helen Szuty as Moderator.

Exhibition curator Lis Jones

Ingman said the discussion will focus on "Ways of thinking that foster creative learning processes and outcomes, and which also connect and contribute to effective study of academic and life skills."

"Skills central to planning a project, carrying it through using innovative approaches, skills that last a lifetime and lead to satisfying art-based careers."

The exhibition will be open from July 27, and the public will have plenty of opportunity to talk to artists about their work.

Works exhibited are by Amanda Lockwood, Angelo Gencarelli, Ash Flynn, Dan Bradley, Harry Sherwin, James Butler, Jennifer

Ahrens, Kelli Lewis, Matt Walker, Matthew Ryan Sweet, Nik Demasi and Rick Hutchinson who are both art teachers and practicing artists.

"Art teachers who make art are a committed lot, and we're keen to hear from them how they do it," Lis said.

"We would be delighted to talk to you about the exhibition, the forum and the artists."

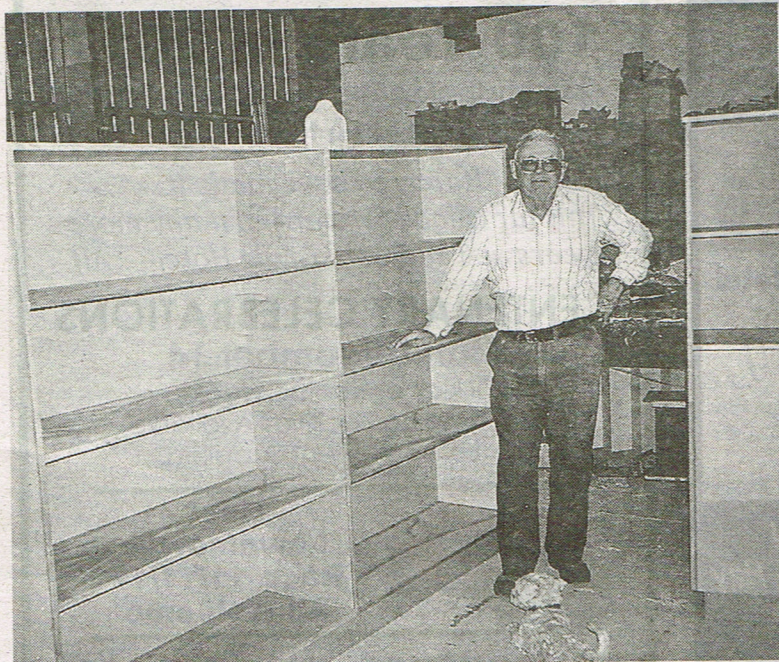
Burra Regional Art Gallery SALA event – The Art Teachers

When: Saturday August 5

Forum: 2pm

Exhibition launch: 3.30pm

Curators: Russell Philip 0400 807 185 and Lis Jones Ingman 0405 412 991



Eric Sutton with one of the storage units he made for the group.