



ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST

18TH MARCH, 1986

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In the period April, 1985 to March, 1986, Melbourne's Living Museum of the West underwent a number of stages due to funding changes. Money from the Community Employment Program was allocated to the Museum until June, 1985, and Victoria's 150th Anniversary supplied funding until the end of the year. In 1986, \$75,000 has been granted by the Ministry for the Arts for basic operations of the Museum, and specific projects have been funded by other government agencies.

STAFFING

Changes in funding have made necessary a reduction in staff numbers. A substantial reduction occurred with the completion of the CEP project, and two full-time and part-time workers were retrenched when 150th funds ended. It cannot be overstressed that, were it not for the CEP and 150th funded workers, the Museum could not have established itself and its collection. Our thanks go to those people, the majority of whom have found other work or returned to study.

The Museum staff now stands at 6 full-time workers:

Director	Olwen Ford
Assistant Director	Jenny Mitchell
Office Manager	Carmen Winter
Researcher/curatorial duties	Rod Faulkner
Photographer/media co-ordinator	Peter Haffenden
Video camera operator	Joseph Mastroianni

Over the year, staff have been concerned with exhibitions, community liaison, the Resource Centre, research, publications, and photographic and video presentation. Administrative duties have included processing orders, office duties, financial management, preparation of submissions and general public relations activities.

MUSEUM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Our Museum was a major prize winner, gaining a Special award "for the best new initiative in the museum field resulting in the creation of a people's museum along innovative and imaginative lines. The region is the Museum; the museum is the region."

EXHIBITIONS

In May/June, 1985, the final major effort of the majority of staff within the Community Employment Programme focussed on the Chops and Chimneys Exhibition at the Showgrounds. This Exhibition/Festival formed part of Victoria's 150th celebrations and demonstrated the role that anniversary

committee had played in establishing the Museum. The Exhibition filled the Expo Centre with displays which illustrated the culture, history and heritage of Melbourne's west. Events complemented the displays and included various multi-cultural presentations.

The Chops and Chimneys Exhibition was well received by the communities of the western region. Ministers and other politicians who attended spoke supportively of the Museum. Visitors' comments are attached to this report. A video has been made which commemorates the exhibition.

Following the dismantling of the Chops and Chimneys Exhibition and the departure of those employed under the Community Employment Programme, remaining staff consolidated travelling displays from the exhibition material. A list of the travelling exhibitions is attached. A booking system has been established which allows the community to borrow displays, which have been placed in libraries and community centres throughout the region. In addition, the region's festivals have once again provided a forum for our material



The launching of Lifblood of Footscray

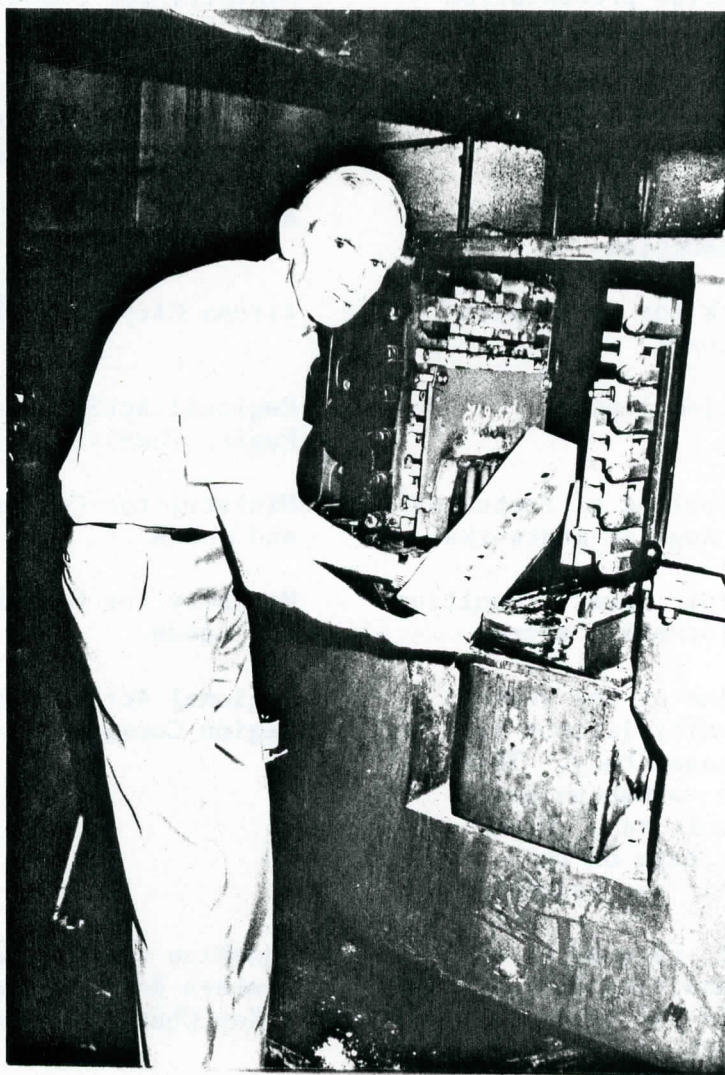
PRODUCTS AND PUBLICATIONS

A number of publications were produced through Victoria's 150th funding. Go West, Young Woman and Changing Places had been finalized prior to the previous Annual General Meeting. These publications were joined by Life Lines, Yarns and The Lifblood of Footscray all of which were launched at public functions. A multi-cultural calendar for 1986 was produced with funds from the Western Region Commission's Regional Action Program, using material researched within the 150th celebration year. Two booklets summarized research in the migration team (Migration Jigsaw) and on the Footscray Ammunition Factory (Ammunition Factory).

The radio programmes which had been broadcast by 3CR early in 1985 were presented in commercial packages of three (3) cassettes for general sale. A number of videos were edited to presentation stage by the Media team, and included material on Newmarket Saleyards, craft, brass bands, Chops and Chimneys Exhibition and a general overview of the western region.

MARKETING

Marketing of our products and publications is carried out by Museum staff in the course of their other duties. The office processes a steady stream of orders which come in from libraries, educational institutions, community groups and individuals, from Melbourne, Victoria, inter state and overseas. A distribution network is slowly evolving, and we intend to investigate outlets for our videos in the near future.



Demonstration of old work processes, the Core Shop, Massey-Ferguson

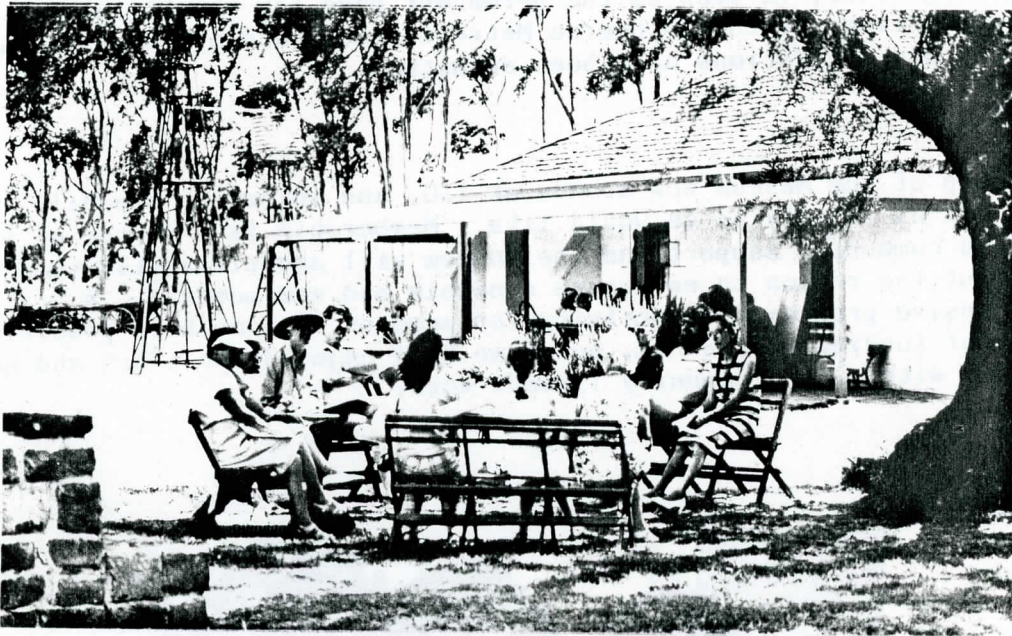
RESEARCH AND MEDIA PROJECTS

A number of specially funded research and presentation projects have been carried out by the Museum team:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Funding Agency</u>
La Foam: an industrial case study based on interview. Presentation is a report and AV material.	Ministry for Planning & Environment
Photowest: a slide presentation depicting planning issues of the western region.	Ministry for Planning & Environment
Photographic and video-copying program	Ministry for the Arts grant for purchase of equipment
Video work on WEST THEATRE/Ascot Vale tenants production	Ascot Vale Tenants group
Photographic work for exhibition on Altona's history	Altona City Council
Printing of multi-Cultural Calendar	Regional Action Program of Western Region Commission
Printing of 'Lifeblood of Footscray'-oral history of Angliss meatworks	Ministry for Conservation, Forests and Lands
A study of Kororoit Creek, resulting in video and information sheets	Ministry for Conservation, Forests and Lands
Historical outline of the western region and community liaison for a Cultural Heritage Study. This has included two workshops based at Melton and Footscray, which explored the heritage of the region with public participation.	Regional Action Program of Western Region Commission
A study of Massey-Ferguson factory site, resulting in a report, proposals for interpretation and audio-visual material.	Sunshine City Council Western Region Commission (R. A. P.) McKay Charitable Trust

RESOURCE CENTRE

Stella Barber was employed on a part-time basis with 150th funds to establish the Resource Centre. She continued to supervise its operations until June 1985, and our thanks are extended to Stella for her enthusiasm and dedication. The Resource Centre has become the focal point of visitors to the Museum and Stella's systems have proved invaluable.



The Heritage Study: Community Workshops

From June to December 1985, the Resource Centre was ably co-ordinated by Nguyen Son Thanh, funded by Victoria's 150th. Son carried out cataloguing which had been impossible to complete during the Exhibition preparations, and also put together the travelling exhibitions and handled bookings. F. I. T. Library has continued to provide computer cataloguing facilities and has included our material in their most recent WESTDOC catalogue publication. We sincerely hope the WESTDOC program can be funded to continue its valuable work.

In addition to the Museum's extensive collection of audio-tapes, video-tapes, photographs and displays, there is also a developing collection of maps and statistics relating to the region and its history, which will complement existing regional resources.

The Resource Centre is being increasingly used by the community, especially by students and teachers. Because of staffing cuts, the Centre is opening one day a week at present. We hope that further funding will make the Centre fully operational in the near future.

ACCOMMODATION

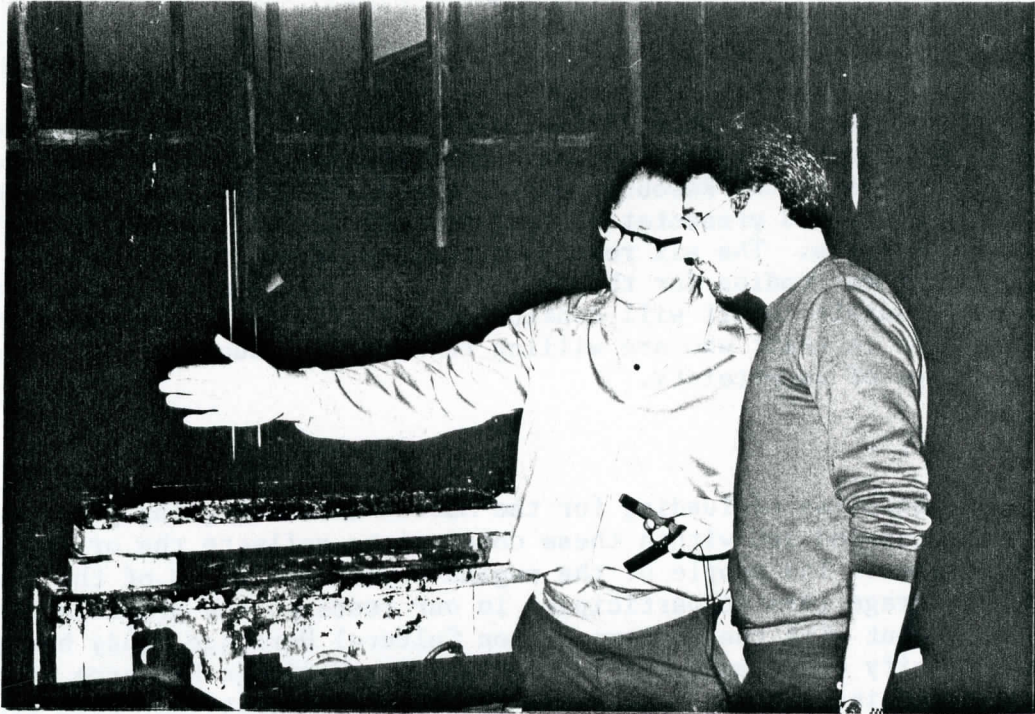
The Williamstown office of the Museum was closed in June 1985, when staff numbers were reduced. Our offices at David Street continue to be leased to us by FIT until the end of 1986. Space is a problem, particularly for storage of exhibitions. The Humes site, on the Maribyrnong River, is seen as the permanent base for the Living Museum after renovations by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, to whom our plans and suggestions have been submitted.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Museum now stands at 110, and increases steadily though not as rapidly as we would like. Membership is a source of both funds and community support and the Museum will shortly institute a drive throughout the region to encourage renewals and new members. A comprehensive programme of activity for members has not been possible because of funding restraints, but some have enjoyed the tours and seminars organized within our community liaison work.



The opening of the Marie Mills Community Centre



On-site interview in the Blacksmith's Shop of Massey-Ferguson

FUTURE FUNDING

Ministry for the Arts funds were made available from the Museum's Section on the basis outlined here by the Honourable Race Mathews, MLA:

"In view of the Ministry for the Arts problems in securing funds of the level required, I have determined that the most appropriate course of action is to seek joint funding from a range of local, state and federal sources ... I would envisage a series of approaches directly related to staffing needs." For this reason, approaches are made to a wide range of possible funding bodies and submission preparation takes up a considerable amount of staff time. We are hopeful that as local councils become more aware of our work, we can fulfil some of their needs and depend on them for some support. Local industry is another possible source of support, though our lack of tax deductibility makes the Museum an unattractive focus for company funds. We are seeking tax deductibility, but it is a lengthy process due to the difficulty of fitting our unorthodox museum into existing taxation guidelines.

A very generous donation was received by the Museum from Le Van Tai, a local Vietnamese artist. Tai donated 50 of his paintings to the people of Melbourne's West, through the Living Museum. Paintings from this exhibition may be bought or borrowed and will be circulated around the region. They are a valuable asset to the Museum, and our thanks go to Tai.

FUTURE ACTIVITY

We are confident that within 1986 funding will be raised from a number of sources to allow the Museum to continue to operate. In 1986, funds will be directed towards the Resource Centre and its travelling exhibitions, towards research and presentation, and towards fulfilling the Museum's aims and objectives. The six remaining members of staff will be with us until June, when funding for the second half of the year will be assessed. If at all possible, staff will continue until at least December, 1986. Our thanks go to staff who are willing to work with such enthusiasm under such a shadow of uncertainty.

SUMMARY

Whilst the question of funding for the Museum is an on-going problem, the work being carried out within these constraints reflects the original aims and objectives. The people of the region remain the focus of the Museum, and we encourage them to participate in our research and presentation. Our involvement with the Western Region Cultural Heritage Study has allowed us to intensify our commitment to developing a Heritage Resource Centre. We are increasingly being approached by other organizations, both within and outside the region, to take action on matters of the heritage: to carry out research and interpretation on sites; to support applications for conservation. We are increasingly developing our links throughout the region, including links with local historical societies and with a number of community groups.

We now have a photographic and line-drawing collection of visual material relating to sites and have completed in association with John Lack an historical outline of the whole region - a mammoth task, which has never before been attempted. In addition, Olwen Ford prepared a paper outlining the concept of our Museum without walls, comparing and contrasting with ecomuseums overseas. This will be useful in fulfilling our brief to act as a catalyst to the development of ecomuseum activity in Australia.



The Heritage Study: Trethowan's Chaff Mill

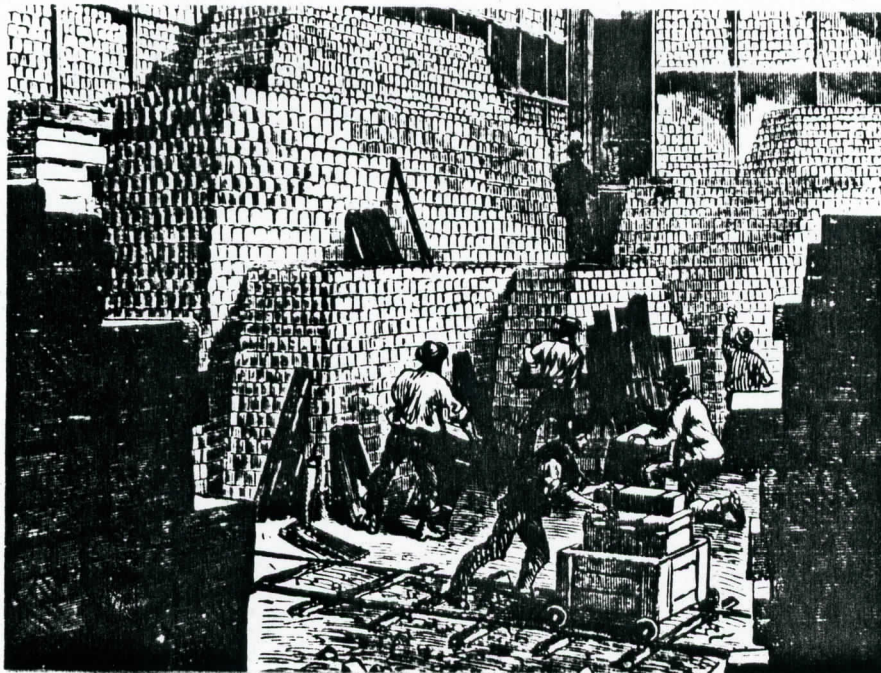
APPRECIATION

We would like to express our thanks to the remaining Museum team, who continue to be committed to our ideals and give generously of their time and energy even though their future is uncertain; to Museum staff whose employment could not be continued following completion of the Community Employment Programme and the 150th celebrations; to the Committee of Management for their enthusiasm, support and hard work; to the Community Employment Programme who made the early days of the Museum possible and our collection so extensive; to Victoria's 150th Anniversary Committee for sharing the initial sponsorship of the Museum, and for enabling our Resource Centre to be established, our publications to be printed and our exhibitions to be displayed; to the Western Region Commission for their support and funding, particularly in relation to financial management January-June, 1985, and the Chops and Chimneys Exhibition; to the Ministry for Planning and Environment and the Ministry for Conservation, Forests and Lands for their encouragement and financial support; to the Ministry for the Arts for the substantial funding granted for 1986; and to the groups, business firms, communities and individuals of the western region who have supported our works and participated in our activities.

Olwen Ford
Museum Director

Jenny Mitchell
Assistant Director

18th March, 1986



Meat canning and preserving, Humes site, 1870s



ACTIVITIES

Report on activities of
Melbourne's Living Museum
of the West
1985/86

Educational activity

Conducting tours of region for Year 8 students of Marian College, West Sunshine.
Launching of book produced by Ardeer High School Year 10 students (based on oral history program)
Discussions on oral history programs with F.I.T. staff (Education) and Ardeer High School staff
Assistance to STC students re photographic project
Assistance to Deakin University student
Teachers sessions with West Education
Assistance to video unit, Ministry for Planning & Environment re Maribyrnong River
Preparation of oral history program for adult education course
Assistance to Ardeer High School students, Year 9 oral history project
Interview with Westbourne Grammar Student, Year 12
Oral History Programs - Richmond West Primary School
Sydney Road Community School - Exhibition advice
Supply of information/photographs to Education Unit, Ministry for Planning and Environment
Liaison With Multi-cultural Committee, FIT
Western Region Council for Social Development: assistance in student project planning
Discussion session with students of Women's Learning Centre
"Meet the Writer" for school students at Footscray Public Library
North/West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre - Community and oral history
Preston Technical School - advice on exhibition design

Radio Programmes

3 CR History Show (3)
3 RRR History Show
3 AW Local History (talkback)
3 WRB Preparation for test transmission

Television

Channel 9 - Heritage of the West - News programme

Speaking at or participating in meetings

Talk at Sovereign Hill for Heritage Week
Talk to Lyceum Club Discussion Group Melbourne
Graduation Address, Western General Hospital
Report on Museum at 3 WRB Annual meeting
Talk to meeting of Museums Advisory Board
Talk at Museum Association of Australia (Vic.) session on 'Museums for Special Communities'.
Talk at Oral History Workshop, Carlton
Participation in meetings of Angliss Site Advisory group

Meeting on Newmarket at Victorian Tourist Commission
Meetings re Hunt Club Community Centre
Meetings of Werribee Park/Point Cook Advisory Committee
FIT Course advisory committee
Meetings with MMBW staff re Humes
Footscray Church of Christ - Profile of Museum
St. Albans Station Centenary - Profile of oral history
Essendon Historical Society
Shire of Kilmore History Project - launching workshop and continuing advice

Attendance at Conferences

CAMA Conference, Bendigo, October 1985
Oral History National Conference, Melbourne, June 1985 delivery of paper by
Jenny Mitchell
Australian Historians Association, Newcastle, August 1985
RHSV Seminar on Industrial sites, October 1985
Evaluation Seminar, MAA, October '85
Museum Education Associations of New Zealand and Australia: Interpreting
Cultural Diversity. International conference - delivery of paper by
Peter Haffenden

Publication of conference paper

Paper given at national conference of Australian Museum Associations,
Adelaide 1984. Selected for inclusion in journal Museums Australia,
November 1985
Article written in Rewind, Oral History Journal (Victoria) reprinted in
National oral history journal.
Paper given at Artist in the Community Training Program reproduced in
Working Paper No. 2 May 1985

Visits to other museums by museum staff

Power House Museum, Sydney
Barracks Museum, Sydney
Museum of Ancient History/Ancient Times House
Childrens Museum (launching)
Castlemaine Museum
Museum of Chinese-Australian History
Yackandandah Bank Museum
Turks Head Museum, Albury
Beechworth Historical Museum

Various activities/liaison

Visit from Australian Bicentennial Authorities
Encyclopaedia of Australian People - photographic advice
Scenic Spectrums - Study of Tourism in the West for the Ministry for Planning
& Environment - liaison meeting
Assistance in evaluation of RMIT student project on Humes site
Advice to National Trust - coach tours
SDFEC
Women of the West - fundraising

Hawthorn Library CEP Oral History project
Towards a Cultural Policy: Museum outline
Involvement with West Theatre
Museum of Victoria, Croatian Folk Art - video footage
Museum of Victoria - resource advice
Children's Museum - photographic work
Ascot Vale Tenants Group
Ethnic Affairs Commission - photographic work
Fort Queenscliff, Army Department of Defence

Displays and Exhibitions

Williamstown Summer Festival
Saltwater River Festival
F.I.T. Library
 Heritage
 Migration
Multi-Cultural Curriculum Centre - Migration
Yarraville Bank Display
Kororoit Creek Display - Western Region Commission
Metalworkers Union: joint display at Highpoint West
Preparation for Maribyrnong Seminar, MMBW
Opening of City of Sunshine's Hunt Club: ICI display
Heritage display for Western Region Cultural Heritage Study at Footscray
 and Melton
Marie Mills Community Centre (Sunshine City Council)

Fundraising activities

Submissions to:

- Ministry for the Arts
- Ministry for Conservation, Forests and Lands
- Ministry for Planning and Environment through the Western
 Region Commission
- Ministry for Water Resources
- Companies throughout the Western suburbs
- Tobin Brothers Foundation
- Office of the Status of Women
- Australia Council
- Australian Bicentennial Authority
- Women's 150th Committee
- Adult Learning Project, TAFE
- Community Employment Programme
- Ethnic Affairs Commission

Discussion with AMIEU: Lifblood of Footscray support

SUPPORT

Press Coverage

Bell of Saigon
Footscray Mail
Werribee Banner
Sunshine Advocate
Williamstown Advertiser
Bacchus Marsh Telegraph
Essendon Gazette
Broadglen Newspapers
Western Times
The Age
 - Age Weekender
 - Age Green Guide

Sun

Herald

Australian Quarterly Review

Australian Society

Radio Coverage - Chops and Chimneys Exhibition

3EA, 3LO, 3UZ, 3DB, 3KZ, 3XY

Doantions/in kind support

Humes Ltd.

Farnbach, Burnham Pty. Ltd. - Footscray

Bradmill Textiles

W. L. Allen Foundry

ICI

Myer Melbourne

Gobles, Footscray

Footscray Lions Club

FIT Library

Footscray City Council



CHOPS AND CHIMNEYS

Chops and Chimneys

Exhibition/Festival

24th May - 2nd June, 1985

"Chops and Chimneys" was a multi-cultural, multi-media, multi-lingual exhibition, featuring displays that focussed on life and work in Melbourne's West, and events which reflected the cultures of the region. The exhibition was launched by the Honourable Race Mathews.

EXHIBITION

The Exhibitions contained photographs and quotations collected by the Museum team from June 1984 - May 1985. These illustrated the themes of multi-culturalism (specifically, Vietnamese, Poles, Italians, Greeks), industry, heritage, environment, economy, bands, art/craft and community. Groups and individuals in the region were also invited to display their interest, and participants included E.CO.W.S, Greenwich Bay Promotion Group, WEST Theatre, craftswomen, Williamstown Sea Pilots, Four and Twenty Pies and the Werribee Italian Social Club.

Following "Chops and Chimneys" the displays were grouped into travelling exhibitions, a list of which is appended to this report.

FESTIVAL

Events at "Chops and Chimneys" complemented the themes of the displays, and included:

-Seminars

Local histories
Environment
Oral History
Multi-culturalism
Central America
Aborigines
Resources of the West
Bird life

-Tours

Maribyrnong Cruises
Historic Architecture in schools
Early Sunshine
Western Suburbs - historic/environmental
Historic Essendon
Conducted walk - Cherry Lake

-Films

Children's Films
Migration, including Silver City

-Children's entertainment

Kidsart
Rock band
Painting
Sculpting
Singing competition

- Bands School Bands Competition
Brass and concert band
- Schools Competition
Demonstrations
- Promotional Activities Lester Ellis
- Multi-Cultural entertainment Yugoslav dancing and readings
Vietnamese displays
Sadco Balalika Orchestra
Maltese Gozo Band
- Theatre Ethnic Food
BBQ lamb
Candyfloss
- Craft Painting demonstration
Sculpture demonstration
China painting demonstration
Pottery demonstration
Copper beating
Sandstone demonstration
- Photography Competition

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INCORPORATED

COMMENTS FROM OUR VISITORS' BOOK

COMMENTS ON OUR EXHIBITION

'CHOPS AND CHIMNEYS

24 May - 2 June 1985

Congratulations on the concept.
Enjoyed it very much.
More exhibitions please.
Excellent
Very interesting - always love the history of our factories.
Typical "West"
Very good
My second visit. At last I have seen it all. Congratulations.
Well presented display.
Very enlightening display.
Would like to see more.
Very good production.
Outstanding
Thoroughly enjoyed it and learned a lot.
It is a lovely very sound exhibition.
Politically/ideologically very sound exhibition.
Interesting collection of photos.
A/V presentation also very good.
Excellent display- It would be great to send around to community groups in the West.
Time well spent.
very informative
Fun and a good idea.
Good photography
Great photos and knowledge.
Very interesting especially the photos.
I liked the match of old and new.
A good balance b/w photos, writing, videos.
A great effort, impressive.
Great.

Most impressive.

Full of life and zest.

A magnificent display.

Has a nice community feel to it.

Keep up the good work.

Congratulation for a wonderful exhibition.

Hope it is on-going.

A great fundation.

A great start.

A mighty effort.

Made me feel proud of the west (and a bit tearful)

Great show.

This type of display would be excellent in the Nat. Gallery where those from the East and S. East may gain a more sensitive appreciation of the living problems of those in the Western Suburbs.

Very moving.

Good idea - should be more.



PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST
14 David Street, Footscray, Vic. 3011
Phone (03) 689 7293

PUBLICATIONS LIST 1984 - 1986

- (1) "PEOPLE OF MELBOURNE'S WEST", 1986 Calendar.
This calendar contains photographs and quotations illustrating migrant experiences in Melbourne's western region. Printed in English, Greek, Italian and Yugoslav.
- (2) YARNS: CREATIVE WOMEN IN MELBOURNE'S WEST
Eleven women talk about their lives at home and at work with particular reference to their creative activities.
- (3) THE LIFE BLOOD OF FOOTSCRAY: WORKING AT THE ANGLISS MEATWORKS
This book contains interviews with meatworkers about their memories of work and pastimes; friends; stories; strikes; foremen and politics.
- (4) THE LIFE BLOOD OF FOOTSCRAY: WORKING AT THE ANGLISS MEATWORKS
A series of three audio tapes, containing six programs about memories of the Angliss meatworks; work and pastimes; friends; stories; strikes; foremen and politics.
- (5) CHANGING PLACES: VIETNAMESE WOMEN IN MELBOURNE'S WEST
This book contains extracts from conversations describing life for women in Vietnam, in refugee camps and in Melbourne's western suburbs.
- (6) LIFE LINES: STORIES BY WOMEN IN THE WESTERN SUBURBS OF MELBOURNE
This book contains stories from a variety of women from different age groups and ethnic backgrounds, describing their experiences of paid and unpaid work in Melbourne's west.
- (7) MIGRATION JIGSAW
This booklet contains edited tape interviews with: Stella Papa-Christodoulou; (Greek); Jordan Duzelovski (Macedonian); Lucia Ugoni (Italian) and Huu Hoa Nguyen (Vietnamese). These people describe their experiences of arriving and living in Melbourne's west.
- (8) AMMUNITION FACTORY
A booklet by Melbourne's Living Museum of the West on five women who were interviewed about their early days at the Ammunition Factory, Footscray.
- (9) GO WEST, YOUNG WOMAN
1985 Diary with extracts from conversations with female munition workers.
- (10) GREETING CARDS
Six (6) cards with photos of local people and places and the caption 'Greetings From Melbourne's Western Suburbs.'

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

The Living Museum has a number of travelling exhibitions which may be borrowed for public display. These encompass the following topics:

- Unit 1 Melbourne's West - photographs and text on the ideas of history and heritage, relating these to the western region. (32 pieces)
- Unit 2 The Rural West (5 pieces)
- Unit 3 Angliss Meatworks (not yet completed)
- Unit 4 Heritage - a display which shows traditional ideas of heritage and also extends this to more challenging concepts. (35 pieces and 8 boards 100 cm x 80 cm.)
- Unit 5 Newmarket Saleyards (32 pieces)
- Unit 6 Ammunition Factory, Footscray (38 pieces)
- Unit 7 ICI Deer Park (49 pieces)
- Unit 8 Economic Development in the West - outlining the role of the Western Region Commission. (22 pieces)
- Unit 9 Italians of Werribee (21 pieces)
- Unit 10 The Vietnamese (40 pieces)
- Unit 11 Migration Linkages - outlining the migration pattern of one Greek family. (19 pieces)
- Unit 12 Women in Art and the Community - featuring the Footscray Community Arts Centre. (84 pieces)
- Unit 13 Bands of the Western Region (39 pieces)
- Unit 14 Sunshine - outlining the early development of Braybrook Junction and featuring H. V. McKay Harvester Works. (12 pieces)
- Unit 15 Humes (27 pieces)
- Unit 17 Quarries - featuring Sunshine quarries. (15 pieces)
- Unit 18 Maribyrnong River Valley - (41 pieces)
- Unit 19 The Resource Centre of Melbourne's Living Museum of the West (21 pieces)
- Unit 27 Metals Industries (4 pieces)
- Unit 32 Poles of Ardeer - outlining Polish migration and settlement in Ardeer. (19 pieces)
- Unit 35 Where Did They Come From? - showing the migrant heritage of Melbourne's western region in photographic terms. (31 pieces)
- Unit 36 Landscapes - general photographic views of Melbourne's western region. (4 pieces)

Large single, mounted photographs not a part of travelling exhibition units listed above are also available. These include mounted colour photographs, 6' x 4':

- 1) A view of Footscray Park
- 2) Factory chimneys
- 3) Man fishing on the Maribyrnong
- 4) Humes Pipe Factory Site
- 5) Neighbourhood fences and clothes lines
- 6) PRA in Altona
- 7) Kororoit Creek

A series of line drawings and paintings by Laotian artist, Manalone Nomichith, are available for loan. The drawings are of typical scenes of the West: its industrial character, the proximity of housing and industry, shopping centres, traffic congestion and its many different features. The collection consists of:-

- 1) 'Shopping Centre and Railway station St Albans'
water colour, wooden framed, size 50-65 cm.
- 2) 'Kororoit Creek Parklands, Sunshine'
water colour, wooden framed, size 50-65 cm.
- 3) 'Westgate Bridge'
water colour, wooden framed, size 50-65 cm.
- 4) 'Altona Petrochemical complex'
black&white, wooden framed, size 50-65 cm.
- 5) 'Industry on the Maribyrnong River, Williamstown'
black&white, wooden framed, size 45-55 cm.
- 6) 'Newport Power Station'
black&white, wooden framed, size 45-55 cm.
- 7) 'Industry and Housing, Yarraville'
black&white wooden framed, size 45-55 cm.
- 8) 'Kororoit Creek Linear Parks project, Mouth of Creek in Altona/Williamstown'
oil colour, wooden framed, size 65-95 cm (no glass).
- 9) 'Dyvon Rd, Footscray' with city view
oil colour, wooden framed, size 65-95 cm (no glass).
- 10) 'Deer Park station'
black&white, on green board, size 23-31 cm.
- 11) 'Future view of Deer Park station'
black&white, on green board, size 36-46 cm.
- 12) 'Henderson House Piggery, Footscray Wharves'
black&white, on green board, size 35-45 cm.
- 13) 'Railway Bridge, Footscray Wharves'
black&white, on grey board, size 35-50 cm.
- 14) 'Boat-building, Footscray Wharves'
black&white, on grey board, size 35-50 cm.
- 15) 'Michaelis Bayley, Footscray Wharves'
black&white, on grey board, size 35-50 cm.
- 16) 'Western Suburbs Railway land'
black&white, on green board, size 35-50 cm.
- 17) 'Future view of Western Suburbs Railway land'
black&white, on green board, size 35-50 cm.



PRESS COVERAGE



Museum vies for awards

THE Living Museum of the West has entered the 1985 Museum of the Year Awards.

Unlike most museums, the Living Museum of the West is not a grand building full of glass cases. The western region is the museum.

The museum tells the story of Melbourne's Western Suburbs and describes itself as a people focused, multi-media, multilingual museum, which records peoples' stories about work, migration, home and community life and then takes those stories back into the community as cassettes, videos, books, exhibitions and radio programs.

It is a living collection created by people of the region. Award judges will find it a challenging contrast to the rows of artefacts or art works they will be visiting elsewhere on their assessment tours.

Sponsored by Westpac for Victoria's 150th anniversary, 80 entrants throughout Victoria are contesting the awards which offer \$2250 in prize money.

The winners will be announced during International Museums Week in May.

ABOVE: Frank and Ant — two familiar faces of the Newmarket Saleyards Frank Hecker, (left) a foreman and George Hamilton have lived in Newmarket for 30 years.

This picture blown up to poster size, has been a vital part of the Living Museum of the West's travelling display.

A new way to look at the past

Marvellous Melbourne

Garrie Hutchinson

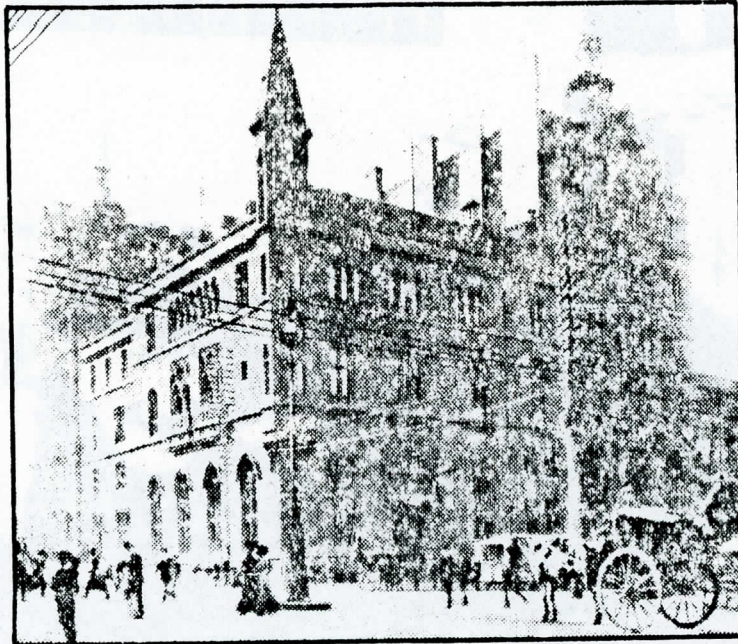
TWO new museums of quite different kinds have just begun activities in Melbourne. The ANZ Banking Museum is at 380 Collins Street underneath one of the wonders of Melbourne, the gothic banking chamber of the old ES&A — or more accurately beneath the old Stock Exchange building next door, which has been part of the bank building since 1915. This is one of the most beautiful (and still useful) rooms anywhere.

The museum has as its first show a small, but interesting collection of materials related to the history of banking in Australia, drawn from the 150 years of history of the 16 banks that make up the current ANZ Banking Group. This is the first banking museum in Australia, and one of the few examples of a business museum anywhere.

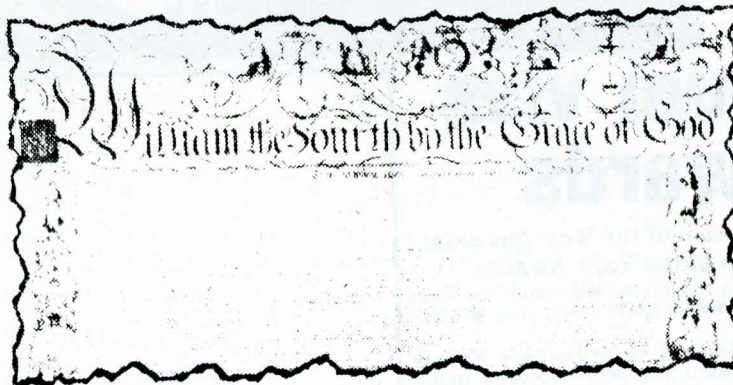
You can see some of the architect's drawings for the bank above, the ornately handwritten charter and seal of the Bank of Australasia (1835) old firearms, money boxes, scales, adding machines, locks, currency and materials from each of the 16 banks. Banks have always been central both to business and to just about everyone who has lived in Melbourne; this museum is well worth dropping into if you are walking that part of Collins Street. It is open 9.30 to 4 pm Monday to Friday, except public holidays.

The other new museum is less traditional, and less concerned with artefacts. It is the Living Museum of the West, opened last August and currently mounting its first project, 'Chops and Chimneys', at the Victorian Expo Centre, the old Government Pavilion in the Showgrounds until 2 June, 10 am-9 pm.

This museum is based on the "Eco Museums" in Europe and was invented by Eva Yencen. It aims to document the lives and activities of the people of Melbourne's western region — from Bacchus Marsh and Werribee to Essendon, Footscray and Williamstown. There is a current emphasis on people's working lives, which are being documented through oral history, photographs, video as well as, presumably, the collection of artefacts and docu-



ABOVE: A touch of Gothic in the city — the ANZ Bank in Collins Street. The former ES&A Bank was finished in 1887. BELOW: First charter of the Bank of Australasia, 21 May, 1835.



mentation for later display and "communications" to the people of "the west".

Some of the results of the 22 member research team, including a series of "multi media" displays of work and workplaces, migration and the environment of "the west" are on display at 'Chops and Chimneys'. (Chops because of the rural west of the West Gate Bridge and Chimneys because of the industrial area east of it.) There are also theatre works, cruises up the Marybyrnong, talks and discussions.

This is not what most people would automatically think of as a museum, and on any historical definition it probably is not one. Not that definition matters all that much — documentation and communication do, especially in a region of Melbourne deprived of many community services it should have. (Living Museum of the West, 397 8362).

It is hardly surprising that Melbourneans are such fans of muse-

ums — or that we have so many. They are, after all, like the city, a Victorian development. So much that is recognisable and individual about our city, from organised sport to the trams, only became possible in the 19th Century, and despite the arrival of everything involved with the 20th are organic to Melbourne still.

So it is with our museums, particularly what is now the National Museum of Victoria, but in my childhood was a set of vast inter-connecting echoing caverns displaying civilisation in all its ramifications: art, science, mechanical contrivances, guns, the awesome spaces of the library's reading room, changeless dioramas of the more original Australians. It was, as the founding fathers had imagined it, all one. Today things have changed naturally enough, and art has gone down to St Kilda Road, but all the disparate sections of science and technology have been joined un-

der one head, and the library tles on.

Despite the museum seem not to have changed since 189 has always been a popular pl. The National Gallery in its building might have caught with the more modern exhibit techniques and promotional m ods, but until the past couple years the museum was like a seum of museology. I am vinned that every generation s our great grandfather's has pe at the models of gold mi cranked up the colored disc turned it white, and operated ous mechanical devices pro that gravity does work. The seum was better than the zoo cause admission was free, at was warmer.

Whatever the educational b fit of all these things there wa doubt that they were entertain in the way things were enter ing in the Melbourne of the 1. But advances in the way scie and anthropological mate ought to be presented, and the mand on public institutions meant those quaint old days had to pass. The number of cialist museums of varying c tries and interests from Performing Arts Museum sa places like Sovereign Hill, concepts like the Living Mu of the West) has forced the Na al Museum to make the most traditional scientific strength present them in a better, mo to date way.

In a way, museums and gall have had to return in publi least to their entertainment o in the agglomeration of gall museums, circuses, hippod pleasure gardens and zoos o lished by such luminaries as eas T. Barnum. There exhibition of real merm Colonel Tom Thumb and freaks and sports, was sold t public using the most up-t techniques — just as big art/ logical shows are today.

A couple of weekends age ing International Museum our family had a terrific ti the National Museum's ope digging microscopic fossils o primaeval ooze, wand through the dungeons where dite guides explained the icies of bottled Gippsland earthworms, and such, havu in Experilearn, adding up th siderable number of Victori ventions and most impor seeing the dinosaurs, which last back on their own fo made me hope that the place would get the more storage space, the staff so could continually display th sures it has hidden away.

THE AGE 28/5/85

The rich tapestry of the west goes on display

By BARBARA HUTTON

The western suburbs of Melbourne have often been ignored, written off as "underprivileged".

Undisturbed by the changes in the east, the old residents and recent migrants in the west developed a strong sense of community and rich history.

Two years ago a small group of residents, including the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mrs Joan Kirner, planned a "living museum" to preserve its heritage.

Last year they set up the "living museum of the west", which they say is the first spoken history museum ever established in Australia.

Last week the museum unveiled the fruits of the past year's work: the 'Chops and Chimneys' exhibition at the Victorian Expo Centre in the Showgrounds.

Topics covered range from the prison hulks of Williamstown and Essendon in the horse-and-buggy days to the most recent history of all: the stories told by migrant children about their journeys from Europe, South America and Vietnam, and their feelings on arriving in the new country.

Ms Jenny Mitchell, assistant director of the museum, said an

researchers, paid by the Community Employment Scheme, had gathered tape-recorded information about the industries in the west, who worked in them and how their lives were affected.

She asked women, now in their seventies, about the time when Deer Park was open paddocks and a cluster of houses that had sprung up around the old explosives factory, now known as ICI.

She said many noxious industries were set up in the west, so that they would not pollute the city, but employers then built cheap housing around them to attract workers.

The industries are still there, still polluting. One of the "exhibits" is a tour of western suburbs industries to look at the results.

Some researchers concentrated on talking to the men who worked at the Angliss Meatworks and Newmarket; others the women who worked in the munitions factories, or at home.

The exhibition continues until 2 June, and includes cruises along the Maribyrnong River, bird watching tours, comedy, dancing, bands, ethnic food, films and video.

The program is open from about 10 am to 7 pm each day and



Picture: ROGER CUMMINGS
Three faces of the western suburbs: the kindly face of 75-year-old Mrs Lella Walsh, centre, looks out from a picture in the background as Sheila Byard of Kensington points out one of the features of the Chops and Chimneys exhibition to Than Son Nguyen of Footscray, at the Showgrounds yesterday.

'Changing places'

Viets tell their stories



Readers of all ethnic backgrounds will better understand the experience of Vietnamese migrants through "Changing Places", a new book published by the Living Museum of the West.

The book was launched last Wednesday at the Chops and Chimneys Exhibition by Footscray MLA Robert Fordham.

"Changing Places" tells the stories of eight Vietnamese women and their experiences of migration and resettlement. The stories describe their lives in Vietnam, in refugee camps, and in Australia.

The stories were collected by researcher Nguyen Son Thanh, who came to the West from Saigon in 1980.

Son interviewed the women and, with co-editor Jenny Mitchell, translated the stories into English.

The book's cover design and story illustrations are by Le Van Tai, a Vietnamese artist, then living in the Midway Hostel.

•Artist Le Van Tai (left), Le Thi Thai Tan, 7, and editor Nguyen Son Thanh read "Changing Places", a new book about Vietnamese women in the West.

Many of the women's experiences leaving their homes were harrowing. Some faced loneliness and homesickness in Australia.

Yet they were always full of hope for their new country, even though the reality of life in Australia wasn't always quite what they expected.

The stories describe the women's work experiences — often harsh and exhausting. Some of the stories also tell of the friendships of fellow workers and neighbors, which helped ease the uncertainties of the strange, new land.

The book will be used as reading material in migrant English classes.

It can be bought through the Living Museum of the West, 397 8362.



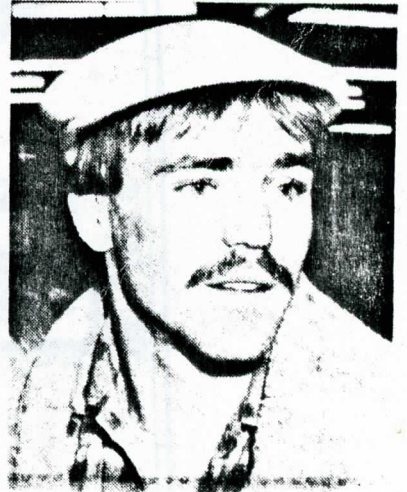
Enthusiastic fans swarmed Lester Ellis the moment he arrived at the Chops and Chimneys exhibition.

LESTER ELLIS'S love for the West and for children was the reason for his visit to recent Chops and Chimneys exhibition.

More than 300 school children from Christ the King, Braybrook, Marion College, Sunshine West and Footscray North primary school greeted Ellis last Friday, at the Showgrounds.

International Boxing Federation's world Junior Lightweight champion Ellis did not hesitate in giving the youngsters boxing tips and signing hundreds of autographs.

Lester Ellis, a hero from the West, was impressed with the Chops and Chimneys dedication to the Western Suburbs.





Williamstown artist Robyn Fox with her child Cassidy. She is one of the female artists featured in the book Yarns.

Yarn tells of women in art and craft

THE Living Museum of the West has published a book about women involved in arts and crafts in the West.

During the next three weeks this paper will feature excerpts from the book titled Yarns.

Researchers Nicola Johnson and Lesley Purcell got the idea for the book when they worked on a history project at the museum.

Yarns highlights womens' experiences as workers, home makers and artists.

"When we began talking to women we found that they were all very proud of their creativity, whether it be in the home or work produced for sale," Nicki Johnson said.

The first excerpt highlights Williamstown artist Robyn Fox, who designed the book's cover.

She says: "I think there should be more support for mothers as artists and women in general — mainly mothers who are artists and have young children — when they need some sort of financial support, so they

ping into their budget.

"I think they're very much ignored. Mothers as artists are not taken terribly seriously, as women artists aren't anyway.

"Australia's very backward on that level. Totally! It's in the Dark Ages in my opinion. Your big duty first is to support your family and if you haven't got extra money for your "hobby" — tough!

"Most have got terrific financial support who have become well known, nearly always from the middle classes. I mean, when have you ever heard of the working class Mum being Mrs Wonderful Painter up there in the National Gallery? You don't hear it, but I bet you there's hundreds of them out there."

Other excerpts will highlight painter Margaret Fitzgerald and needle craft worker Irene Bright.

Yarns is available from the Living Museum of the West, 14 David St, Footscray.

THE MAIL 24 7 85 P. 20

Museum booming



Melbourne's Living Museum of the West's director Olwen Ford.

MELBOURNE'S Living Museum of the West has entered a new phase with the recent completion of its Community Employment Program.

Since its opening a year ago, the Museum has recorded both the past and contemporary history of people living in the West.

The Museum's director Olwen Ford said: "The Museum is the region, the region is the museum."

"Instead of collecting old artefacts, the Living Museum has collected people's accounts of their lives in this region," she said.

"We've been particularly interested in their working lives and in the experiences of people from overseas."

Due to the completion of the Community Employment Program funding, the Museum will now have to rely on Victoria's 150th anniversary funds, special research projects and membership money.

"Membership is increasing daily, but we would like to see people signing up in their thousands," Mrs Ford said.

Membership costs \$10 and gives members a discount on publications and exhibitions, and a regular newsletter.

For more details contact the Museum, at 14 David St, Footscray or telephone 689 7293.

A walk in the past

THE LIVING Museum of the West will hold its second public workshop at the Footscray Community Arts centre this Saturday, 8 March.

The first of the three exploration days was held in Melton on the hottest day of the year.

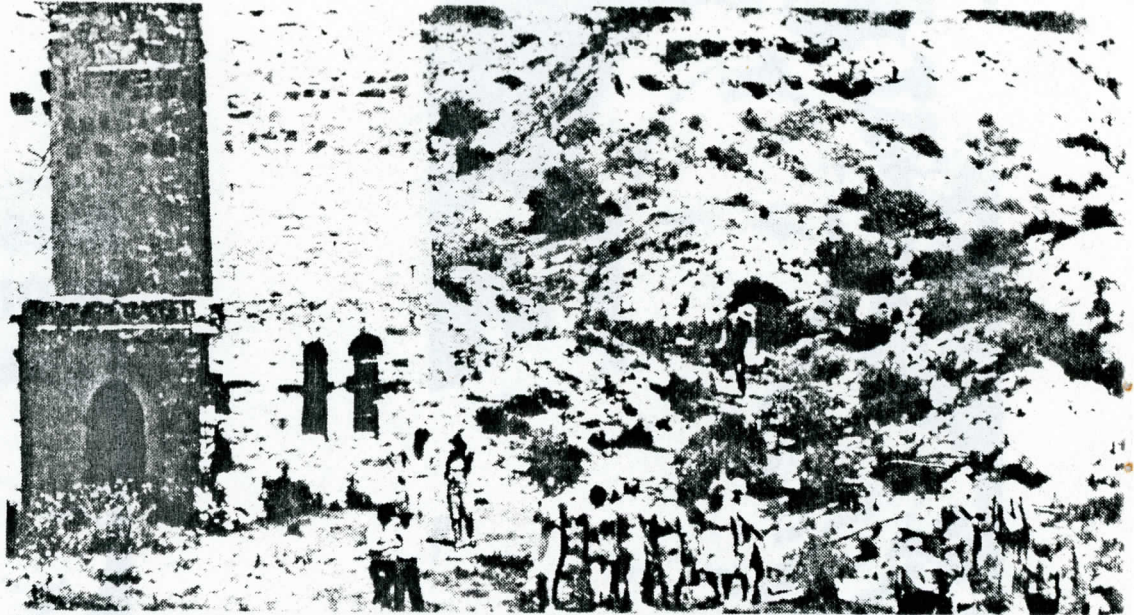
"The first day at Melton was very successful," Museum organiser Jenny Mitchell said.

"Despite the temperature of 38 degrees, 80 people visited the lime kilns in Bacchus Marsh, and Trethowan's Chaff Mill in Melton.

"The remainder of the day was spent in lively discussion on the history and heritage of the region."

The second exploration day will include a tour of Henderson House, Footscray, by art centre's co-ordinator Rick McCracken.

It will also include a walk around the wharf area which will be guided by Footscray historian Bill Jennison, who will discuss historical landmarks and features.



Western Suburbs residents exploring the Coimadai lime kilns in Bacchus Marsh during the Living Museum of the West's first heritage exploration day.

Ms Mitchell chose Henderson House for the second workshop day because she believes it is a recognised heritage site.

"We looked at other sites in the West for the second workshop but Henderson House was the most suitable because of its historical importance and size," she said.

"We had nearly a 100 people turn up for the Melton tour and we had to find a place which would cater for a similar sized group.

"The whole day won't be spent totally in the arts centre but it will be used as the base," she said.

"There will be the hour walk around the Maribyrnong river industrial sites highlighting the importance of factories to the West.

"This will include a trip to the old Michaelis Bayley site."

Henderson House was named after the Scotsman Samuel Henderson who ran it as a ham and bacon curing house from 1870 to 1921.

More than 100 people worked at the meat preserving house which was also known as the "Piggery".

From 1921 to 1956 Henderson House was used as a margarine factory and then from 1956 to 1978 it was the base for a metal merchant.

In 1978 it was converted into the Footscray Community Arts Centre which includes an art section, music school and holds a variety of arts classes.

Bookings for the second workshop can be made by

contacting Jenny Mitchell at the Museum, 14 Davis Street, Footscray, phone 689 7200.

entertainment

Artist says thanks with his work

VIETNAMESE artist Le Van Tai recently donated fifty paintings to the Living Museum of the West.

Mr Le, who lives in Footscray, moved to Australia two years ago and since then has held three exhibitions in the West.

He decided to donate his

works as an appreciation of the help and encouragement he has received from the museum.

He hopes they will further understanding between Vietnamese and Australians.

"I know that the museum receives funding from the Arts Ministry but this is not always enough," Mr Le said.

"I cannot give money but I

can contribute my work to be used as a resource for the people in the West through the museum."

Mr Le will hold an exhibition of his paintings at the Community Arts Centre, 45 Moreland St, from 8 to 22 March.

Money raised from any paintings sold will be donated to the museum.



