

ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE FRIENDS OF THE HALL SCHOOL MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE

13 August 2015

Apologies :

Ken Heffernan, Mardie Troth, Alison Reynolds, Pam & Jim Grace, Eileen Wignall, Pat Kinlyside, Mick Gentleman, Vicki Coleman, Kingsley Southwell

Welcome :

The Honorary Curator, Phil Robson, welcomed visitors and friends to the meeting and introduced the guest speaker, Kim Morris.

Kim Morris (Art & Archival)

Kim talked of his relationship with the Hall Museum. He recalled the early days and the difficulties he encountered when asked to do a conservation assessment of the collection, as it was, over five years ago. He particularly remembered the insect attacks evident on the fabrics in the collection and the subsequent action undertaken by his team involving freezing and packaging the items into zip lock bags to halt the decline of the items. Kim was amazed at the progress which had been made in the Museum, from the six-week course he conducted at the school five years ago, to where the Museum is today. He expressed congratulations on the huge effort and achievements in a short space of time and noted that many of the faces he was looking at today he recognized as being part of that course. He was full of admiration of the groups' enduring dedication. He felt the Museum was as good as any exhibition you would see anywhere!

Kim made the following comments about where we can go from here:

- **Evaluation of condition of items** – think of the items in terms of how you physically feel at the moment i.e. are you feeling hot, dry, humid etc and transfer these feeling to the item, in other words what is adversely affecting you will also be adversely affecting the item.
- **Insect problems** – make regular inspections of all organic/fabric items – check for evidence under pleats, edges etc., at least every 12 months.
- **Courses** – partake in as many as possible to improve and maintain skills.
- **Next Generation** – keep up the momentum of new recruits – one day those present wont be able to do the work necessary to maintain the Museum.
- **Storage** – emphasis on storage is crucial, storing an item in a cardboard box is better than no protection at all. A box not considered acid-free can be

modified with acid free tissue etc. Zip lock bags available in bulk are an excellent investment in safe storage.

- **Preservation** – *this doesn't have to be expensive, a lot of very suitable preservation material is available cheaply or free, e.g. the acid free boxes from John James Hospital, acid free card from picture framers etc.*
- **Placement of items** – *the importance was stressed of making sure items are **off the ground**, if only to a small degree e.g. a minor flood event can seriously affect/damage anything directly placed on the floor and can be easily avoided with something as simple as some polystyrene blocks.*
- **Grants** – *keep on the lookout for grants available. The significance of objects is an important asset and a big advantage in the acquiring of grants.*

Questions/Answers

Disaster Management Plan – *anticipate possible events and know what to do.*

Duty Person – *someone needs to be nominated on each open day to make sure everything is turned off and locked up, a checklist would be helpful.*

Tagging of collection items – *try not to permanently attach anything to items, swing tags are the best way to go, label any box or cover containing the item with a fixed label. It is possible to apply a layer of varnish which can be written over. A workshop to cover this could be a good idea.*

Publicity - *Kim suggested an 'Appraisal Day' similar to the Antiques Roadshow. The issue with the tenancy of the Museum had been widely reported in the media – although this is a serious issue for the Museum it has created awareness.*

Storage Advice – *maintaining an even temperature, not too hot or cold is the ultimate aim. Styrofoam boxes provide excellent insulation.*

The Gillespie Collection *could be key to the future of the Museum as a feature of a 'Heritage Village', namely Hall.*

Large Collection Items – *storage is a huge problem - consider the uniqueness and provenance of such items before accepting.*

Kim Morris was thanked for giving us his time and his words of wisdom. He was presented with a bottle of local Red.

Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting: *Rosalie Richards moved that the minutes be accepted as correct, seconded by Alastair Crombie, All Agreed.*

Curator's Report : *Phil Robson tabled his report on the past year and future plans and issues.*

Motion

Alastair Crombie put a motion forward on the payment of 'rent' to the government ... 'that the Museum should not be transferring any money for any reason, particularly as most of the work done at the Museum and on the site is done in kind by volunteers, and the Men's Shed and that the issue should be bought up at the upcoming AGM of the Progress Association'.

The motion was moved by Val Wiseman and seconded by Rosalie Richards.

Election of Officials

Honorary Curator – Phil Robson said he was very appreciative of the letter of support he received from the friends. He agreed to nominate for a further year. Marg. Morris moved that Phil be re-elected, seconded by Malcolm Beazley, All Agreed.

Treasurer – Olga Minion offered to take up the position, Moved by Yvonne Robson and Seconded by Phil Robson, All Agreed.

Secretary – Jan Peelgrane was nominated but declined – the position remains vacant, Jan will temporarily fill the position for a very short while. Val Wiseman subsequently nominated for the position which was moved and accepted.

Other Business:

Membership

- The fee structure was discussed. Alastair moved to maintain the Status Quo i.e. \$20.00 per year, with \$10.00 of that going to the Progress Association. Seconded by Val Wiseman, All Agreed.
- It was agreed that a mailing list of friends be maintained whether they are paid up or not.
- The form needs to be modified to show the new name of the Museum, bank transfer details; details of insurance etc
- N.B. REMINDERS OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TO BE SENT OUT IN JUNE OF EVERY YEAR IN LINE WITH THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

MEETING CLOSED 12 NOON.

