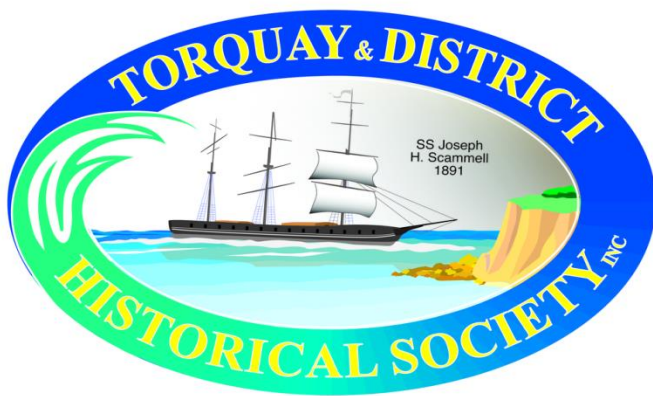


TORQUAY AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc



Conserving the
history and heritage
of the district
2000-2021

First published 2023

by Torquay & District Historical Society Inc (TDHS)

18 Price Street Torquay Vic 3228

<https://torquayhistoricalsociety.com.au/>

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Front page: TDHS logo depicting the wreck of SS Joseph Scammell off Point Danger in 1891

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Foreword

Torquay was a late developer as a town. Bellbrae was a thriving settlement with a school in the 1860's, when Torquay was merely a place to swim, with a few fishermen's shacks. The town of Torquay was not laid out for sub-division until the 1880s. Torquay slumbered through the years, with a small resident population and a larger summer influx, well into the twentieth century. The first Torquay School was founded as late as 1900.

Sea change and the newly emerging surfing industry announced Torquay to the world as Rip Curl, Quicksilver, Piping Hot and Bells Beach became by-words around the globe. Torquay grew rapidly out pacing Bellbrae as the population grew exponentially.

By the 1990's we had many features of a growing and thriving town, but we didn't have an historical society. Anglesea had an historical society, Geelong had n historical society but Torquay didn't. I can remember having discussions, about our lack, with Torquay stalwarts such as John Spittle, Ian Opperman and Keith Grossman, but the Society didn't emerge till the year 2000, when I had the honour to be the first President. What transpired from there is what this book is all about, ably portrayed by Carollyn Williams, our extremely able Secretary.

We have unique abilities with today's modern digital recording, to record a wealth of information for the future. The Torquay Historical Society is doing just that. This volume celebrates our first 21 years. We hope to be still recording for many years to come.

Spencer Leighton
Life Member



**President David Marshall presents founder and inaugural President
Spencer Leighton with Life Membership 2014**

Introduction

The Torquay and District Historical Society (TDHS) operated informally before 2000. It was incorporated in 2000 with a total of 22 members. Meetings were held in a hired room at Spring Creek Community House and also at 2 Charles Lane, the home of then President Spencer Leighton. After the Surf Coast Shire purchased the old Torquay Police Station (TOPS) this building became available in 2011 to locate the Society and its archives and collections. History House, as it is known, is used for meetings of the Society, exhibitions and is regularly open to visitors.

Vision

To be totally integrated in the life and interest of the community as a resource to inspire, educate and inform the community and visitors about Torquay and the district there by contributing to the conservation of the history and heritage of the district.

Mission

To be the focal point for preserving the ongoing heritage of Torquay and surrounding district that is supported by;

- Public education programs, sharing and preserving stories about Torquay
- Maintaining historical artefacts, collections and a district research centre
- Promoting the preservation of historic buildings and sites
- Partnering with local and regional organisations

District areas

- Torquay
- Jan Juc
- Bellbrae
- Paraparap
- Connewarre

The Society is a member of the Surf Coast Shire Heritage Committee that includes Anglesea, Lorne, Winchelsea, Deans Marsh, Moriac and Torquay's digital Museum without Walls.

Inaugural Committee

President:	Spencer Leighton
Vice President:	John Edmonds
Secretary:	Aileen McKechnie
Treasurer:	John McKechnie
Archivist:	Ros Lewis
Committee members:	Margaret Spittle, Keith Grossman

Timeline

of Torquay & Bellbrae

Pre-settlement

Wadawurrung people inhabited the area.

1803-1835

William Buckley escaped convict from a temporary penal settlement at Sorrento lived with the Wadawurrung people. A well-used camping place extended on both sides of the mouth of Bream Creek (aka Thomsons Creek) beside the Karaaf wetlands.

1830's

John Batman and his party sailed from Launceston entering Port Phillip in May 1835 and anchoring at Indented Head.

Settlers arrive into Geelong in 1836.

Captain Foster Fyans appointed as Police Magistrate and Crown Land Commission in 1837.

1840's

First squatters licences were issued and land was taken up along Spring Creek (Doorangwar) and Thomsons Creek.

1850's

In old Jan Juc (now Bellbrae) first blocks of Crown land were sold to settlers.

The municipality of South Barwon was formed by separation from the Corporation of Geelong and included Torquay east of the Geelong Torquay Road

1860's

The Barrabool Shire, in the Country of Grant was proclaimed that included parishes of Jan Juc and part of Puebla, west of the Geelong Torquay Road.

In Jan Juc the Primary School and Post Office opened.

Wesleyan and Independent Churches were established in Jan Juc.

First blocks of Crown land were sold in Puebla (known as Spring Creek). The early settlers were fishermen, agricultural workers and holiday makers.

Land for the Bellbrae Cemetery was gazetted.

Bathing boxes started to be erected on the front beach and surf beach. The earliest known bathing box was at the surf beach and belonged to Henry Rudd.

1870's

Spring Creek was a very popular destination for a day at the beach, picnicking, and fishing with large numbers visitors arriving by horse and carriage from Geelong.

Borough of South Barwon formed and Torquay was shared with Barrabool Shire

1880's

Accommodation in Spring Creek began to appear to cater for visitors.

Pioneer Coffee Palace was established by James Follett that would become the Torquay Hotel.

James Follett commenced a coach service between Spring Creek and Geelong.

Township of Puebla was gazetted, but the town was still known as Spring Creek.

Willem Baa Nip the last of the Wadawurrung people died.

The Spring Creek Progress Association was formed.

Land along the foreshore east of Spring Creek was reserved for public use for picnicking, camping and sporting activities. This became the Torquay Caravan Park.

1890's

The SS Joseph H. Scammell was wrecked off Point Danger in 1891. The wreck contained cargo valued at £67,000 and created unprecedented smuggling and pilfering. When the ship broke up the deck house washed ashore and was purchased by William Pride for his holiday home known as *Scammell House* at 24 Pride Street.

The name of the town was changed to Torquay.

The Spring Creek Progress Association became the Torquay Improvement Association (TIA) and made plans to build a public hall in Price Street.

Torquay Post Office opened in Alfred Payne's general store in Gilbert Street.

A bridge was constructed across Spring Creek.

Torquay Racing Club created a course across Spring Creek opposite the township on land acquired from Andrew White.

Sea View Villa was built for the Smith family, wool scourers of Breakwater, on the corner of Anderson Street and Pearl Street.

1900's

Presbyterian Church opened in Anderson Street.

Torquay Primary School opened with sixteen students and classes were first held in the Presbyterian Church.

A manual telephone service was commenced.

Torquay Football Club was formed wearing blue and white.

1910's

Development was stopped on land on the foreshore at Fisherman's Beach and came under the management of Torquay Parks and Reserves.

Tennis courts were built beside the TIA hall that was the origin of the Torquay Tennis Club.

A new Torquay Primary School building was erected on 5 acres of land in Boston Road.

St Heliers, on the corner of Price and Pride Streets and originally the holiday home of William Bell was opened as a guest house.

Two Bays guest house was established on The Esplanade by Effie Rice.

Arthur Long made the first aerial crossing of Bass Strait landing at Torquay in December 1919 to attend to urgent repairs to his plane.

1920's

The land on Fisherman's Beach was named Taylor Park named for John William Taylor one of the first trustees of the Torquay Reserves and Parks.

The Torquay Life Saving Club was established in 1922 and operated from a large bathing box on the Front Beach. The first rescue was performed by A. Rice in 1924.

Torquay Golf Club was established and local publican Arthur Crowe was the first President.

The first course was situated on the site of the now caravan park and later extended to the west side of Spring Creek on land initially leased and later purchased from Andrew White.

Jan Juc named changed to Bellbrae. Jan Juc was the aboriginal name for the ironbark forests of the area. However after WW1 there was disquiet that the name was of German origin.

Torquay Lawn Bowls Club was established and situated on land at Taylor Park. Construction of the first green was completed by Carl Voss in 1924.

Electricity was installed and a public turning on ceremony was held.

1930's

At the Front Beach the sea wall was improved and groyne constructed to stop erosion.

Coast Tennis Association formed between Torquay, Mt Duneed, Paraparap and Freshwater Creek.

The Torquay Life Saving Club went into recession due low membership numbers.

Torquay Football Club was disbanded due to WW2.

1940's

The Light Horse Regiments camped and trained at Torquay comprising 5000 men and 2500 horses.

In 1940 Torquay was devastated in a fire that commenced in Moriac; 57 houses, 2 stores, a bake house, the hall and a Sunday school were razed. One man was killed. Fire fighters were assisted by residents and men of the Light Horse Regiments stationed in the area.

Torquay Fire Brigade became a member of the Country Fire Brigade board. The fire station was on the corner of Anderson and Pride Street.

The Post Office moved to Pearl Street and private letter boxes were installed.

The Torquay Surf Lifesaving Club was established in 1946. Local publican Clive Evans was the inaugural President. A clubhouse was established on the Surf Beach.

Anglican Church opened in Pride Street.

1950's

Bathing boxes were progressively removed from the Front Beach.

Torquay Football Club was reformed. Due to a donation of guernseys by the Richmond Football Club they became the Tigers.

Postal deliveries commenced and houses were numbered.

Public telephone boxes were installed.

In 1955 Constable William Finchett visited Torquay each Friday stationed at the Post Office between 2pm and 4pm.

In 1958 a police substation opened with restricted hours. Constable Brooks was the first policeman.

An automatic telephone exchange was installed.

Torquay hosted the Australian Surf Championships as part of the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne.

1960's

A permanent police station opened in Price Street in 1961 and Senior Constable Poole was the policeman.

First Bells Beach surfing competition was held in 1961. The winner was Glen Ritchie. The first women's competition was held in 1964 and the winner was Gail Couper of Lorne.

Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club was established in 1963 following a number of rescues by surfers and a drowning.

Catholic Church opened on Surf Coast Highway.

Torquay Football Club won their first two premierships in 1960 and 1961 playing in the Geelong and District Football League, Jarman Cup.

Torquay Motor Yacht and Angling Club established at Fisherman's Beach.

Rip Curl commenced operations in an old bakery building in Boston Road constructing surfboards, then wetsuits.

1970's

Quiksilver was established making board shorts in a home based setting in Munday Street.

A sewerage system became operational.

Medical Centre opened in Bell Street.

Torquay Tigers were the inaugural premiers of the new Bellarine Football League.

Torquay Hotel was destroyed by fire in suspicious circumstances.

1980's

St Theresa's School established in Grossmans Road in 1986.

Torquay Christian fellowship established in Boston Road.

PABS Tavern opened in Jan Juc.

Torquay Tennis Club was relocated to Spring Creek Reserve

Torquay Motor Yacht and Angling Club rebranded to Torquay Angling Club.

Torquay Sailing Club established.

Torquay Marine Rescue Service established operating from Port Phillip Heads to Lorne and 15 nautical miles to sea.

1990's

Australian Surf Museum opened.

Surf Coast Shire was created in 1994 from the amalgamation of the Shire of Winchelsea, Shire of Barrabool and part of the former City of South Barwon. It contained the Wards of Torquay, Winchelsea, Anglesea and Lorne.

2000's

Torquay Primary School moved to Grossmans Road.

2010's

Torquay, Jan Juc and Bellbrae Tennis Clubs combined to be known as Surf Coast Tennis Club.

Surf Coast Secondary College opened in 2012.

Torquay Coast Primary School, Christian College Surf Coast and Lisieux Catholic Primary School all opened in 2018. Over 3000 students and more than 100 teachers were learning and working in Torquay.

2020's

Torquay totally locked down due to covid 19 pandemic.

Torquay Historic Walk opened.

Replica bathing box opened at History House

2000-2005 - Beginnings

The Society was established with the support of the Surf Coast Shire and members of other regional historical societies. The initial work was to establish goals, set up committees and sub groups, obtain grants for their work and become incorporated. Two grants were obtained from the Shire to set up the Society and hold an exhibition of photos. The goals were to create public awareness, develop support with local businesses, grow working relationships with other Societies, make contact with descendants of original families and start a collection of past and present photos of the area. The archivist Ros Lewis commenced a collection of books and established a process for an archival collection. The Geelong Heritage Centre provided assistance with obtaining copies of original maps of the area.

By 2001 membership had increased to 31 members. Grants were received for a photographic exhibition of the Bellbrae (old Jan Juc) area and its families. The archivist undertook work on the preservation of St David's Lutheran Church and cemetery in Freshwater Creek. Additions to the collection comprised maps, book, photographs, newspapers, correspondence, postcards, tourist brochures, microfilm and microfiche indexes. Folders, folios, archive boxes and labels were purchased to store items. Archives were stored at the archivist's home. It was identified that a reader for the microfiche was needed and to obtain a dedicated space to house the archives was a priority.

A major focus was to raise the profile of the Society. A highlight was an exhibition at the High Tide Festival in successive years. The Society was supported in setting up the first exhibit by the Anglesea Historical Society and Norm Houghton and staff at the Geelong Heritage Centre. At the second festival history walks were conducted that included Gilbert Street, the Long Memorial, Two Bays guest house, wreck of the Scammell and the sites of the foreshore bathing boxes. The Society participated in the street parade driving a 1948 Morris Minor once owned by John Spittle, a past President of the Torquay Improvement Association (TIA). Talks were presented to primary schools and a number of community groups. The Bellbrae photographic exhibition was shown at the Bellbrae Primary School annual fair in consecutive years.

Research commenced on the bathing boxes. An original bathing box was located in Anderson Street and relocated to the Torquay Foreshore Committee headquarters. The Society was contacted to assist in cataloguing the memorabilia of the Bellbrae Primary School and to assist the Torquay Golf Club ladies committee to assemble some historical material with the first task to identify people in photographs. Information was provided to The Sands golf course complex on the history of the site on which it stands.

The Society participated in the Community Cabinet held in Torquay by Victorian Premier Steve Bracks. The lack of heritage values in Torquay was highlighted to the Planning Minister and the loss of old historical houses.



Dukes old bathing box Anderson Street



Microfiche and reader



David Marshall & Ross Pidgeon participating in Light Horsemen re-enactment at High Tide Festival



Arthur Leonard Long Memorial Front Beach



Light Horse re-enactment at Front Beach

2006-2010 – Search for a permanent home

This period saw the crucial need to find a permanent home for the Society and a place to store the archival collection. Venues were explored however the Torquay Police Old Station (TOPS) was the preferred site. An application to the Victorian Government to donate the building to the Torquay community was refused. However the Council eventually purchased the police station for community use and the Society discussed the needs for the Society with the Community Development Manager.

The Society's collection at that time included 16 archival boxes. The archivist could no longer store the collection thus the collection was moved to 2 Charles Lane, the house of President, Spencer Leighton. Not having a permanent home no more archival material could be collected and the bathing box could not be restored and have a place for it to be displayed. The bathing box remained stored at the Torquay Foreshore Committee headquarters and was deteriorating. It was moved to Keith Grossman's farm.

A decision was made to move meetings to 2 Charles Lane. Whilst there was a strong core of Committee members the membership had dwindled to nine people. The Society also acknowledged the death of Treasurer, Moira McNair in 2008 aged 83 who was a descendant of early settlers the White family.

A collection of 15 old street signs were found in a shed in Torquay. They had been there since the 1950's and if official signs from the days of the South Barwon Shire. All streets themselves are in the old Torquay area; except "Darrien" Road and the whereabouts of Voss Rd is unknown. The signs were manufactured and hand painted by the then primary school principal James Baines and his wife Ray. The mystery of the spelling of Darian/Darrien remains unknown, and the signs are now stored in the TDHS archival collection.

Community relationships continued and photographs were provided for display to the Bells Beach Hotel (previously PABS Tavern). Community education was sustained and delivered by Chris Barr, Secretary and Education Officer. A collection of photos of historical sites around Torquay was produced for use in the community education presentations. Research was conducted into the history of the gates at Taylor Park. A history of St Therese's Church was written by committee member Carmel Dunstone and the story of the Freshwater Creek fire brigade by Dirleen Bufton. Calendars were sold as a fund raiser.

The Society became a member of the Surf Coast Heritage Committee to network with other history groups within the Surf Coast Shire.



*Old bathing box moves to Keith Grossman's farm.
From left - Chris Barr, Keith Grossman*



*Makeshift storage facilities at 2 Charles Lane.
From left - Carmel Dunstone, Chris Barr,
Louise Leighton, Gwynn Griffiths*



Taylor Park gates



Spencer Leighton and old street signs



*Receiving a donation of a model of the SS
Joseph Scammell
From left – Ross Pidgeon, Frank Vagg, Judy
Vagg*

2011-2015 – History House is established

After eleven years the Society was located in the TOPS building in the Spring Creek Community precinct in Price Street pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Shire, TDHS and Torquay Community House and other parties having right to use the space at TOPS. Plans were enthusiastically made to establish the collection in the new site and to refurbish the space. Used furniture was purchased from the old Council offices that included maps drawers and a rostrum. A grant from the Torquay Community Alliance sponsored by the Bendigo Bank was able to support the purchases. Torquay Lions Club funded the signage at History House and a grant from the Shire funded the purchase of equipment for delivering community presentations.

Community engagement continued with educational presentations at schools, probus clubs and senior citizens. An exhibit was held at the Geelong Heritage Weekend, a display at the Bellbrae Primary School 150th anniversary celebrations, a stand at the Unlock the Past Expo at the Geelong Arena, a display at the Surf Coast Shire Civic Centre entry foyer, and an exhibit at History House for the Torquay Surf Life Saving 70th year celebrations.

In 2012 the opening of the new Spring Creek Community precinct saw many visitors come through the new Society rooms and view the displays. At the High Tide Festival a “know you neighbourhood” walk was conducted where groups were escorted past locations where ‘actors’ were able to tell their stories of places such as TOPS, Scammell House and Colonel Price’s house.

Seven sausage sizzles were held on periodic Saturdays and were very successful money raisers. Afternoon tea at History House was organised during the 2013 High Tide Festival where local speakers were available to tell their Torquay stories and included Keith Grossman (farmer), Brian Beck (1950’s double ski champion) and Bev Schillabeer (family owned Palace Hotel). Afternoon teas then continued monthly and History House was open each Sunday between 2pm and 4pm. A Facebook page and a website were established.

The photographic collection was scanned and catalogued for the Victorian Collection. The Baines archive was donated to the society by the family of James Baines (1919-1979) was a principle of Torquay Primary School 1937-1942 and a member of the TIA. He initiated a project to name and to erect street signs and wrote the first history of Torquay.

A trip to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria seminar in Euroa was the incentive to produce a booklet of the Torquay and district WW1 diggers for the ANZAC centenary and establish an historic walking trail around old Torquay. A red phone box was donated to the Society and with the assistance of the Men’s Shed was to be restored and placed in the front of History House. The bathing box had deteriorated beyond repair and thus a project to build a replica was planned. A Scammell display was held at the Torquay Festival where members of the current family, the Ganley’s gave a presentation. An exhibition at Easter featured the bathing boxes.

The constitution was amended in 2014 to accommodate Life Membership which was awarded to Spencer Leighton for his role in starting the Society and his contribution in serving as President for 13 years. On Ros Lewis’ retirement from the Society she was also awarded Life membership for her significant contribution as archivist.



**Moving into Torquay Old Police Station (TOPS).
From left - Louise Leighton, Spencer Leighton,
John Robbins, Chris Barr, Barbara Robbins**



**Geelong Heritage Weekend
From left- Chris Barr, Ros Lewis**



**Cleaning and sorting at TOPS
Lyn Ward**



**Setting up displays
Alwynne Merritt**



**Sausage sizzle at Woolworths
From left- Martin Hooper, Frank Vagg, Judy
Vagg, Barb Robbins, Rose Hodge**



**Receiving a grant
From left – David Marshall, Ross Pigdeon,
Andrew Katos MLA, Frank Vagg, Lorraine
Marshall**

2016-2020 - Projects

Exhibitions were held on the bathing boxes, the changing face of the Esplanade and Gilbert Street, the first lifesaving club at the Front Beach, Torquay Surf Life Saving Club anniversary, and the wreck of the Joseph H Scammell at Point Danger. For the Bellbrae Cemetery 150th anniversary plaques were placed on graves of some of the early settlers to tell their story. A project was undertaken to interview some of the older residents of Torquay to collect a living history of the town.

The headmaster's desk from the first primary school situated in Boston Road in 1910 was donated by the McCartney family. The desk was hand made of pine and of a style in use from the 19th century. It was provided by the Public Works Department to the Torquay Primary School. The desk was restored by the Men's Shed. A desk as used in the infant classes was donated to the Society to complement the large desk.

For some years the Torquay and District Historical Society had, without success, tried to find a restorable original bathing box. It was decided that a replica was the only alternative to mark this icon of Torquay's history. Society members faithfully erected a replica of a bathing box in the garden of the Torquay Old Police Station (TOPS). A seat in the honour and memory of Max Kitchen was installed in the History Garden for his contribution to the Society. An application for a Victorian government grant was successful to erect a security fence around the front garden that housed the bathing box, telephone box and seat.

In 2015 to remember the local men of the district who fought in WW1 a commemorative plaque was unveiled at the ANZAC memorial at Point Danger and a book that gave a synopsis of their service was produced.

In collaboration with the Surf Coast Shire markers were erected at historic sites around old Torquay and thus a walking trail established. The signs tell the settler history, with photographs and stories and significance of those sites. The signs give an insight into the way Torquay looked from the late 1880s to the early 1900s.

In February 2020 covid 19 arrived and there was a cessation of activities due to restrictions and lock downs. This affected a new exhibition *Schools by the Sea* containing a collection of photos and memorabilia detailing the history of the Torquay Primary School 1896-2019 and inclusive of the more recent schools.

The pandemic diminished the membership of the Society and today there are 16 enthusiastic members and two Life Members. The Facebook page continues to keep non-members informed about activities, share information and answer questions. Plans for the future are to mount static displays at History House portraying the post settlement heritage and history of the district and establish an online catalogue of the *Ros Lewis* library.



Story of the Diggers of Torquay & District



Recreated bathing box & restored telephone box in History House garden



Headmasters desk restored beside small child's desk



Opening of historic walking trail with Wadawurrung representatives, including Corrine Eccles, sponsors representatives, Mayor Libby Stapleton and David Marshall



Beach closures due to COVID-19



Member Martin Hooper launches his book 'Bellbrae Cemetery Across Time - a History'. From left- Spencer Leighton, Martin Hooper, Lorraine Marshall, David Marshall

Committee Members

YEAR	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	ARCHIVIST	COMMITTEE
2000	Spencer Leighton	John Edmonds	Aileen McKechnie	John McKechnie	Ros Lewis	Margaret Spittle Keith Grossman
2001	Spencer Leighton	John Edmonds	Aileen McKechnie	John McKechnie	Ros Lewis	Keith Grossman Moira McNair
2002	Spencer Leighton	John Edmonds	Chris Barr	Moira McNair	Ros Lewis	Keith Grossman
2003	Keith Grossman	John Edmonds	Chris Barr	Moira McNair	Ros Lewis	Dirleen Bufton Louise Leighton
2004	Spencer Leighton	John Edmonds	Chris Barr	Moira McNair	Ros Lewis	Dirleen Bufton Louise Leighton
2005	Spencer Leighton	Keith Grossman	Chris Barr	Moira McNair	Ros Lewis	Dirleen Bufton Louise Leighton
2006	Spencer Leighton	Vacant	Chris Barr	Moira McNair	Ros Lewis	
2007	Spencer Leighton	Vacant	Chris Barr	Moira McNair	Ros Lewis	
2008	Spencer Leighton	Vacant	Chris Barr	Louise Leighton	Ros Lewis	
2009	Spencer Leighton	Vacant	Chris Barr	Louise Leighton	Ros Lewis	
2010	Spencer Leighton	Vacant	Chris Barr	Louise Leighton	Ros Lewis	Gwynnin Griffiths Carmel Dunstone
2011	Spencer Leighton	Vacant	Chris Barr	Barb Robbins	Ros Lewis	Louise Leighton John Robbins

2012	Spencer Leighton	Chris Barr	Lorraine Marshall	Barb Robbins	Ros Lewis	Louise Leighton John Robbins
2013	Spencer Leighton	Chris Barr	Lorraine Marshall	Barb Robbins	Ros Lewis	Louise Leighton John Robbins
2014	David Marshall	Frank Vagg	Lorraine Marshall	Jenny Waddell	Ros Lewis	Ross Pidgeon Max Kitchen
2015	David Marshall	Frank Vagg	Lorraine Marshall	Jenny Waddell	<i>Position discontinued</i>	Ross Pidgeon Max Kitchen Bev Berryman
2016	David Marshall	Ross Pidgeon	Lorraine Marshall	Jenny Dalton		Frank Vagg Bev Berryman Lyn Ward
2017	David Marshall	Ross Pidgeon	Lorraine Marshall	Jenny Dalton		Frank Vagg Martin Hooper Lyn Ward
2018	David Marshall	Ross Pidgeon	Lorraine Marshall	Elizabeth Waphsott		Frank Vagg
2019	David Marshall	Ross Pidgeon	Lorraine Marshall	Elizabeth Waphsott		Frank Vagg
2020	David Marshall	Ross Pidgeon	Lorraine Marshall	Elizabeth Waphsott		Frank Vagg

Books

The Society has a valuable collection of more than 300 books covering diverse topics of historical interest, including a number of important texts on Australia original inhabitants and early European settlement of the area. Some of the collection is not immediately available in public libraries and thus the Society collection makes an important contribution to public education.

The major part of collection was the personal library of archivist Ros Lewis who generously donated it to the Society.

This collection is available to researchers and other interested readers and is stored at History House. The collection is to be catalogued and made available on the Society website and will be known as the Ros Lewis Library.

Publications

Publications by Society past and present members include;

Buften, D. (1988). *Hardworking and honest: the story of the Seifferts, a German pioneering family of Freshwater Creek Victoria*. Dirleen Buften: Marshalltown Vic.

Buften D. (2004). *Going to Blazes. The story of the Freshwater Creek Rural Fire Brigade*. Dirleen Buften: Marshalltown Vic.

Dunstone, C.(2000). *Turn of the tide: life stories from Torquay 1999*. Spring Creek Community House: Torquay.

Dunstone, C. & Koopman, C. (Eds.). (2009). *Reflections: A history of St Therese Church and Community Torquay 1960-2010*. Nazareth Press: Grovedale Victoria.

Hooper, Martin A. (2019) *Bellbrae Post Office 121 Years of Service 1862 – 1982*. Beach Shack Publishing, Jan Juc, Victoria

Hooper, Martin A. (2021) *Bellbrae Cemetery Across Time, A History*. Beach Shack Publishing, Jan Juc, Victoria

Hooper, Martin A. (2022). *The Churches of Bellbrae A History*. Beach Shack Publishing, Jan Juc, Victoria.

Afternoon teas at History House



From left – Bev Berryman, Lyn Ward, David Marshall, Ross Pidgeon,



From left – Christine Grossman, Keith Grossman, Frank Vagg



From left – Barb Robbins, John Robbins, Lorraine Marshall, Judy Vagg



From Left – Jenny Dalton, Gaynor Milburn, Harry Milburn



From left – Lorraine Marshall, Don Duffield



From left – Judy Vagg, Lyn Ranson, Barb Robbins, John Robbins