

Nathalia & District Historical Society



We acknowledge with deep sadness the sudden passing of respected member Lyn Franklin OAM on 14th May 2026. Lyn was a valued researcher whose extensive knowledge of genealogy and the history of our town was greatly respected and appreciated. She will be sadly missed.

Annual Report

July 2025 – June 2026

Members of the Executive

President	Jeanette Holland
Vice President	Steve Manley
Secretary (and Public Officer)	Leigh Giffard
Treasurer	Eve Attwood
Assistant Secretary	Averil Kennedy Crane
Research Coordinator	Lynette Franklin
Assistant Research Coordinator	Judy Ormond
Accessions Manager	Jeanette Holland
Assistant Accessions	Helen Ryan
Bookshop Coordinator	Averil Kennedy Crane
Assistant Bookshop Coordinator	Rebecca Mahon-Smith
Precinct Committee Reps	Steve Manley (N&DHS) Leigh Giffard (N&DHS) Rosemary Robins (Gene) Bev Hutchins (Gene) Jeanette Holland (Bookshop) Averil Kennedy (Bookshop) Judy Ormond



Thank You to Bendigo Bank

The Nathalia & District Historical Society Inc. gratefully acknowledges the generous **\$5,000 donation from Bendigo Bank** towards the digitisation of the *Nathalia Herald* from 1929–1941.

This important contribution will help preserve a valuable record of our local history and make these historic newspapers more accessible to our community and future generations.

We sincerely thank Bendigo Bank for supporting the Society and helping us ensure that Nathalia's history is preserved and available for years to come.

President's Report - August 2026

As we see out another year of activities at Nathalia & District Historical Society, I wish to sincerely thank all those who regularly contribute to the improvements and on-going work around the Museum.

To Secretary Leigh Giffard and Treasurer Eve Attwood, a big thankyou to you both for your dedication and effort in keeping our committee running.

To Colin Crane and Roger and Aiden Young, thanks for your contributions to the maintenance and projects around the museum grounds. We have been finding it extremely difficult to obtain a tradesman who can perform some of the little construction and repair projects that we require. This has been made worse by the activity of termites in our Muntz building. Moira Shire has provided a pest controller who has baited the problem areas but the termites are still slowly active.

To Karen Davis and the roster of volunteers who regularly conduct the Open days at our Museum, thanks.

To Averil Kennedy-Crane, Rebecca Mahon-Smith and Robyn Craig, thank you for the ongoing management of the second-hand Bookshop and also thanks to the team of dedicated volunteers who keep the Bookshop doors open. The income from book sales is a huge benefit to our funds.

To the dedicated team of volunteers who regularly attend the accession days and working bees – a huge thanks as we strive to get our collection organised and well displayed. Our plans to participate in the Heritage Festival to celebrate 50 years of our museum were cancelled due to the immense workload and short time frame involved. We now have a focus on 2028 when we hope to have a well-presented collection on display for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Nathalia township.

We have lost two valuable members of our Society in recent months.

Firstly, Steve Manley has resigned from our committee and moved to Mooroopna. We thank Steve for his efforts in keeping our collection and surrounds tidy and wish him well in his new home.

Secondly, we were all devastated at the sudden death of our valued long-term member Mrs Lyn Franklin. Lyn was an extremely knowledgeable historian and very meticulous researcher. She wrote quite a number of books on history relevant to our district and also provided information to many people from near and far as they sought historic information. We have a large shelf full of her files on local family names. We will miss her smiling face and her immense contribution. She has left big shoes to fill. Judy Ormond and myself are currently handling research requests to the best of our ability.

Our display area in the Mechanics Institute has been wired with spotlights to help enhance our displays and our next aim is to get some new display cabinets for this area.

Thanks to a grant from Nathalia Community Bendigo Bank in 2025, we have been able to progress the digitising of the Nathalia Heralds with the National Library of Australia. At this stage we are awaiting completion of the digitising up to about the end of 1945. As further funds become available, we plan to proceed with further digitising as we feel it is a great asset to have our Nathalia Herald searchable on the Trove website.

Our regular appearance in the local newspaper, The Red Gum Courier, through the items in Museum Moments, continues to highlight our museum. The feedback I receive indicates that many people enjoy reading the articles.

As I bring my report to a close, I wish to thank everyone who attends meetings, working bees and open days. Without your contributions we would not be able to continue. We appreciate your efforts. It would be nice to see some new members join our little band but that seems to be a widespread difficulty.

Jeanette Holland

Highlights 2025-2026

1. Successful grant application to Bendigo Bank Nathalia for \$5000 for further digitizing of the Nathalia Herald. Our grateful thanks to Bendigo Bank for their ongoing support of the Nathalia & District Historical Society. With this work completed, anyone can go onto Trove and research data from 1886 to 1945. The WW2 years 1941-45 were funded by a previous grant.
2. Working bee to work towards a clean up so the museum can be opened and active for the 150 year celebrations in 2028.





Managing the Collection

Accessions (being items donated to N&DHS)

July 2025

- Nil

August 2025

- Lyn Franklin has donated 4 books:
Historical Records of Victoria, Foundation Series Volume 2B: Aborigines and Protectors 1838-1893
Historical Records of Victoria, Volume 2A, The Aborigines of Port Phillip 1835-1839
- From the Op Shop, salt and pepper shakers, some old cotton reels and a photo of the Hopswood Punt in Echuca.

September 2025

- Nil

October 2025

- N Teese donated a lectern, a track marker from the Barmah Forest and an RSL Certificate.

November 2025

- Nil

December 2025

- No meeting

January 2026

- Rod Kelley donated 2 communion jugs, a communion cup, plate and small box together with a baptism font from the Barmah Anglican Church. He also donated a box of bottles, many of which were made in Nathalia including several intact Codd Neck bottles.

February 2026

- Nil

March 2026

- Nil

April 2026

- Red Cross posters, playing cards and score book for bridge donated by Fay Hutchins
- Photo of the forerunner to the Home Guard pre 1911 with George Cobbledick in the photo donated by Trevor Cobbledick. He also donated a photo of Moira Lodge members 1908

May 2026

- Lyn's family donated a copy of Wayne Atkinson's book "Beyond the Meeting of the Waters – A Yorta Yorta Life Story" together with a list of errors she felt were made in the book.

June 2026

- Fay Hutchins has donated some Red Cross certificates.
- Melinda Gustos (Lyn Franklin's daughter) has donated a bag of brother Andrew's books and a box of small trinkets relating to ladies' wear.
- The Lubke family donated a cot, highchair and bassinet which were all made by Harold Lubke, Alan's dad.

Open Days

The museum opens on the second Sunday of the month 1.30 – 4pm.

Visitors included July 0, August 3, September 0 but 4 visitors on request, October 0 but there was much interest in the display at the Nathalia Agricultural Society on 5th October, November 5, not open December or January, February 0, March 2, April 0, May 1, June 10

Thanks to Karen and Steve who so willingly donated their time to ensure the Open Days happen and to representing N&DHS at the 2025 Nathalia Agricultural Show.

Member's Meetings

Monthly meetings were held during the year. Attendances were as follows:

July – 12 Aug – 6 Sept – 8

Oct – 7 Nov – 6 Dec – no meeting

Jan – 9 Feb - 9 Mar - 6

Apr – 6 May - 8 June – 6

Average: 7-8 people at each meeting

Superb Reads – Bookshop Report 2025-2026

The supply of books to the Bookshop continues in quite large amounts, which cover a wide range of genres with many being in 'good', 'very good', and some even in 'fine' condition. Keeping ahead of donations provides constant work to sort, price, shelve and then manage the whole collection. New Year's Eve and Easter Saturday continue to be good money spinners - thank you to those volunteers who helped out at those events.

Rebecca Mahon-Smith continues to work behind the scenes sometimes on weekends or at night working hard to try to keep ahead of the book donations. pricing sorting and weeding. Rebecca continues to produce the 'Book of the Month' and is trialing sales of some titles on eBay. The installation of the 'Square' enabling customers to make digital transactions by Alan Giffard in the 2024-25 year, has been increasingly used with more volunteers becoming familiar with its operation.

Additional opening times on the Cars and Coffee days on the 2nd Sunday of each month 9am-approximately 11.30am, seem to be becoming more worthwhile for us, but opening of course relies on the generosity of volunteers. Thank you to Eve who has opened when able. Thank you to Robin Craig who, having been a Bookshop volunteer for a very short time, kindly agreed to take over the compilation of the Roster. I am also happy to report that Helen Ginnivan has offered to join the bookshop Roster in the last quarter of 2026.

Total takings 2025-2026.....\$10,124.20

Expenses:

Rent \$2080.00

Power \$764.11

PROFIT \$7280.09

Despite our large collection, figures for the last three financial years show a fall in income over that time. This is disappointing considering the hundreds of hours put in by our volunteers.

2023-2024 Takings \$11,691.84 represent average takings of \$974.32 per month Profit: \$8909.86
2024-2025 Takings \$11,023.24 represent average takings of \$918.60 per month Profit: \$8318.13
2025-2026 Takings \$10,124.20 represent average takings of \$843.68 per month Profit: \$7280.90
Takings New Years Eve: \$473.46 Takings Easter: \$473.68
Interestingly, there was an increase of approximately 45% in the power bill!

Month after month, our bookshop volunteers turn up for duty, once, twice sometimes three or, in the case of having to cover unexpected illnesses, even four times a month - thanks to Eve Attwood, Fay Brown, Terri Chambers, Robin Craig, Leigh and John Giffard, Averil Kennedy, Judy Ormond, Maureen Power, Rebecca Mahon-Smith, Marion Murray, Nina Pell, Philippa Schapper, Marg Storer. Colin Crane assists with shelving and minor repairs.
Thank you all for another year of many hours work.

Averil Kennedy Bookshop Coordinator

N&DHS Inc Annual Financial Report July 2026

Bank Balance @ July 1st, 2025: \$19,042.87
Income during financial year: \$10,124.20 B/shop
\$150.00 Subs
\$5,000.00 Grant
\$253.00 Research
\$20.00 Pioneer Book
\$35.00 Donation

Total income July 1st, 2025- June 30th, 2026: \$15,582.20
Expenses during financial year: \$2,080.00 Rent
\$49.00 Consumer Affairs
\$165.00 P.O. Box
\$100.00 Petty Cash
\$140.00 Gene M/ship
\$752.90 RHSV Ins & contents

\$1,697.26 Track lights
\$101.20 MRBG adv.x2
\$764.11 Electricity
\$113.99 Banner
\$323.89 Limo's
\$237.50 MRBG map, scan
\$65.49 Minuteman stamp
\$144.80 Misc. (archive boxes, frame, tubs)

Total Expenses July 1st, 2025 - June 30th, 2026: \$6,735.14
Bank Balance @ 30th June 2026: \$27,889.93

Term Deposit Account 147553648:
Opening Balance @ 1 st July 2025 \$22,139.14

Interest paid @ 19th May 2026: \$797.01
Closing Balance @ 30th June 2026: \$22,936.15

On May 19th 2026 the Term Deposit was reinvested for another 12 months @ 5.10% interest.
This report has been made by going through bank statements, cheque book and deposit book.
To my eyes, it is a straightforward explanation of deposits and expenditure and the figures tally.
Should there be any questions, please ask me to explain. Thank you.

Eve Attwood, 2025/2026 Treasurer, N&DHS Inc.