



HISTORY: Stella Barber with some items from the Royal South Street Society collection that are being assessed for preservation and exhibition.

Assessment for South Street archives

By Dellaram Jamali

IT'S all just a little bit of history repeating at the Royal South Street Society.

Historian Stella Barber is currently assessing the national significance and preservation needs of the society's archival collection.

The artifacts date back 131 years and, until now, have been stored away out of sight.

The assessment comes after the society received funding from the federal Community Heritage Grant last year.

Ms Barber said the enormous collection would raise commun-

ity awareness of Ballarat's history and has the potential to become one of the most significant cultural collections in Australia.

"It's a unique collection of memorabilia and artifacts which reflect the cultural heritage of Ballarat," Ms Barber said.

"The artifacts also have a huge relevance to the community in terms of research, so it's very exciting to see."

Trophies, photographs, guide books and even instruments are among the items held in the archives.

Ms Barber said Her Majesty's Theatre itself contributed to the heritage of the collection.

"The context of the collection is also very important," Ms Barber said.

On completion of the preservation assessment, the archives will also be assessed by a conservator.

"The collection has until now been well-housed in a cool environment but, by the middle of the year, we will know exactly what else needs to be done," Ms Barber said.

The society is calling on anyone who may have memorabilia to contact it.

It is hoped that the collection could be exhibited in the not-too-distant future.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Group to meet in Canberra

By Emily Sobey

THE Grampians Regional Development Australia committee will meet in Canberra for the first time next month.

Committee chairwoman Jo Burke and deputy chairman Michael Tudball will combine with other RDAs across Australia to meet federal ministers Anthony Albanese and Maxine McKew.

The committee has met three times since it came together in October last year to replace the Central Highlands Area Consultative Committee.

Its immediate goal is to discuss the region's strategic plan and how it can promote itself to the community.

The RDA serves as a link between organisations and the federal and state governments.

While the government appointed the committee, Grampians RDA deputy chairman Michael Tudball maintained it was an independent committee "absolutely".

"We can recommend things and bring to the attention of the state and federal government issues of our region," he said.

As part of the committee's regional strategic plan, it is looking at

sustainable industry, renewable energy, water and managing residential growth as key topics.

Mr Tudball said the group held two meetings late last year where it started to develop a workplan.

He said the regional strategic plan would be put to the state and federal governments as the region's strategy for the future.

"We've done a fair bit of work and we've got a lot more coming out in the next few months," Mr Tudball said.

The committee also met yesterday during Regional Development Victoria's symposium.

Mr Tudball said the next part of the plan would feature things like attracting and supporting industry in the region, supporting and managing renewable energy, water management and managing growth.

"One of the key parts of the workplan is also marketing and communication, looking at how we get RDA into the community so people know what it's about," he said.

FARM MONTH

LET'S SHOW OUR FARMERS WE CARE

The last decade has certainly been a challenging time for our farmers, but while they have faced a record drought they continue to fight back with innovation and determination.

That's why *The Courier* has launched FARM MONTH 2010. March will be dedicated to celebrating the lives of our wonderful farming community.

Throughout the month there will be farming features and stories about the people who make it all happen.



FUNDRAISER: Event organiser Lauren Francis, left, and Carissa Beynon at the Loreto College cricket match which raised more than \$1000 for earthquake victims.

College goes into bat for Haiti

YEAR 12 students from Loreto College were batting for a great cause recently when they raised more than \$1000 for the Haiti earthquake victims during a teacher versus student cricket match.

The Religion in Action class decided to organise the fundraiser after having watched the disaster unfold on the news

and feeling the urge to contribute to the people of Haiti.

Funds were raised during the match through the selling of food donations for the earthquake effort.

Year 12 student Lauren Francis said the students at Loreto wanted to help Haiti in the best way possible.

"We are always reminded

how fortunate we are to live in Australia," she said.

"The students at Loreto always strive to assist those less fortunate or in need."

The funds raised will be distributed through Caritas Australia and the Australian Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development.

Chepstowe suitable for wind farm

THE company behind a windfarm planned for Chepstowe says the area is a good wind resource that can handle a small windfarm.

Future Energy recently applied to Pyrenees Shire Council to build a three-turbine windfarm on the Carngham-Streatham Rd site.

Managing director David Shapero said the particular area lent itself well to a small wind farm.

"One of the great advantages

of a small windfarm is there is no need for new infrastructure, no new powerlines running across the land and there is no need for a sub-station or anything like that," Mr Shapero said.

While he said it was very difficult to know how long construction would take if council approved the project, he anticipated it could be about two years.

"We think it's a pretty simple proposal and one of the better parts of it is the better setbacks to houses," Mr Shapero said.

"Apart from the owner's house, the nearest other house is over 2km away and that's an extremely long setback."

The company said it had visited everyone within a few kilometres of the proposed facility and said the majority of people were quite comfortable with the idea.

"We're continuing to visit people in the local area and are available to visit anyone if they want to contact us," Mr Shapero said.