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www.merbeincentenary.com.au

Merbein shows off as it opens its doors to visitors and locals

Merbein will be opening its doors to all sorts of wonderful exhibitions and open days, as a part of its centenary celebrations in August.

The ten days of events at Merbein will be celebrating a one hundred years of an irrigation settlement. Locals and visitors will be able to visit many open days, displays and exhibits. Some of these are rarely open to the public.

Merbein Returned Serviceman's League (RSL) will be opening its doors to their extensive photographic display of locals who have gone to war. Photographs have been painstakingly gathered and are now displayed on the walls of the hall. This impressive and unique tribute is a reminder of the town's past and present individuals who have served their country. This is a must see for all.

Merbein Centenary Committee member Rebecca Wells says 'The celebrations will be a fantastic opportunity for locals and visitors see what makes Merbein so special. Just the choices of open days and displays are amazing.'

Fishers Supermarkets, founded in 1911 in Merbein, will be displaying memorabilia from the company's extensive historical collection.

Ms Wells says 'There has been an enormous amount of community organisation to get these open days and displays up and running. The towns very excited about opening its doors to everyone.'

Entries from the NAB photographic competition will be on display a Merbein Centenary Office during the ten days of celebrations. Entrants have been encouraged to submit photographs of Merbein, all to be taken in the year 2009. This will be a great opportunity for all visitors and locals to come and see Merbein, as photographed through the eyes of the community.

Merbein and District Historical Society will be putting on a pictorial display, 'Grave Matters' at the Society's rooms. A book complementing this display will also be released in time for the centenary. It will contain images and biographical information of people buried in the Merbein Monumental Cemetery 1909-1969, submitted by descendants to the Society.

There will also be a model paddle steamer display at Merbein Centenary Office. This unique collection will be travelling from South Australia.

And for those interested in real life working paddle steamers, a flotilla of boats will grace the waters of the River Murray, at the bottom of Pump Hill on Saturday, 22nd August. Visitors will be able to board the paddle steamers, including the Ruby and Coonawarra, for a short trip past the white cliffs to the Blandowski campsite below the winery.

Local Merbein historians, Bernadette Wells and Bronwyn Zrna have been working hard to produce a book called 'Merbein 100 Years in Pictures'. This pictorial book is divided up into decades and has plenty of unique photographs. It documents key sites, community groups and activities of the Merbein district. The book will be launched on Friday 14 August, 5.30 pm at the Merbein hotel at the 'Meet and Greet' get together.

The Merbein Commonwealth Science and Research Organisation (CSIRO) will be opening its doors to the public. Visitors will be able to see a collection of the organisations horticultural projects.

Australian Vintage Traders will be giving tours of their facility. This will be a rare opportunity for visitors to see a Merbein landmark and view the old pot stills. Over the years many locals have worked at this site.

If you're more attracted to the outdoors, you'll be able to participate in the 'Walk on the Merbein Common'. On Wednesday, August 19th. This four hour walk will include input from Department of Sustainability and Environment, Mallee Catchment Management Authority, Merbein District Historical Society, Yelta Land Care, Sunraysia Bird Observers Club and a didgeridoo player. A BBQ lunch at the river will break the walk halfway.

Ms Wells advises 'Interest in these last two events is growing, so I'd suggest putting the dates in your calendar now to avoid any disappointment as, closer to the date, you will have to book for these activities.

For further information on the numerous centennial displays, especially the William Blandowski's exhibition at Hill Corner, please see the Merbein Centenary web site www.merbeincentenary.com.au

Further Enquires:

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