

OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5 SEPTEMBER 2020

PLAQUE MAKING

778 made so far, plus Westcare approx. 30

We have ordered 10 more cutters at a cost of about \$350 – we are down to 9 and some of those are getting to the stage where we will be unable to sharpen them again.

We have about 500 plaques in the pipeline to be made, plus some for Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie that may be approved.

Thanks to Blue Mullumby and Adrian (Injun) Malloy for coming all this way to help produce our plaques. Also thanks to Adrian Holdaway for his support with sharpening cutters and servicing our machines.

TRIPS

Goldfields - 105 plaques installed over 3,600 kms. My thanks to Ron Dhu and Colin from the Eastern Suburbs 4WD Club for coming along. We found and marked 4 lonely graves. Still looking for 1 - Prendergast

Pilbara / Kimberley 6,200 kms. Placed 4 plaques

Laverton trip 2000 kms. Attended Shire meeting 27 August. Found and marked the Prendergast grave.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Lorraine has sourced 4 hand held radios for us and our last Committee meeting approved the purchase of 4 Spot personal locator devices. This will improve our responsibility to our field teams.

WESTCARE

Back on track. Alex, Blue and I had a meeting there. Photography needs to be done again. Don Phillips has donated a digital camera.

They are excited about the laser engraving potential.

I need to typeset the rest of Lawlers – 1 sheet.

SHIRE FUNDING

We have been very successful in convincing Shires to support our project. Those who are participating are:

Leonora \$25,000

Menzies \$20,000

Laverton **\$20,000**

Wiluna **\$15,000**

\$10,000 from each of these Shires will be allocated to the purchase of the laser engraver. The balance of each will be allocated to making plaques in their area.

Sandstone Have allocated funding to pay us to make plaques in their area.

We attended a meeting with **Laverton Shire** during our Goldfields trip. Had a great reception from Patrick Hill and his daughter Laurinda. Blue and Mary, Suzie and I went back up there last week to address their Councillors. There had been a couple not sure about allocating funding to us. They approved \$20,000 to us on the spot.

FUND RAISING

Our fund raising efforts have been directed towards raising \$95,000 towards purchasing a laser engraving machine.

We have given up on Lotterywest

Have made application to the **Minara Community Foundation** for \$25,000. Should find out in October. Quite a complex application which I got done in the week or so between trips. Alex prepared 2 hard copies plus a digital copy and submitted it.

Have made application to **Agnew Gold** for \$20,000. We called in to see Melanie Police and Jason Sander during our Goldfields trip. They suggested I amend the purpose of the application from buying a laser engraver to simply funds to mark all the graves at Lawlers, which is on their doorstep. I did that and sent it to them by email on Sunday 23 August.

Have made application for \$10,000 to **RAMELIUS Resources**. Suzie and I called in to visit them at Vivienne Mine during our Goldfields Trip

If we are successful with Minara, Agnew Gold and Ramelius we will have the full \$95,000 we need to buy the laser engraver.

Have received confirmation of a \$5000 grant from **Middle Island Resources**. Alex and I went to see the Managing Director, Rick Yeates and had a great reception. He would like their funding to be spent on making plaques in the Sandstone Shire. We showed him some plaques and the laser samples.

Both **Ramelius and Middle Island** are the result of Harry Hawkins and Beth Walton at Sandstone.

THANK YOU PLAQUES

We have presented the Shires of Leonora, Menzies and Sandstone with appreciation plaques to publicly recognise their support. Each Shire got 2 plaques, one mounted on a jarrah timber backing for their offices and one to place somewhere in the public view.

We will make a similar plaque for each of the mining companies who give us funding support.

NEXT TRIP

To install plaques will be to Lawlers, sometime in early October. Just need to decide if we go with whatever Westcare have produced, or wait until we have the lot.

REQUESTS FOR HELP

Rolling in. 3 in the last week or so. One from Northam, one from a lady who knows of graves near Bullfinch and one for the NT.

CURTIN FM RADIO

Last chat was on Friday 21st August at 12.20. Next one will be on Wednesday 30th September at 14.20

MATERIALS

We currently have stocks of about 50 each of blanks to make plaques and of steel posts. We have sufficient bolts for about 250 plaques. Need to get supplies for 200 more plaques and posts.

THANKS

To all for the enormous human effort which is driving our success. Our Committee have done a wonderful job of putting in place all the background work, administrative functions and protocols which allows us to get on with the job of marking graves.

We are a diverse team, each with strengths and abilities. I come away from our meetings inspired by all of the committee and very confident of their professional stewardship of Outback Grave Markers Inc. Thank you sincerely.



Trevor Tough

4th September 2020