Plenty Historical Society news update 2.

Just when we were getting excited that we might be able to start meeting that annoying pandemic has sparked off again and restrictions remain! Although it is nice to be able to meet with family and small groups of friends. I hope you and your families remain in good health and continue to manage the changing conditions and restrictions to our lives. On the plus side there have been many positives for the environment as a result of the lockdown restrictions and I think it has helped us to focus on the importance of some of the everyday things we normally take for granted.

It has been just on a month since I last wrote, the church restoration is now finished and I include a couple of pictures taken by a professional photographer for Major Roads Projects Victoria (MRPV) which they have shared with us. The Church will actually belong to Nillumbik Shire Council as it is on Council land however, Plenty Historical Society will be the custodians and we are currently negotiating a lease with Council. I understand MRPV is waiting for the final building engineers sign off and then the church will be handed over to Council and PHS. Once we have the keys given the continuation of restrictions, we will work out a way for members to have a look inside whilst complying with all COVID restrictions and keeping everyone safe. We are all looking forward to our first meeting in our new home and sharing thoughts on how the building might be used for the benefit of the Plenty community.

Executive will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to map out a plan for the rest of the year. There will be an official handover from MRPV but that may be restricted in numbers depending on timing. When restrictions ease, we will go ahead with a function with the Diamond Creek Uniting Church and PHS to celebrate this new phase in the church's history. The Uniting Church is currently offering "Church from the Manse Garden" services on Sundays via YouTube. Our church was featured at one of those services which was lovely. The builder whose company CBuilt, did the restoration has offered to come and speak to members about the restoration experience and what they learned from the job. One of our members Karen Coulston has just finished renovating a lovely old miners' cottage on her property which she has kindly offered as a visit for us. As always, we are keen to hear from you so we can plan a program that we can all share and enjoy.

Stay safe and well, best wishes

Kerry

Kerry Fitzmaurice

President

22/06/20

The church at sunrise

The interior complete including the feature pendant light