

**ANNUAL STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES**

*Statement by Member for Warren–Blackwood*

**MS E.J. KELSBIE (Warren–Blackwood)** [12.52 pm]: I recently had the honour of opening the fifty-seventh annual state historical societies conference in my home town of Denmark. I give my huge congratulations to everyone involved from the Denmark Historical Society for hosting such an engaging, educational and welcoming event that included a series of excursions to places of historical significance, including Tingle Dale Hall, the Recollections of War museum and the Denmark Historical Museum, as well as a series of talks, including by Vernice Gillies on the 30 000 years of Indigenous history, and local historian Bev McGuinness, who provided a Denmark perspective on pioneer photography through Bert Saw's lens.

About 120 delegates from 31 historical societies from across the state attended the event, including, from my electorate, members of the Margaret River and Districts Historical Society, the Bridgetown Historical Society and, of course, the fabulous Denmark Historical Society. It was a pleasure to meet attendees and hear about the great work being done across our state to celebrate and conserve our varied and rich histories. I have a great relationship with and respect for this year's host, the Denmark Historical Society, and I applaud its members' work, dedication and passion for researching, conserving and promoting the history and heritage of our beautiful town. Forums like this offer a place to share ideas, information and knowledge. I look forward to supporting the fifty-eighth state historical societies conference, which will be hosted by the just as fabulous Bridgetown Historical Society next year.