



Kevin Collins shared the story on how Parham and Webb Beach was saved from plans to be acquired by the Australian Defence Force.



Bev Jones with a model of the Tin Man sculpture that, until recently, was located at Lower Light to protest plans for the nearby dump. PHOTOS: JARRAD DELANEY

People power put on display

JARRAD DELANEY

STORIES about residents from Dublin, Parham, Lower Light and other communities fighting to protect the areas they called home were shared in an event for South Australia's History Festival on Sunday, May 21.

Dublin History Group put on the event 'Power of the People' at the Dublin Institute from 1pm to 5pm, exploring protests in the area dating back to 1876 and included displays of photos, newspaper clippings and protest signs from different periods.

One of the main historical topics was the fight in the 1980s to save Parham and Webb Beach from being included in an extension of restricted land used by the Australian Defence Force.

Kevin Collins was a guest speaker on the day and was the chairperson of the Port Parham-Webb Beach Action Committee which pushed back against these plans.

This ranged from shirts and stickers with messages of protest, to handing out letters of complaint at a caravan and camping show for people to send to the Department of Defence, as well as a big message of 'NOT 4 SALE' written in seaweed on the beach at Parham.

Mr Collins said it all started with the release of the original Environmental Impact Statement, with a committee of 10 people coming up with clever ideas to fight back.

He said one of the key people involved was local hotel proprietor Neil Featherstone.

"We had to keep the fight going and different things to keep things rolling along,"

he said.

"The main reason (we fought back) is it's the community, had the towns of Webb Beach and Port Parham been bulldozed out, where would these people go?"

"There's no other place, land is more expensive, it's further from hospital and a lack of services at the time, it was an absolute disaster in the making."

This was a fight that the residents would win, and Mr Collins said it was a victory that would be shared in the pages of the Advertiser.

Also discussed on the day was the protest against the Dublin Landfill Dump, which led to the iconic statues which, until recently, were located along the Port Wakefield Highway at Lower Light.

Dublin History Group volunteer and

researcher Bev Jones is very familiar with protests in the area, having been a part of the actions against the Defence Force plans for Parham, the waste dump and against a "super piggery" at Lower Light, which didn't end up going ahead.

She summed up the constant need to fight back against plans for her neck of the woods as "man's greed".

"We were fighting for our way of life, which is not suburbia," she said.

Dublin History Group president Philip Brow said it was great to be able to put the event on for the history festival and share some important pieces of the area's, and the state's history.

Names sought for memorial's 20th

JARRAD DELANEY

THE Dublin War Memorial turns 20 on Remembrance Day and the local history group is making sure all personnel who served their country are recognised.

The Dublin History Group is making sure the memorial includes the names of everyone who was born in, or lived in the Hundred of Dublin when they enlisted.

Group secretary Andrea Brow said all World War I defence personnel were researched and it was now moving on to World War II and other conflicts.

She said the group was keen to make sure no names of personnel from the Hundred of Dublin area missed out on being recognised on the memorial.

"It's important we record this element of the Hundred of Dublin's history," she said.

"We're asking if there is anyone out there who would like to have their, or their family member's name up here."

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The Hundred of Dublin encompasses Dublin, Windsor, Wild Horse Plains, Parham, Thompson Beach and Port Prime and the group is including people from Lower Light and Port Lorne.

The group will look to keep enquiries open until at least July as it prepares for its Remembrance Day event in November, which will mark the memorial's 20th anniversary.

Plans include a Remembrance Day service at the memorial before heading to the Dublin Institute for a luncheon.

Mrs Brow said much of the World War II enlistment information was not online yet so people were encouraged to provide an enlistment certificate or any sort of support documentation when coming forward with a name to put on the memorial.

People have been encouraged to get in contact with the group by emailing info@dublinhistorygroup.com.au or to message through the Dublin History Group Facebook page.



Dublin History Group secretary Andrea Brow with the names engraved on the Dublin War Memorial. PHOTO: JARRAD DELANEY