

# GREENSBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The First Years 2010-2016

The Greensborough Historical Society Inc has achieved much in its first few years. Enjoy reliving the highs and lows of Greensborough's own Society

Compiled by Rosalie Bray

## **Dedication and Thanks**

This short history is dedicated with thanks to the families who have been so generous with their donations, memories and knowledge, and also to the Officers, Committee and the volunteers who have contributed beyond expectations to record and preserve the history of the area.

We also acknowledge three members who contributed to our Society but have sadly passed away: Ida Brown, Shirley Fraser and Margaret Willimott.

### **Greensborough Historical Society Inc.**

Incorporation No. A0054430X

ABN 64 318 435 402

Historical Resource Centre:

34 Glenauburn Road, Lower Plenty

Website: [www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au](http://www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au)

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## Foreword

A community without a history is a community without a soul and unless we take the opportunity to record its history, its development and acquired character it will be lost to future generations.

It was through my concern for the condition of the small but well populated Greensborough Cemetery that got me interested in researching its occupants and the history of the area.

Over the years I had been asked “why isn’t there a Greensborough Historical Society” and my answer was always the same “we already have nine in the Shire of Nillumbik and one in the City of Banyule” and at the time I belonged to three of them.

After giving a presentation on local history at a Greensborough Chamber of Commerce business breakfast I was approached by Julie Johnson the Director of the Diamond Valley Learning Centre who suggested a public meeting could be held at the centre to determine whether there was support for a Greensborough Historical Society.

This occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010 when it was determined that there was sufficient support and it proceeded from there.

The Greensborough Historical Society Inc. considers numerous aspects of the district’s history including reasons for settlement, how it developed, the personal stories of pioneering families and changes that have occurred over the years.

Recording history is one thing, what is more important is that it be made readily available to the public and this has been the aim of the Society since its formation in 2010.

Our collection is held in digital and hard copy formats at our History Resource Centre and where practical is available worldwide from our web site [www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au](http://www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au) and that of Victorian Collections [www.victoriancollections.net.au](http://www.victoriancollections.net.au), which is jointly sponsored by Museums Australia (Victoria) and Museum Victoria.

Talks on local history are given at schools and to Community groups on request as well as guided walks pointing out places of historical interest.

The Society started off in a small way but has grown in number and enthusiasm over the years and looks forward to a productive future.

We hope you enjoy reading this story of our first six years.

*Noel Withers*

President

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

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## Chapter One      The Beginning - 2010

The meeting room at the Diamond Valley Living and Learning Centre on Friday March 19 2010 was crammed with people who had responded to an article printed in the Diamond Valley Leader (11.3.2010) *“For interested people to meet with the view of preserving Greensborough’s past by forming an historical society”*. The large attendance of people exceeded all expectations, clearly showing that a historical society was necessary.

The meeting, which took the form of an open forum, was chaired by Noel Withers, who welcomed all to the meeting. It soon became evident that the room was made up of a diverse section of people. Some of those who attended had not lived in the Greensborough area for very long and decided to attend because of local interest. Others came because they had been contacted by Noel Withers and were curious. There were also representatives from other local historical societies. But what amazed people the most was the strong and enthusiastic attendance of descendants or relatives of old pioneer families who wanted to be foundation members of the newly formed Society. These included the Partingtons, Whatmoughs, Butterworths, Luxfords and Poulterers, who answered the call, all willing to share their memories, local knowledge and treasures so that the history of the original settlers would be preserved.

The Chairman, Noel Withers opened the meeting and put the following points to the gathering.

1. What will be the purpose and do we need a local society?
2. What areas would be covered? Example. Greensborough, Watsonia, St Helena, Bundoora, Briar Hill?
3. What options are available and how do we get started?
4. What skills will we need?
5. Should we merge with a branch of an existing society?

In answer to point 5, Geoff Butterworth quickly and clearly stated that we should “Definitely go it alone”. He was backed by a general vote of agreement in the room. It was then decided that the first commitment was to form a working committee to formulate the necessary requirements of the newly raised society.

An Interim Committee was formed and ratified as a formal committee at the meeting April 23 2010).

President: Noel Withers; Vice President /Public Officer: Ian Bryant; Secretary: Pat Murnane; Treasurer: John Gibson; Ordinary Committee: Geoff Butterworth, Suzanne Crellin, Anne Paul, Dennis Ward.

The first meeting in March was followed by a meeting on April 23 2010.

The invitation to attend went as follows.

*“There is a general meeting for all interested in our local history to be held at the Diamond Valley Learning Centre on Friday 23 April 2010 at 2.30pm.*

*Meet your committee and see how they are going. Hear about some of Greensborough’s history. See what the Burra was like a while ago. Be a founding member of an active society. Have a chat with acquaintances over tea and coffee”.*

Noel Withers and Ian Bryant spoke at this meeting about a proposed Statement of Purpose and Constitution and Rules of the Society to be drafted and developed by the Committee. Copies of these documents would be available for perusal by members.

The following proposal was moved by Ian Bryant and Dennis Ward

“That the proposed Statement of Purpose and Constitution and Rules of the Greensborough Historical Society be approved and Noel Withers be authorised to incorporate the Society under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and set up a bank account for the Society with the Bendigo Bank.”

Carried Unanimously.

As part of the above, the following categories of membership and fees were approved:

Single Adult - \$20.

Single Adult/Concession/Student - \$15

Family (two adults with children) - \$30.

School/Non-profit organisation \$30.

Corporate (no sponsorship) - \$100. Corporate (with sponsorship of \$250) - Nil

Meeting days and times were discussed and it was decided to hold bi-monthly meeting at 2.30pm on the last Friday of the month.

Ian Bryant and John Gibson represented the Society at the Yarra Plenty Region Heritage Forum on August 24 2010, which was hosted by the St Andrews Queenstown Historical Society. Both men found the gathering of like-minded people enlightening and found that highlights of the forum included:

- Nillumbik Historical Society reported that they had items of interest such as bricks from Willis Vale and the Whatmough jug.

- Department of Veterans' Affairs is seeking information about local World War 1 veterans.

The meeting of June 25 2010 advised that there were recent changes to the Committee of Management. Pat Murnane had become unavailable and Suzanne Crellin had joined the Committee.

Greensborough Historical Society was given 'a ring of confidence' when it received its first corporate membership from Greensborough Chamber of Commerce accompanied by a generous donation of \$400, and also the first group membership from the Diamond Valley Community Support Group.

Setting up any Society is an expensive business and Greensborough Historical Society was fortunate to receive \$5,150 as part of the Greensborough RSL/ Banyule Trust Fund and \$4,200 from Banyule Community Development Grants.



*1 June, Ian & Noel receive the Banyule Community Development Grant from Deputy Mayor Jenny Mulholland and Cr Tom Melican*



*2 Ian & Helen receive the RSL/Banyule Trust Fund Grant. L-R Colin Brooks, Lee Webb Pres. RSL, Helen, Ian, Mayor Wayne*



*3 Heritage Week walk around Greensborough October 2010*

Although it was only the first year of existence the newly formed Society joined with the Diamond Valley Living and Learning Centre to celebrate Heritage Week in November 2010.

In October the Society also hosted a well-attended Plenty River Pioneer Walk lead by Anne Paul.

The membership at the General Meeting October 29 2010 totalled 54.

Speakers for 2010 were Harry Gilham, Lindsay Mann, Anne Paul and Val Wilson.

## Chapter Two      Into Action - 2011

Action is the only word which could be used during the early days of the Society. Donations and family treasures flooded in. This was mainly due to the Partington Family (Gary and Faye Fort), who were so generous and forthcoming, showing the way of what was necessary to share and preserve the history and heritage of Greensborough and its environs from the earliest records to present day, including indigenous and non-indigenous history.

Other families have shared their precious memorabilia and we thank them all for their generosity.

Special interest groups (SIGs) were organised to deal with particular areas of interest such as pioneering families, site investigation and photographic preservation, thus opening areas of specialised participation for people to be involved, and to use the various skills of the membership. For example, June Hall volunteered to take on the role to co-ordinate oral history interviews, and Marilyn Smith to take and thus preserve images of the changing Greensborough landscape. Things began to happen such as:

- Presentations by Anne Paul on the historical sites of Lower Plenty and by Val Wilson on her family history.
- Other suggestions which were later put into action included setting up a register for people who want to sign up to get their oral history recorded, possible sale of photos and requesting visitors to make a gold coin donation in support of the Society.
- The Society received a RSL Grant of \$5,150
- Four personal computers were donated by Banyule Council.

All these things were very exciting, but the Society had no place to meet, store items or to do research.

Suzanne Crellin regretfully resigned as a member of the Society's Committee, and is thanked for her support in the early years of formation of the Greensborough Historical Society.

In March 2011 Sue Ballantyne and John Gibson attended a training session at the Melbourne Museum on the "new" Victorian Collections cataloguing system jointly developed by Museum Victoria and Museum Australia (Victoria). The system is intended for use by historical and heritage collecting organisations throughout Victoria and has become a tremendous database of historical material held throughout Victoria (web site [www.victoriancollections.net.au](http://www.victoriancollections.net.au)). The system resides on the Museum Victoria mainframe and so requires no back up locally and is free of charge to use. Sue offered to lead a Cataloguing SIG, as it was of crucial importance that everything accepted into the Society archives is accurately catalogued. To demonstrate this, a flood of over 200 historical photographs and other items from Steve Whatmough and from Peter Blackburn relating to a number of Greensborough families arrived and, after

cataloguing, are now available via the Internet. This fulfils the Society's purpose to collect, record, conserve, preserve, and catalogue written and oral histories, documents, maps, photographs, objects, memorabilia, and general items. In 2016, this work continues.

The members were all pleased to hear, later in the month that Sue Ballantyne had accepted a role on the Committee as Archivist. Without Sue's absolute commitment, hard work and generous spirit the setting up, development and implementation of the Society's Archives would be non-existent. Sue started from scratch passing her knowledge on to the volunteers, with the result that Greensborough Historical Society Archives are the envy of other local Historical Societies. Thank you Sue.

Membership was now 70 (March 2011), and the Committee had been working hard investigating a location that would be suitable for members to meet and house the archives. Anne Paul heard of the possibility of a Banyule Council property in Glenside Road Lower Plenty becoming vacant in the near future. It had been used as the Men's Shed, and they were 'moving on'. The Committee took immediate action contacting Banyule Council. The property had four rooms that would house the research area, secure storage, a small meeting room, a kitchen and a bathroom. The security was good and seemed ideal for the Greensborough Historical Society to use as its first home and Historical Resource Centre. It all sounded good.

Noel Withers, Ian Bryant and John Gibson were very pleased to meet with Banyule Council staff and negotiations began. The men worked hard with the Banyule Council to obtain the property for the Society, the lease was signed and the keys handed over in May 2011. Before taking possession there were a few tasks which had to be taken care of for health and safety reasons. Noel reported that he had met onsite with Banyule Council officers about replacing the existing gate to make easier excess for disabled people and for the safety of the precious items the Greensborough History housed there. The concrete path to the front door was not safe and had to be replaced. These problems were solved via a



4 Working on a new path and gate, the Banyule 2011



5 Working Bee August 2011 - Taking a break!

donation from the Banyule City Council Hawdon Ward Funds courtesy of Councillor Steven Briffa. A storage shed, which is now located in the alcove outside the Centre's front door was purchased, as well as a larger work top for the main computer desk. The water heater in the kitchen was also replaced. Ian, John and Graeme Hair travelled to Graeme's workplace in Clayton where they picked up

office furniture that was being replaced as part of office refurbishment. The furniture fitted into the Research Centre perfectly. Many thanks were extended to Marilyn Smith and Graeme Hair for organising this gift of office furniture at no charge to the Society.

It was soon noted that there were lots of cleaning jobs to do to make this property habitable. Members held working bees. They brought cleaning materials, and showed their skills both inside and outside the Resource Centre. They gave



6 Still at the Working Bee 2011



7 Painting

gladly of their time putting 'all hands to the wheel' with everyone 'mixing in' and enjoying the camaraderie of a new home for the Greensborough Historical Society. A well timed donation of over 20 litres of paint from Greenbrook Primary School (Epping) via Kath Gibson was gratefully received. Both school and Kath were heartily thanked.

The SIGs began to develop and became very busy in early 2011. Val Wilson expressed interest in forming a local cemeteries group, focussing on cemeteries in Greensborough, St Helena and Janefield. Rex Smith showed an interest in researching sporting clubs, with an emphasis on Greensborough Football Club. Marilyn Smith and Frank Evans began to research the Watsonia Army Camp property. Ian and Helen Bryant and Merilyn Mullavey centred their research on street names and their origin. Helen and Ian Bryant produced a wonderful newsletter from the formation of the Society until 2013..... Ian also developed and maintained the online blog site.

At this time a discussion got under way about the difficulty of some people being unable to attend the general meetings. A plan was devised to meet once a month on the last Friday for a General Meeting and the alternate month to meet on the last Saturday for members to participate in a Forum. By doing this was hoped to accommodate those who can't make Fridays meeting due to other commitments. In this way they can continue to be involved in Greensborough's diverse and interesting history.

The question of having a logo became an interest to all members. At the request of the Committee, Ian Bryant developed a series of draft logos and promotional display headers for the Society. These were circulated to the members for discussion. Designs were based on existing images of the area, for example Ron Reynolds's sketch of Greensborough Primary School, Ellis's painting of views of Greensborough and views of Marble Hall. With so many ideas from the membership the Committee discussed possibilities, and it was decided to put the ideas into a graphic. Noel Withers, Anne Paul and Dennis Ward had researched the story of the Batman or Whatmough Apple Tree which has significant historical value in the Greensborough area. The tree is noted to be at least 173 years old, perhaps the oldest apple

tree in Victoria still bearing fruit and an ideal logo for the Society (Taken from Anne Paul's research, printed Greensborough Historical Society Newsletter No 8) and easy to print and identify. And so the Apple Tree became our logo.

The Inaugural Annual General Meeting on Friday September 30 2011 was well attended with election of Officers and Ordinary Committee as following: President: Noel Withers; Vice-President: Jasmin Burge; Secretary: Norm Colvin; Treasurer: John Gibson; Ordinary Committee: Sue Ballantyne, June Hall, Dennis Ward, Roland de Man and Anne Paul.

Special business at this meeting was raised concerning some alterations to the Constitution and Rules. All alterations were passed and ratified by the meeting.



8 Mayor Peter McKenna officially opens the Resource Centre

Everyone had smiles on their faces at the official opening of the Greensborough Resource Centre Glenauburn Road Lower Plenty on October 22 2011. At 2:07pm the Mayor of Banyule Cr Peter McKenna ceremoniously cut the ribbon and declared the Resource Centre officially open.



9 To celebrate the opening of the Historical Resource Centre, a group photo was taken of the members

It was a great time of achievement and a tribute to the Officers, Committee and Members that we '*now had a place to call home*'. President Noel Withers, said in his short speech that it was thanks all round. To those who attended the first meeting and had faith that there could

be a Greensborough Historical Society; to those who took part in setting up a structure, computer systems, the archives and the many other tasks that have made the Society what it is today. He especially made mention of the wonderful donations from the early descendants who had given so generously. Noel heartily thanked those who worked hard at the one final working bee, those who welcomed and provided refreshments on the day and those who cleaned up afterwards. And especially to Banyule Council, Greensborough RSL, Greensborough Chamber of Commerce, Yarra Plenty Library Service, Diamond Valley Living and Learning Centre and the Diamond Valley Community Support Group.



*10 Anne and Sue man the 'booth' at Greensborough Plaza, Winter in Banyule 2011*

Greensborough Historical Society members felt that they were part of the community when they joined with Greensborough Chamber of Commerce and other groups to participate in “Winter in Banyule” 2011 Festival. On these occasions they were able to attract many new members.

Speakers for 2011 included Ian Bryant, Anne Paul, Rex Smith, amateur archaeologist Henry Huggins, Val Wilson, Jim Connor, Roland de Man, and Felicity Williams from Greensborough College.

## Chapter Three      Going Forward - 2012

Members were enthusiastic at the beginning of 2012 and with good reason.

Margaret and Keith Willimott gave generously of their treasures from the former Watsonia High School. Uniforms, newsletters, school magazines and school motifs. Margaret, full of stories of the school, even acted as a model wearing an old Watsonia High School uniform (which she fitted into). Margaret was a foundation teacher at the Watsonia High School and sadly died in 2013.

Patsy Coverdale donated a large street plan of Melbourne Circa 1837. Noel arranged to have large copies made and available for sale at \$ 10 a copy.

Madge (Butcher) and Ken Wanden generously donated wonderful old photographs of Gildings Butcher Family Shop from the 1930s and photographs of St Katherine's Church St Helena (from an anonymous estate in Bairnsdale).

As a fund raiser, sets of 6 postcards were produced for sale at \$5 a set. These expanded to Series 2 and were very popular. (Series 3 will be available in 2016).

A donation of \$500 from the Eltham Community Craft and Produce Market (June 2012) came via Dawn Bennetts. The money, which was most welcome, was used to purchase a new printer for the Archives room. Dawn was also congratulated on her sterling efforts at getting the Society's meetings published in the local newspapers.



*11 The Batman Apple Tree*

Nillumbik Shire Council amended its planning scheme to include heritage listing for Batman's Apple Tree. This is now listed in Heritage Victoria's Victorian Heritage Database. At the same time the Nillumbik Shire allocated Greensborough Historical Society a \$600 grant to further local history. This is an ongoing annual grant for which the Society is most grateful.

A grand night was enjoyed when over 50 people (including 24 non-members) attended a highly successful Trivia night on St Patricks Day March 17 2012 at the Greenhills Neighbourhood Centre. The evening was compared by Russell, Suzanne and Eliza Crellin who gave freely of their time and expertise, keeping everyone on their mettle with trivia questions. There were 9 competing teams, all joining in with the fun of the night, and also vying for a winning place.



*12 Trivia Night fun 2012*



13 John Gibson enters the fun on Trivia Night 2012

The room was tinged with an Irish theme, tables were decorated with an Irish flavour and the Irish music had every one toe tapping into the Irish swing of the night. Some people added to the atmosphere by dressing for the occasion. The 'coffers' benefitted with over \$600 raised for Society and the whole room enjoying the fun of it all.

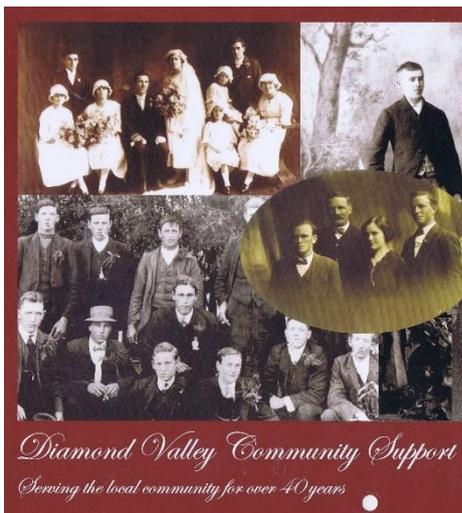
June Hall generously donated a painting by her late husband Doug Hall, which now hangs in the Society's Resource Centre. The painting means so much to June and the members thank her for it.

On June 12 2012 Noel attended a seminar given by the Oral History Society of Australia at the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV), which he considered well worthwhile attending. Noel was able to pass on tips and information to help with oral history interviews.

Sue Ballantyne the Society's Archivist reported at the July meeting that Heritage Victoria had listed the Pioneer Children's Cemetery (Located near the old aqueduct bridge on the Plenty River), on the Victoria Heritage Inventory. This is a big step forward for a young historical society.

Those elected at the Annual General meeting on September 9 2012 were: President: Noel Withers; Vice-President: Sue Ballantyne; Secretary: Norm Colvin; Treasurer: John Gibson; Ordinary Committee: June Hall, Jasmin Burge and Anne Paul.

Ian Bryant reported that, although it was in its early days of operation he had been able to establish a Society Blog and was also developing the Society's Web site. Ian and Helen continued to write and produce the monthly newsletter.



The Society was very pleased to be able to help the Diamond Valley Community Support group with local images of old Greensborough for their annual calendar. This was a great opportunity for the Society to show old Greensborough as it was and to receive free publicity.

Speakers for 2012 were Val Wilson, Rex Smith, Margaret Willimott, Roland de Man, Bill Cecil, Gary Partington and Faye Fort, John Gibson, Sue Ballantyne and Eric Poulter.

## Chapter Four Consolidating - 2013

To encourage people to become involved, the Historical Resource Centre opened on some Saturday afternoons in 2013. The first Saturday Open Day was February 9 and about 20 people availed themselves of the opportunity to either try to trace their family's history or just to see how the Resource Centre worked. People were helped to use the Diggers Index, which is installed on three computers to assist with any family history research queries. Victorian Collections cataloguing was also planned for that day.



Chapman Family Gathering 7th April 2012

B/R Peter Blackbourn, Brian Poulter, Peter Chapman, Steven Whatmough, Karen Hough  
F/R Joanne Blackbourn, Helen Davies, Val Wilson, Denise Anderson, Shannyn Hough  
(George Chapman)

In April, the Society hosted a Chapman family reunion with some family members travelling from Queensland.

Society Archivist Sue Ballantyne reported that Greensborough Historical Society had listings on the Victorian Collections approaching 600 items. She was proud that the Society is the second most prolific group on that site, with the most active group actually having paid staff. Sue was prouder still when it was announced that Greensborough Historical Society had



14 Noel accepts the Victorian Collections Award from Belinda Ensor

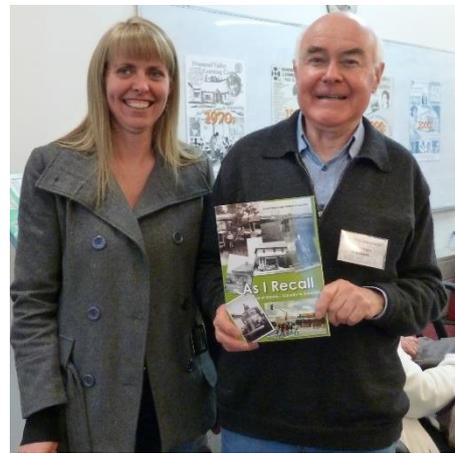
received an award from Museum Victoria for having entered the most items (over 650 items) by a volunteer organisation, onto its Victorian Collections site in the past twelve months. This speaks volumes, about the work that is being done at the Society's History Resource Centre each Thursday under Sue's guidance, processing and cataloguing the numerous articles in the Society's possession. All these tasks take time and patience. Noel Withers was very pleased to attend the award ceremony and to receive the award on behalf of the Society. Victorian Collections Project Manager,

Meredith Blake said "We are thrilled to have such a dedicated group of volunteers cataloguing their items on Victoria Collections".

Sue was invited to speak about Greensborough's use of Victorian Collections at the Museum Victoria Conference at Geelong in April 2013.

Noel Withers was asked to talk to the Melbourne Poets Union at Watsonia Library and he was very pleased to receive \$100 for the Society. Nillumbik Historical Society gifted a number of records and items, which included some associated with the Diamond Valley Community Hospital.

The Society received \$3,300 from the Banyule Council Development Fund to produce a book on local history. This gave the Committee and members a lot to think about and the planning began. A special committee was raised to oversee and produce the book with Busybird Publishing engaged to print the book. The book, which gradually took shape, was named "As I Recall" at Noel's suggestion and was produced on time. It contains 26 stories with different aspects of life and times in Greensborough and surrounding areas. The book was launched on July 20 2013 at the Diamond Valley Learning Centre with a large gathering of smiling faces looking on. "As I Recall" proved to be a great success right from the start, with the price at a moderate \$15.00 per copy for members and \$20.00 per copy for non-members. These are available at the Resource Centre but also at newsagents in Greensborough and Briar Hill. "As I Recall" is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> printing.



*15 Noel and publisher Blaise Van Hecke at the launch of "As I Recall" 2013*



*16 Signs with new logo at Resource Centre*

A donation of \$500 from the Eltham Craft and Produce Market was received on October 2013 with grateful thanks. This was used to purchase professional signage (Using the Batman Tree logo) for the Resource Centre. Thanks again to Dawn Bennetts.

The Society was pleased to help the Diamond Valley Learning Centre to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by contributing to their display of images ranging from 40 years ago.

Dennis Ward led a well-attended cemetery tour including the Pioneer Children's Cemetery on the Plenty River on October 26 2013, ending with a barbeque lunch at the Resource Centre. After lunch, a plaque was unveiled in the front garden of the Resource Centre acknowledging the Partington family's donation of farm implements. Anne Paul led a comfortable walk around from Old Plenty Road along the Plenty River Trail in Lower Plenty on October 27 2013.

The Committee of the Greensborough Historical Society Inc extended its thanks to Helen and Ian Bryant for their excellent work over the past few years in compiling and editing the newsletter. Ian and Helen have decided to move on to other projects. Thank you both for all that you have done to help set up the Greensborough Historical Society, your dedication in every area has been greatly appreciated and of great benefit to all members. Sue Ballantyne offered to take on the role of editor of the quarterly newsletter and Noel Withers took over the maintenance of the blogsite.

Guest speakers for 2013 included Gary Partington, John Gibson, Jeremy Smith, Maureen Jones, Ian Bryant, Liz Pidgeon, Philip Tulk, Lewis Tulk and a group of former police who regaled us with stories of their time in the force – Geoff Tulloch, Kel Glare, Ralph Stavelly and Colleen Woolley.



*17 Chris Foster cooks the BBQ*



*18 Partington Family unveil the plaque - Elinor, Gary and Faye*

## Chapter Five Full Steam Ahead - 2014

The Society's major project for this year was to research details of those who enlisted for World War One (WW1) from the Greensborough district.

This was to link in with the 100-year landing on Gallipoli by the Australian Troops in 1915. To set the scene, the Society's President Noel Withers, at the February meeting 2014, gave a presentation on the origins of WW1, explaining the various treaties which were in place in 1914. Society Secretary Norm Colvin urged the membership to get involved. Norm went on to say that he had over 150 names of local people to research and even if the name given was not known to you, it would be a good reason to 'adopt' and research a name (meeting May 30 2014).



*19 Fallen Soldiers' Memorial lists the names of local men who fell during the "Great War"*

So it was full steam ahead to delve into the files. The research for this project brought some interesting facts to light. District honour boards which were full of local names were found in some strange places. Some were hidden in back rooms or behind doors. It was an 'eureka' moment when an honour board treasure was found. Information traced about those who enlisted and why and how they fitted in when they returned home after the cessation of WW1 brought tears to most members' eyes. And the information found gave the researcher reason to wonder why there was a war in the first place. **We still remember them.** (The results of this research can be seen on the Society website [www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au](http://www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au) )

Members were busy with a tour of State Parliament House on March 27 2014, and an excursion to the Australian Army Signals Museum on July 8 2014 was well attended.

Over the previous years, Greensborough Historical Society had applied for a Local History Grant from the Public Record Office of Victoria with little success, so it was with surprise and delight that the Society received a grant of \$5000 for the development of a new website and training of officers to manage it. On June 17 2014 Greensborough Historical Society hosted a small function to accept the award certificate presented by Hon Bruce Atkinson, President of the Legislative Council and State Member of Eastern Metropolitan



*20 PROV event June 2014: L-R Steve Briffa, Sue Ballantyne, Bruce Atkinson, Rosie Bray, Noel Withers, Colin Brooks*

Region. Other guests were Colin Brooks MLC, Councillor Steve Briffa (Banyule Council) and Liz Pidgeon Local History Librarian of Yarra Plenty Library. In his speech Bruce Atkinson spoke of the importance of historical societies and congratulated the Greensborough Historical Society on its development over the past four years. Bruce was presented with a copy of the book *"As I Recall"*.

Our cup runneth over when, also in 2014, we received a RSL/Banyule Grant of \$10,000 to implement Stage One of the Main Street Plaques Project. Noel Withers, Sue Ballantyne and Dennis Ward attended a function at the Greensborough RSL to accept the grant.



Elected officers at the Annual General Meeting on September 26 2014 were: President: Noel Withers; Vice-President: Sue Ballantyne; Secretary: Norm Colvin; Treasurer: John Gibson; Ordinary Committee: Anne Paul, June Hall, Marilyn Smith, Dennis Ward.

Membership as reported at the Annual General Meeting was 94.

An unexpected set back occurred when the History Resource Centre was robbed in December. It came as a great shock when a laptop computer, scanner, digital camera, as well as long life milk from the cupboard and motor mower fuel were stolen. The Police who attended said that there had been a number of local robberies. It was decided to re-activate the internal alarm in the building to prevent it happening again. A donation of \$1000 from the Eltham Craft and Produce Market covered replacement costs from the burglary (Thanks again Dawn Bennetts).

Speakers for 2014 were Elizabeth Bell, Liz Pidgeon, John Gibson, Norm Colvin, Bryan Henderson, Edmond Smith, Val Wilson, Sue Ballantyne, Jillian Durrance (pre meeting address) and Noel Withers.

## Chapter Six            Going Strong - 2015

The year began on a high when Society Archivist, Sue Ballantyne announced that the digital images which have been collected by Noel over many years as well as photographs by Marilyn Smith and Jasmin Burge, had been catalogued to Victorian Collections over the summer break and had been successful in winning a prize in the Victoria Collections cataloguing competition. These were successful for both quality and quantity. The prize was a collection of archival storage material which Sue collected from Museum Victoria. Greensborough Historical Society was also mentioned in the Victoria Collections newsletter for the variety of images (over 1600) catalogued. These images are also loaded to the computer at the Resource Centre. Sue was congratulated by the Committee and Members for winning the prize single handed. Well done Sue.

To mark ANZAC Day 2015, a century since the landing on Gallipoli (25 April 1915) Greensborough Historical Society presented a display of WW1 memorabilia at the Greensborough Plaza Shopping Centre. The Montmorency RSL with GHS members Terry Phillips and Dennis Ward were involved with a World War I display at the Hatch Contemporary Art Space Ivanhoe for 6 weeks. Dennis Ward was in attendance most days helping visitors with family history research, especially families with WW1 connections.

The Saturday Forum Meeting on April 18 2015 paid tribute to the Service personal that died in all wars. Guest speakers for this meeting were sisters Elizabeth Bell, Margaret Bull and Carol Sproule-Carroll, granddaughters of Rowland Hardley, a local WW1 veteran, who was the founding President of Greensborough RSL. Elizabeth and Margaret showed the members their grandfather's diary which they had deciphered and typed. They also displayed memorabilia brought back from 'the front'.



*21 Rowland Hardley*

At this meeting John Gibson followed on with a presentation on the exploits of his great grandfather William John Jones, who served in the Boer War and later at Gallipoli. Both presentations were supported by excellent power point productions and were well received by all who attended.

Congratulations to Greensborough Historical Society Foundation member, Val Wilson for being awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the General Division for Service to the Community in the Queen's Honour List 2015. Val is the Vice President of Mornington and District Historical Society.

Society member Maureen Jones published her history of "Montmorency: the farm on the Plenty".

A tour of St Katherine's Church and graves in St Helena on May 29 2015 was well attended and conducted by Bev Ward and Ila Heddle.



The Society's Website

([www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au](http://www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au)) designed by Jeremy Snowdon is up and running and was officially launched at the Forum meeting on August 29 2015. Content for the Website includes oral histories, photographs, the WW1 and street names projects. Jeremy was thanked for his professional work designing the Website. Sue Ballantyne is currently loading information to the website.

Results of the Annual General Meeting on September 25 2015: President: Noel Withers; Vice-President: Sue Ballantyne; Secretary: Norm Colvin; Treasurer: John Gibson; Ordinary Committee: Anne Paul, Marilyn Smith, June Hall and Peter Van Eeken

Membership at this meeting was reported at 83.



*22 Life Members: Faye Fort and Noel Withers*

On the fifth anniversary of the Society's founding, Life Memberships were awarded to two key members of the Society. Both are foundation members who have worked tirelessly for the Society. Congratulations to Noel Withers and Faye Fort.

The Society's Open days have been well attended mainly due to Dawn Bennetts placing advertisements in the local papers so interested people would know that the Greensborough Historical Society exists and can help people research their family or district's history.

Members and friends availed themselves of the Historical Heritage Walk on October 24 2015, starting at Greensborough Park and rambling along the Plenty River. Some members still remember the large gathering of 15,000 people to see members of the "Breakfast Club" supporting the Austin Hospital featuring Nicky and Tuppy.



Speakers for 2015 included Elizabeth Bell and her sister Margaret Bull, Carol Sproule-Carroll, Liz Pidgeon, John Gibson, Sue Ballantyne, serving Police Joy Murphy, Dave Thompson and Chris Foster, Jim Poulter, Mick Woiwod (author and member of Andrew Ross Museum and Eltham and District Historical Society) and Dr Mark Eccleston (Manager of Operations, Department of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria).

## Chapter Seven                      Into the Future - 2016

The Committee decided to vary the meetings for 2016 with guest speakers, social events and 'excursions'. Our second meeting for 2016 was a social Barbeque at Blue Lake, enjoyed by all in attendance.



*23 Blue Lake BBQ Feb 2016*



*24 Unveiling of updated plaque, Pioneer Children's Cemetery*

With the support of Greensborough Rotary, the plaque at the Pioneer Children's Cemetery was updated and unveiled in April 2016.

A visit to Ellis Cottage for our May meeting was a chance to see another historical society at work. An invitation was extended to Eltham District Historical Society to join us in August.



Items from our collection were loaned to Nillumbik as part of a display in the Council offices, and to the static display at "What Happened at the Pier - Journeys of migration" held at Eltham Library. We now have over 2500 items catalogued to Victorian Collections and Committee member Peter Van Eeken is utilising his computer skills to produce an in-house "Library" of all the information in our collection.

In 2016, the Main Street Plaques project is still on the agenda.

Series 3 of our postcards will be available in September, GHS pens are available for purchase and Society badges will be available in October. Preparations are underway for a second volume of oral histories with over 20 stories complete and several more in draft form.

Results of the Annual General Meeting on September 30 2016: President: Noel Withers; Vice-President: Peter Van Eeken; Secretary: Norm Colvin; Treasurer: John Gibson; Ordinary Committee: Anne Paul, Marilyn Smith, Sue Ballantyne and Sue Brenkovich.

Guest speakers for 2016 included Jim Poulter, Peter Van Eeken, Sue Ballantyne, John Gibson, Brandi Pugh from Heritage Victoria, Noel Withers and John Daniels.

**GHS Members  
2010-2016**

LIFE MEMBERS

Faye Fort

Noel Withers

Thanks to the following members who have all contributed in some way to the development of the Greensborough Historical Society.

Margaret Abbey

Lyn Abblitt

Sandy Anton

Geoff Baker

Steve Ballantyne

Sue Ballantyne

Eric Barclay

Elizabeth Barker

Andrew Beale

Adrian Bennetts

Dawn Bennetts

Joanne Blackbourn

Peter Blackbourn

Paul Bonsak

Rosie Bray

Sue Brenkovich

Colin Brooks

Ida Brown

Helen Bryant

Ian Bryant

Clive Burge

Darren Burge

Gavan Burge

Jasmin Burge

Geoff Butterworth

Leigh Cameron

Bill Cecil

Judy Cecil

Lesley Champion

Sam Chesser

Lorraine Coates

Norm Colvin

Bernie Coulthard

Patsy Coverdale

Matt Craig

Nicholas Cree

Ben Crellin

Eliza Crellin

Russell Crellin

Suzanne Crellin

Ian Cugley

Julie Cugley

Helen Davies

Phillip Davies

Roland De Man

Truus De Man

Diamond Valley

Community

Support

Carol Du Plessis

Callam Dunn

David Durance

Jillian Durance

Juliette Durance

Nick Durance

Victoria Durance

Glenice Dyke

Frank Evans

Ian Foard

Neisha Forbes

Chris Foster

Shirley Fraser

Val Fraser

June Frost

Diane Geer

John Gibson

Kathryn Gibson

Harry Gilham

Raymond Godwill

Greensborough

Chamber of

Commerce

Greensborough

Secondary College

Joan Griffiths

Kathryn Guy

Carolyn Haas

June Hall

Margaret Hardy

Jake Hedley

Bryan Henderson

Craig Herman

Dianne Herman

Ian Herman

Kirstie Herman

Merrill Hogan

John Hooper

Lesley Hooper

Karen Hough

Rosemary Isaac

Adrian Jones

Maureen Jones

Tim Keating

Wendy Kellock

John Kirwan

Jo Kotylak

John Leahy

Jean Luxford

Colin Macklin

Yvonne Macklin

Alastair Mann

Austin Mann

Fay Marks

Bruce McDowell

Iain McLean

Thomas McLean

Lynne Moore

Bev Moss

John Mullavey

Merilyn Mullavey

Lynnda Murphy

Beryl O’Gorman

Dennis O’Sullivan

Peter Owens

Gary Partington

Anne Paul

Robert Perkins

Lorraine Peters

Ken Pickett

Brian Poulter

Eric Poulter

Joan Poulter

Alan Preacher

Pam Preacher

David Radonich

Matthew Reid

Ron Reynolds

Brian Roberts

June Roberts

Ann Sartori

Murray Scaife

Marg Scott

Peter Simmenauer

Janet Sinclair

Michael Sinclair

Brendan Smith

Marilyn Smith

Rex Smith

Gloria Stevens

Christine

Stonehouse

Genevieve

Toussaint

Henry Toussaint

Lewis Tulk

Sylvia Tupper

Peter Van Eeken

Marcus Walker

Dennis Ward

Steve Whatmough

Lorraine Whitby

Martha Wike

Felicity Williams

Glenys Williams

Kevin Williams

Keith Willimott

Margaret Willimott

Ciara Wilson

Conor Wilson

Katrina Wilson

Roger Wilson

Ryan Wilson

Val Wilson

Elizabeth Wykes

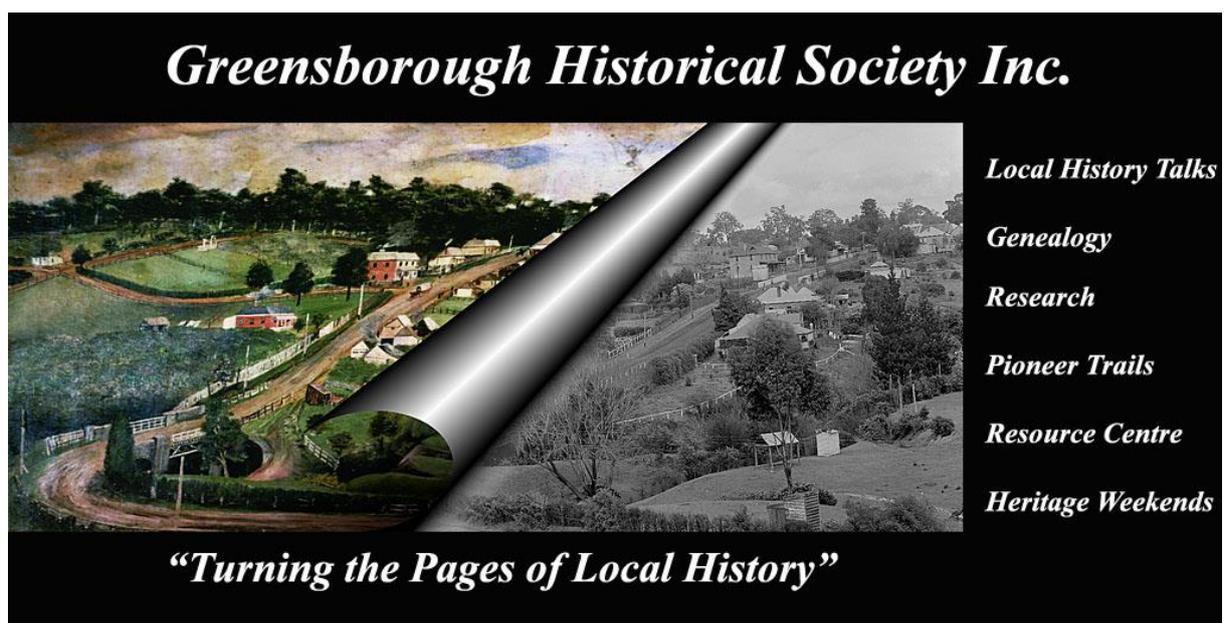
Jack Young

## Thanks

The Committee of Greensborough Historical Society Inc extends its thanks to Rosie Bray for compiling this history from Committee Minutes, Newsletters and Reports.

Thanks also to the photographers who have recorded our history in images (including Jasmin Burge and Marilyn Smith) and to the editors who checked and proofread the text (Sue Ballantyne and John Gibson).

And finally to the organisations who have supported us in many ways since 2010: Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Public Record Office Victoria, Greensborough RSL, Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Eltham Community Market, Greensborough Chamber of Commerce, Diamond Valley Learning Centre, Greenhills Neighbourhood Centre, Diamond Valley Community Support and our neighbouring Historical Societies.



***Greensborough Historical Society Inc.***

*Local History Talks*

*Genealogy*

*Research*

*Pioneer Trails*

*Resource Centre*

*Heritage Weekends*

***“Turning the Pages of Local History”***