

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

President - Valda Arrowsmith 9874 1414
Secretary - Barbara Gardiner 9874 6592
Treasurer - Barbara Rogalski 9874 4668



Series 5 No. 4.

October 1996

All mail to be addressed to P.O. Box 272 Mitcham 3132 - Museum Telephone 9873 4946

From the President

Dear Members

At our Annual General meeting in August office bearers and committee of the Society were re-appointed with two new members Frances Warren and Barbara Keene whom we welcome and we thank you for your continuing support.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the City of Whitehorse had established a Cultural Development Advisory Committee and am pleased to inform you my nomination to the heritage sub-committee was approved by Council.

Anne Jones has also been appointed as a community representative for the City of Whitehorse. The heritage sub-committee will hold its first meeting on Tuesday October 8 1996.

We continue to work with Box Hill Historical Society and recently received from them many garments covering a period of around 50 years. These will be used for display.

Unfortunately we just missed out on receiving a grant from Arts Victoria but are hoping to be successful in other grant applications.

Work continues on cataloguing archives and items. We are grateful for the time given to these important projects.

Other members help in various ways and this is important for the success of the Society.

Do not forget to keep on the lookout for historical items covering our municipality.

I look forward to seeing you at our General Meeting on 12th October and the happy day planned on the 13th October to celebrate the Wisteria Party.

Valda Arrowsmith

Dates to Note

Nunawading Historical Society - next meeting Saturday 12th October at 1.30pm. Wisteria Garden Party and Colonial Day Sunday 13th October 2pm to 4pm.

Friends of Schwerkolt Cottage - Meeting Monday 30th September at 10am in the Museum Annexe. All Welcome

Box Hill Historical Society next meeting Thursday 17th October at 8pm. All meetings held at Strabane Chapel Hall, 29 Strabane Avenue, Box Hill North. Visitors always welcome.

Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies - Box Hill Area Meeting held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8pm, at the Lutheran Church Community Hall, Station Street, Box Hill. Area Administrator Margaret Hookey (03) 9882 2648

WORKING BEE

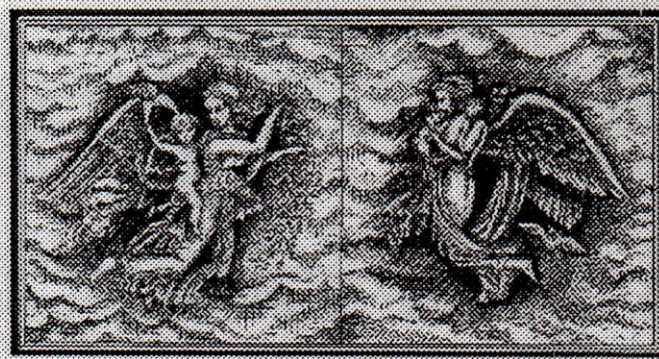
**A working bee is planned for
Saturday October 5 1996**

10am to 2pm

All assistance appreciated

From the Museum: by Barbara Gardiner

Morning and Evening Angel



Two of the most outstanding tiles among the beautiful tiles in our collection from the Australian Tessellated Tiles, are "Morning Angel" and "Evening Angel" which were designed by Emma Scott, mother of Chrissy Otterbach, longtime member of our society. Emma was born in 1875, and attended school at Vermont and the Catholic School at Mitcham, which was then a private school. Her father, Thomas Scott, believed that girls should be taught the social graces so Emma was taught music and painting. She studied painting at the National Gallery School with Wilson Ellingsworth and eventually worked in the studio of Walkers Pottery (Australian Tessellated Tiles). Most of us would have seen some of the more practical tiles she designed at Flinders Street Station - (This Way-etc.)

There is often an interesting story - Emma Scott was married on 3rd September, 1911 to George Frederick Otterbach who had boarded with the Scott family at their Mitcham home on Victoria Road, (now Rooks Road). George had been a merchant seaman from Stuttgart, Germany, who was unhappy with the militarism of the Kaiser's Germany, and jumped ship in Melbourne in 1909. He went to Doncaster, where there was an established German settlement and worked in the orchards, and later worked at the Tile Works at Mitcham and Brickworks at Camberwell.

He became a British subject in 1912. but the whole family suffered considerably during the first world war because of the anti-German prejudice of the

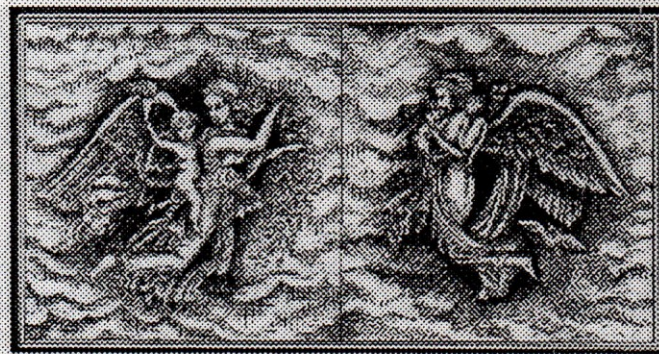
time. He died of tuberculosis in 1918, leaving Emma to care for their daughter, Chrissy. Emma worked mainly as a domestic to support her family but she really was a skilled artistic worker.

Thomas Scott, Emma's father, was in the British Merchant Navy and served on the China run, later settling and marrying in South Africa. After the death of his wife, he came to Australia, first to Queensland and later to Melbourne. He was a cousin of Sir Walter Scott, and the story goes that he was left one hundred pounds in his will, which he was unable to collect as he had to return to Scotland to do so. The money was deposited in Chancery. In the 1860's, he married Emma Weston, who arrived in Australia on the ship "Charlotte Gladstone" and had worked as a kitchen maid in the Disraeli household. Thomas opened a tinsmith and galvanising shop in Swanston Street, (near the City Baths), daughter, Emma was born there in 1875. In the 1880's, they moved to Mitcham and lived in a bark hut in Queen Street. Thomas eventually opened his business in Victoria (Rooks) Road, (opposite the site of the migrant hostel), manufacturing every description of light forged work, such as grid irons, and meat stands. Eventually, he owned a large holding of land stretching from the Tessellated Tile land to Carween Avenue along Rooks Road.

Our thanks to **Bette Jones** for this information. and to **Pauline Hicks** for the beautiful drawings.

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From the Archives:

THE ARCHIVES

A dedicated group of society members meets at the Museum Annexe each Wednesday to continue with the ongoing work of classifying/cataloguing material about the City of Whitehorse its residents etc. for the Society's archives.

This work of collecting material has been an integral part of the society's work since its inception and the information in the archives is extensive. For more information about the archives please contact the Secretary Barbara Gardiner on 9874 6592.

From the Archives this time concentrates on the Eastbridge Migrant Hostel, which for nearly 40 years made a significant contribution to this City.

EASTBRIDGE MIGRANT HOSTEL

(From *A Short History of Nunawading* compiled by E.M. Ronaldson April 1971 - References N.H.S.A. "Facts about Commonwealth Hostels Ltd." Issued April 1970. Also a letter from Mr. Desmond Robinson 13/10/1970)

One important residential establishment in Nunawading is "Eastbridge", the Nunawading Migrant Hostel. The site of the hostel was bought by the Commonwealth in 1949. At that time emergency arrangements were being made to accommodate displaced persons from Europe. The hostel, which consisted of painted and lineal Nissen huts, was opened for selected migrants in 1952. Since then considerable improvements have been made to the accommodation provided. Nunawading was one of the first hostels to benefit from a multi-million dollar rebuilding programme commenced in 1966. In 1967 two accommodation blocks of modern design and construction with a capacity for two hundred persons were opened. The Nissen huts were arranged as living units adjustable to the size of families with separate blocks providing dining, bathing, toilet and laundry facilities. The newer units are family units with their own bathrooms and central heating. There is a laundry service for linen and towels and the tariff includes twenty-one meals a week. Child-minding centres are also available where both parents are working. Two storey brick buildings to accommodate a further four hundred people are at present under construction. The total capacity of "Eastbridge" is five hundred and sixty persons. Since 1952 approximately nineteen thousand migrants have made the hostel their temporary home. The average length of time spent in the hostel in 1970 was twenty weeks.

The limit for staying in the hostel is one year and the majority of migrants obtain other accommodation within six months of their arrival.

(From *Gazette* December 17 1975).

HAPPY DAY FOR HOSTELS NEW SETTLERS

Chileans, Filipinos and Uruguayans were among the 350 residents of the Eastbridge Migrant hostel who attended a family fun day at Nunawading Civic Centre.

The function was hosted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Nunawading, Bryan and Margaret Baulch, with the assistance of Nunawading Jaycees.

Emphasis was on informality and Cr Baulch, dressed in his colourful mayoral robes, mixed and chatted with the new settlers and introduced them to his family, Claire, 13, Sarah, 11, Philippa, nine, Elizabeth six, and Matthew, 10 months.

He said many guests, especially the South Americans, expressed surprise that such a function should have been arranged on their behalf and that the mayor of a city would actually talk to them.

"Several told me that in their homelands they had become more used to frowns than smiles from officials," he said.

Local rock group "Not Amused" provided the music and a clown, "Little Willie", broke through the language barrier with his amusing antics.

Cr Baulch said he was particularly pleased that a number of former migrants now settled in the community, accepted his invitation to attend.

Sporting events were arranged for the children while adults were shown the city's library facilities.

Refreshments were provided by the mayor and council.

POSTSCRIPT

The Department of Planning and Development bought the site occupied by the Eastbridge Migrant Hostel in 1986 to build quality housing for low income people. The multi-million dollar public housing development has been designed to incorporate the existing masonry migrant hostel buildings.

(Refer *Nunawading Post* 12/05/1993)

Newsletter Editor:- Beryl Gray

Typed by:- Barbara Gardiner & Anne Jones

Photo Scanning:- Anne Jones