

# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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



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

## From the President

Dear Members,

Those of you who were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting in August where we debated the need for a name change will be interested to know that after four alternate names were moved, and by a process of voting to eliminate the least acceptable, the majority of members present voted (by three votes) to change the name to - Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc.

This was in fact the original name of the Society and had been changed to more clearly define the scope of collecting of the Society covering the former City. We will now have to emphasis the suburbs we collect from, plus some additional items covering the City of Whitehorse as agreed with Box Hill Historical Society.

I would like to thank Cr. Jessie McCallum for conducting the poll and for her kind words and support of the Society.

The implementation of the Whitehorse/Manningham Regional Library Corp. Local History Network is underway. The Society has begun cataloguing the documents, books, maps and photographs and some material is already on our computer database. Four Historical Societies within the region - Nunawading, Box Hill, Doncaster and Warrandyte are part of the project. The long term aim of the project is to have a computer with a catalogue of each society's collection available at each library for people seeking local history information. The task of converting our own card catalogue system to the computer system will be a long term project. In the meantime both systems will be referred to for information.

Our Wednesday "work days" have been expanded to include a crew of seven men who are preserving the implements by cleaning, painting and generally overhauling the items. Their help is much appreciated by the Society. At our working bee on the 4th October, at 9.00am, the display is to be re-arranged. We would be pleased to have your assistance so that we can move all items outside and arrange a new display.

Betty Muckleston who has been a long time committee member, represented the Society on the Eastern Region, and has given so much time and expertise to the Society, has

resigned from the Committee, but will continue to help as required. On your behalf we thank her for her contribution to the Society.

I hope to see you at our General Meeting on 11th October and at the Wisteria Time Garden Party on 12th October.

Valda Arrowsmith, President.

*Sue Thompson  
from Lilydale  
Historical Society  
will speak on the life  
of Dame Nellie  
Melba at the general  
meeting on October  
11th 1997.*



### STOP PRESS

#### Vale - Beryl Gray

*With regret we are informing  
members of the death of Beryl Gray  
on September 27 1997. With deepest  
sympathy to Bill and Family.*

*At Rest*

#### Working Bee

*Saturday October 4th  
1997, from 9.00am - all  
assistance appreciated.*

# Museum/Cottage & Local History Collection

MEMBER CODE	V N H S	FILE NUMBER
COLLECTION TYPE	LOCAL HISTORY	OBJECT NAME
TITLE		
STORAGE LOCATION	CURRENT LOCATION	
OTHER NUMBERS <input type="checkbox"/> MAP, FILE <input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE NO.		
CLASSIFICATION	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
DESCRIPTION		
MATERIAL		
PRODUCTION METHOD		
KEY SEARCH TERMS - SUBJECT HEADINGS AND KEY NAMES		
SEARCH MADE	SEARCH MADE	
INDEXED	INDEXED	
MARKING DETAILS (mark, number, manufacturer, etc.)		
PUBLISHER		
PREPARED		

*Museum Catalogue Worksheet page 1 of 2*

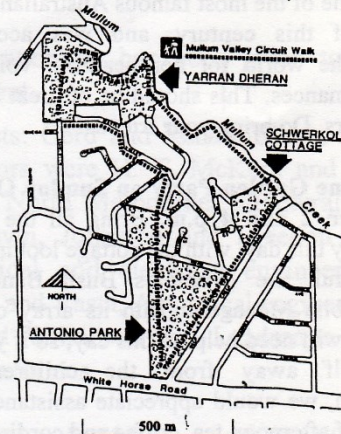
Both the Museum/Cottage and Local History Collections are now being catalogued using the Museum Catalogue Worksheet developed by Museum Victoria. The worksheet enables information about each item catalogued to be in a uniform format, and it is from these worksheets that information is entered onto the computer database. The Society uses Inmagic db/textworks software and this is extremely easy to use. Only minimal training is needed and members already using the database are finding it easy to both enter data and to retrieve records. Each field of the database can be searched on, and searches are made on any word within the field making this a very flexible tool. A picture of each artefact is drawn onto the worksheet and eventually these will be scanned and available on the computer database. Those working on this project are to be commended. Anyone interested in joining the team of workers - your assistance would be most appreciated. For more information contact Barbara Keen e on 9874 4919 or Anne Jones on 9878 7276.



*Example of a drawing by Frances Warren on a worksheet depicting a hat donated by Beryl Gray.*

**Newsletter Editors:-** Barbara Gardiner and Anne Jones  
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*Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter*  
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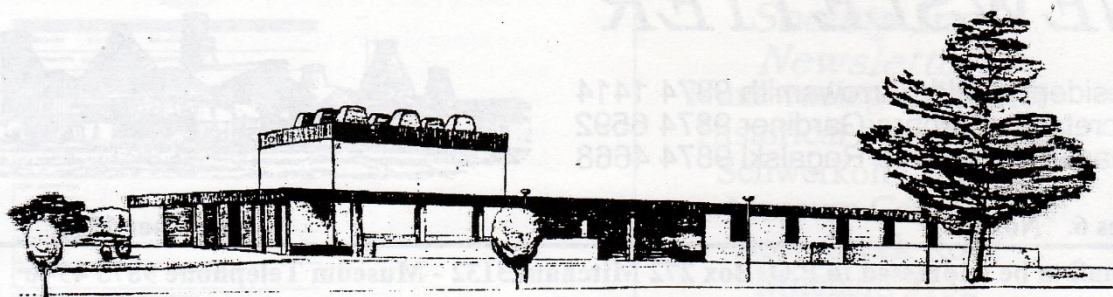
The N&DHS acknowledge support from the City of Whitehorse



*Museum Accreditation Program Registered Museum*  
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## Historic Buildings



*A section of the Whitehorse Civic Centre, built for the former City of Nunawading as the Civic Offices and Council Chambers opened 23 March 1968.*

**About the building ...** The design ensures the safety and convenience of pedestrians using the buildings. Car parks will eventually be screened by trees. Native plants, shrubs and trees will be used extensively. The civic offices and council chambers have a gross floor space of 35,000 sq. ft. The administrative section has been built on an "open plan," allowing for the most flexible furniture arrangement. This also gives interference-free access to the public and permits easy supervision of staff.

A wide foyer hall links north and south entrances and serves office counters; it also links the offices on the east side with the council chamber and suite on the west and gives access by stairway to a large basement garage.

The council chamber is encircled by reception and committee rooms, permitting maximum flexibility for social and legislative activities. Daylight in inner areas is achieved by fibreglass skylights in the roof deck. These are sized to exact shadowfree illumination requirements.

Low maintenance materials have been used — anodised aluminium for windows and eaves, tiles for floors, and carpets where acoustic considerations require them.

An automatic oil-fired boiler will supply hot water and air heating. The air-conditioning system will give a fresh atmosphere at all times to the council suite.

Refrigeration equipment to serve the council suite has a capacity of 15 tons and that to the offices 25

tons.

Special attention has been given to acoustics throughout.

Architects: Gerd and Renate Block. Building contractors were H. T. McKern and Sons Pty. Ltd., of North Melbourne. Structural engineers were Irwin, Johnston and Breedon Pty. Ltd., Mechanical and electrical engineers Messrs. Gorman and Vasta, Acoustical engineers Messrs. Carr and Wilkinson and Landscape consultant Mr. Ellis Stones.

**About the builders ...** H. T. McKern and Sons Pty Ltd was founded in 1945 and began its existence in Racecourse Road, Nth Melbourne. A combination of solid business sense and a willingness to try new techniques and methods saw the company expand rapidly. Other major projects completed by McKerns include the Frankston Civic Centre, the Eltham Shire Offices and the Camberwell Town Hall amongst many other buildings for private clients.

The company pioneered the "tilt-wall" or site pre-casting technique, by which all structural components of a building are cast on the site and lifted into place by a mobile crane. •

### References

*Nunawading Gazette*, 27 March 1968, p. 26.  
*City of Nunawading, New Civic Offices and Council Chambers, March 23, 1968, City of Nunawading, 1968.*

## Notes From the Secretary

**Working Bee - 4th October** - from 9 a.m. This is an important occasion as we will be re-organising the implement shed under the direction of Robert Smith, and will need plenty of help to do this and the other jobs which are necessary to keep the cottage and museum looking good. Please bring your lunch if you intend staying into the afternoon. We will supply a delicious morning tea for all our valuable volunteers.

**Meeting Saturday October 11th at 1.30 p.m. at the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex.** Our guest speaker will be Sue Thompson from the Lilydale Historical Society, who will inform us about the life of Dame Nellie Melba and her influence in the Lilydale area. Dame Nellie Melba was one of the most famous Australians in the first half of this century, and was acclaimed throughout the world for her beautiful voice and opera performances. This should be of great interest to all members. Do bring your friends!

**Wisteria Time Garden Party on Sunday October 12th between 2 and 4 p.m.** Bring all the family along to enjoy this day, with the cottage looking at its most beautiful, the Brumbies Bush Band, and Simon's Mobile Menagerie with its array of farm animals. We will need help on this day, so if you can tear yourself away from the children and grandchildren, we would appreciate assistance with the serving of afternoon tea, coffee and cordial.

This makes for a very busy time, but we must have the Wisteria Party on this particular weekend, when the wisteria is at its absolute best.

**New Members** - We welcome new member, Phillip Baressi, and feel sure he will enjoy his membership with our Society.

**Vale** - All members send their sympathy to Bruce and Una Reynolds and Family in the recent sudden loss of their son Hilton. Our thoughts are with you.

**Illness** - We send our best wishes to our members who are suffering from ill health, and trust that they soon return to the best of health.

**Membership Renewal** - Members are reminded that membership subs are due. A renewal/new membership form is enclosed with this newsletter. Those already up to date may wish to pass this form on to a friend interested in joining the Society!

Member, Norm Foun, drew our attention to the article in the Sunday Age of August 31st, 1997.

which described the resources available at the Public Record Office in London, which has the 11th Century Domesday Book, Edward V11 I's signature on his abdication document amongst the millions of documents stacked on the 155 kilometres of shelves.

Nine hundred years of history are there to be explored and each day up to 800 researchers delve into the historic documents. Entrance is free, pens are banned and security is tight, with computers logging the identity of every reader, and security cameras scanning the reading room. The office has a staff of almost 500 and a budget of \$63 million.

Each year new treasures are revealed as secrets from World War 2 are released after the fifty year ban, with great interest in the secret agents who went behind enemy lines. Some of us may remember those films of wartime and post-war, with heroes and heroines facing incredible dangers as secret agents. This new information may foster a new type of film for the nineties. Another starring role for Mel Gibson?

This article brought back memories of a family holiday in Sydney and a visit to the Mitchell Library, where, with our teenage children, Bob and I spent hours pouring over historic documents (which were in glass cabinets) such as the dairies of Captain Cook and Sir Joseph Banks. We just could not tear ourselves away!

Our own State Record Office and State & Latrobe Libraries hold many amazing documents and are well worth a visit from any local historian.

•**Barbara Gardiner**

*Note: The Society's Local History Collection is open for research from 10.30am to 1.30pm each Wednesday and at other times by appointment ph: 9874 6592.*

### Classic Crafts at Gulf Station

Sunday 26 October 1997

11.00am to 4.00pm

Members of Victoria's major crafts Associations demonstrate and display timeless traditional handicrafts such as:

Embroidery, Lacemaking, Spinning and Weaving, Basketry, Patchwork, Quilting, Bark Art, Woodcrafts, d Leathercraft, Blacksmithing, Post and Rail Fencing, Shearing demonstrations ...

Breadmaking in the Bakehouse  
Buttermaking and other domestic skills

Music and Dancing

Cottage garden at it loveliest  
(Plants for sale)

Devonshire teas, sausage sizzle and drinks

Adults \$8, Conc \$6, Children \$5, Family \$22,  
Trust Members - half price