

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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Series 6 No. 6.

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From the President

Dear Members.

It is a common theme amongst us all to say "where has the year gone", but here we are with the last newsletter and meeting for 1997.

The year has been a progressive one for the Society in that the cataloguing of nearly all the artefacts has been completed and half of these have been entered into the "Inmagic" computer programme to enable quick access to the information.

We are now using the same cataloguing system for the document collection and it is also being entered into the computer programme as the worksheets are completed. Thanks are due to the Society members doing this work.

Preservation work has continued on the outdoor display area and the items have been re-arranged and new identification signs are about to be put on them.

I am sorry to report that Whitehorse Council has disbanded the Heritage Advisory Committee, without a review of its role, or appointed an alternative community committee to contribute to the ongoing preservation of our local heritage.

The Society lost a dedicated worker and friend in Beryl Gray when she died after a heroic battle with cancer. Elsewhere in this newsletter we pay tribute to her. We also appreciate the acknowledgement of her contribution in the *Whitehorse Gazette*.

I would like to thank the committed members who contributed so much time during 1997 and the

extent of their combined expert knowledge used for the benefit and progress of the Society. This is greatly appreciated.

The Museum display continues to be re-arranged. We now have more costumes on display and I think, for the first time a Christmas Tree (with decorations) to commemorate the Season. Make sure to have a look when you are at the 13th December meeting.

I wish you all a joyful and happy Christmas and may the peace of the season be with you, and best wishes for 1998.

Valda Arrowsmith, President.

**BARBARA ROGALSKI
& DOREEN RICHTER**

Offer a selection of
• paintings and pottery
that would be ideal
for presents!

**DOREEN: lovely animals
and Aussie pottery**
**BARBARA: small paintings
of Schwerkolt Cottage in
a wide variety**

At the Library Shop
Nunawading Library
December 97 & January 98

Notes From the Secretary:

GENERAL MEETING: SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER

As this is our last meeting for 1997, we will meet at noon on December 13th. for lunch at the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex - please bring a plate of lunch to share (maybe something festive!). Our business meeting will begin as usual at 1.30 p.m. after which our guest speaker, Shirley Jones, a long time member of our society and life-member of the Cartophilic Society, will give us an insight of her experiences as a collector of postcards and as a volunteer in the Cartophilic Section at the State Library of Victoria.

VALE

All members will have been saddened by the death of Beryl Gray, our esteemed member who has done so much for our society and is sadly missed. We send our love and sympathy to Bill, Andrew, Elizabeth, Kathy and Samantha.

Our condolences go to Ian and Joan Sach on the sad loss of Ian's mother.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

We extend a warm welcome to new member, Wendy Standfield, of Mitcham and look forward to seeing her at our meetings and other occasions.

1998

Planning for next year is well advanced and the guest speaker at our February meeting will be Cr. Richard Anderson, Mayor of the City of Whitehorse, who will give us his impressions of his first year as mayor of our city.

Details of the Heritage Festival have been confirmed as these were required by the National Trust by 1st. December. Our program is as follows;

- ◇ Display of historic artefacts at the Nunawading and Vermont South Libraries.
- ◇ Display of photographs at Whitehorse Civic Centre and Vermont South Library.
- ◇ Meeting April 4th - Our guest speaker will be Dr. Susan Priestley, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, who is a well known historian.
- ◇ Open Day April 5th - The City of Whitehorse will once again allow free admission on this day and we have arranged the following attractions,
- ◇ Demonstrations by Blacksmiths, Lacemakers, Papermakers, Woodturners, and a sausage sizzle will be conducted by the Rotary Club of Forest Hill.
- ◇ Bruce Reynolds will display some of his collection of antique jewellery and give valuations on antique items at a cost of \$2 per item, which will assist the society's fund raising
- ◇ We will be supplying free tea, coffee and cordial so

will need plenty of helpers - please put these dates in your diary and note that this is the weekend before Easter.

OUR CONDOLENCES - Remembering Beryl

Members of the Nunawading and District Historical Society, Inc. are deeply saddened by the death of esteemed and respected member Beryl Gray on September 27, 1997 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Beryl Barwell Smythe was born in Shepparton and grew up in Surrey Hills, attending Chatham Primary School and Canterbury Girls School and was involved in the activities of the Benson Street Methodist Church. After obtaining her Intermediate Certificate, she was appointed to the Commonwealth Public Service, and was soon promoted to Board Clerk of the department which supplied foodstuffs to the Australian and American Armed Forces. After the war, it was back to being a typist again, but eventually Beryl transferred to the Bureau of Meteorology, working as secretary to the Director and Typist in charge of all Bureau typists.

In February, 1956, Beryl married Bill Gray and was unable to continue working, as married women were not employed by the Public Service in those days. Beryl and Bill moved into their home at 45 Rosstrevor Crescent, Mitcham, and Beryl soon became involved with the Vermont Presbyterian Church, holding many positions as it became the Vermont Uniting Church, and later represented the Church on the Nunawading Inter-Church Council, as well as being a member of the Parish Council.

Beryl became a member of Community Aid Abroad, the Vermont Elderly Peoples Housing Group, and was active in the establishment of an Opportunity Shop in Mitcham which raised large amounts of money for various charities.

On Bill's retirement, the Grays joined the Nunawading Historical Society and became involved in many activities. Beryl began spending countless hours working with the archives when they were still stored under the Municipal Offices and took over as archivist in 1994. As the Gray's phone number was listed as contact for enquiries, Beryl assisted many researchers of local and family history, with all receiving the same courtesy and help, whether they were university graduates or primary school children. Beryl's remarkable memory was a great asset in this aspect of her volunteer work for the society.

It is impossible to record Beryl's many activities and her contribution to the local community will not be forgotten - she held her hand out in friendship to many people and will be sadly missed by all.

The Box Hill Reporter

- 20 July 1928

VERMONT STATE SCHOOL

A pleasant little interlude occurred in the routine of the Vermont State School on Friday afternoon, when prizes won by writers of the best essays on, "The British Empire" were presented by Mr. N. Armstrong, a member of the school committee. The essays were written prior to Empire Day, and the winning ones judged by the head teacher, Mr. Worsdell, were read out at the celebrations in the school on that day. The idea originated from Mrs. Seton Williams, who generously provided the prizes, which consisted of some fine books by popular children's authors. Representatives of the Mothers' Club were present at the proceedings, which included the singing of "My Native Land" and "Play Up, School" by all the children and a round, "Row Your Boat" by the seniors. Mr. Armstrong in an encouraging speech, said that those who did not win a prize must try again next year. All essays were good, and showed how well the teachers had taught the children about the Empire. He hoped to be able to present the prizes next year. Prizes were then handed to the writers of the best essays. Grades 7 and 8, Lorna Ferris, 1; Wynne Cockrem, 2; Grades 5 and 6, Dorothy Armstrong, 1; Ronald Grant 2; Grades 3 and 4, Catherine Walker, 1; Arthur Zander, 2. Hearty applause greeted the presentation of each prize. Mr. Worsdall, in thanking Mr. Armstrong said he hoped the boys and girls would treasure those books so that in later years they could look back upon their happy school days. He was pleased at the number of children who actually tried to win the prizes. The essays did them just as much good as if they had all won, because they could not learn too much about the British Empire, of which they were so proud. The singing of the National Anthem closed a happy afternoon. The Mothers' Club and school committee are great assets to this school, and their efforts this year have shown appreciable results. The mothers were instrumental in furnishing the office with curtains, lino etc., as well as the purchase of a drum, a fine clock, and the installation of electric light, when the Education department subsidised portion of the cost. The committee are to be congratulated on the erection of a school bell.

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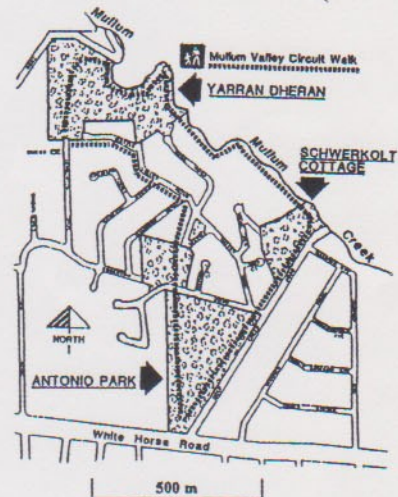
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