

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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



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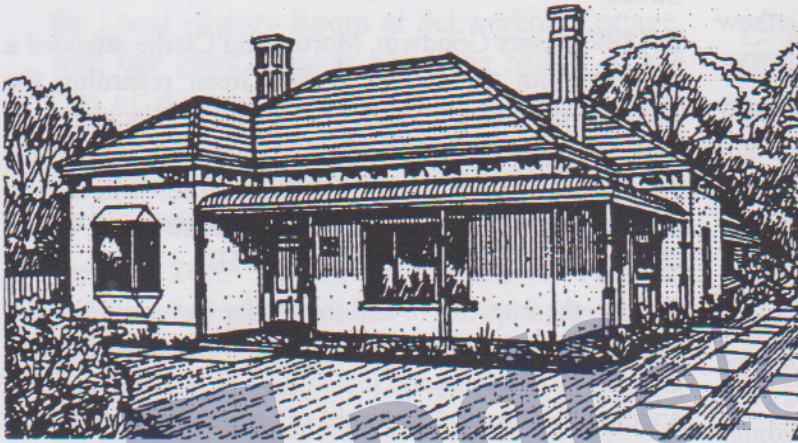
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February 1998

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Protecting our heritage - who makes the decisions?

See article page 3



*35-37 Blackburn Road,
Blackburn.*

*Another historic home
under threat.*

*See feature article written
by member Bernadette
Cahill on page 2.*

From the President

Dear Members.

Well here we are in 1998 with a month about gone. My wish for you is to achieve your objectives and for our members whose health was not too good in 1997, an improvement this year.

Our application to Arts 21 for \$2,000.00 to have a professional conservation survey of the contents of the Cottage and Museum will be considered in mid-February. We do hope we are successful as this will enable us to move further to our goal of full accreditation. You will recall we have three years to comply and already one year has gone.

Another historic home at 35-37 Blackburn Road Blackburn, is under threat of demolition for four units to be built. The Society will put in an objection whilst hoping that the Whitehorse

(Continued on page 5)

STOP PRESS

- ◆ *Saturday February 14, 1.30pm, Local History Room - General Meeting with Guest Speaker Cr. Richard Anderson, Mayor of Whitehorse.*
- ◆ *Friday March 20, 8pm, Local History Room - Slides Night featuring slides of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.*
- ◆ *Saturday March 28, working bee from 9.30am.*

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Historic Site at Risk by Bernadette Cahill

Blackburn Lost?- A Historical Perspective

A significant piece of local history will be lost if application WH/9433E is approved. A developer wants to destroy one of Blackburn's original Victorian homes constructed in the Model Township (circa 1890). The scope of the works is the complete clearance and excavation of the block, felling all four existing large trees and claiming a public Right of Way at the rear of the property. These are to be replaced with one double storey unit, three single storey units and associated garages and carports.

As a result of the gold discoveries in Victoria, in the 1880's Melbourne was the centre of prosperity and financial speculation. The extension of the railway line to Lilydale in 1882 attracted many land speculators to the area. One of these was the Freehold Investment and Banking Company, which was owned by Sir Matthew Davies with T.R.B. Morton as the company secretary.

The Freehold Investment and Banking Company purchased 1000 acres of land around Blackburn Railway Station. At that time Blackburn was a rural area on the outskirts of the city. G.A. Goodwin, a local shareholder in the company, was appointed as manager to select and purchase the land and create a high-class suburb, a Model Township that was to be a "Toorak" of the eastern suburbs. In the two years to 1889 the company had streets and footpaths formed and illuminated with gas lamps, and substantial buildings had been built.

In December 1889 the Booroondara Standard reported that "Sir Matthew Davies was able to show a trainload of visitors an area of formed streets, containing several homes with recreation areas in an oval, tennis courts, a hall, a Mechanics Institute with library and a lake". These facilities are what we know today as Morton Park, the Model Township and Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. This was one of many such picnic days that the company arranged with the railways to bring trainloads of people to the area and promote sales within the Model Township.

The Shire's rate books for 1888 show only two names of individual ratepayers associated with the Blackburn Model Township - T.R.B. Morton, who had just been elected to the Shire Council and whose substantial home "Clonmore" still stands at number 2 Gordon Crescent, and "Clarke - Architect".

In 1889, 1890 and 1891 A.E. Clarke paid rates on lots 10 and 11 in section 82, what we know today as number 35-37 Blackburn Road, Blackburn, just around the corner from Morton's home. At this same time, next door to Clarke on lots 12 and 13, now known as

number 39 Blackburn Road, Blackburn, lived Edward Seitz, Engineer. These are the two remaining Victorian Homes that still stand at the corner of Gordon Crescent.

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It appears Clarke was closely associated with the development of the Model Township in conjunction with Goodwin and Morton. He is likely responsible for the Model Township subdivision plan and the design and building of the houses in Gordon Crescent, many of which share common decorative features. In 1887 Clarke called tenders for the erection of "three brick cottages" at Blackburn and is known to have continued work in the Blackburn area for some years later as his advertisement regularly appeared in the Box Hill Reporter between 1889 and 1892. In the advertisement he described himself as "Architect, Nicholson Chambers, Swanston Street, Melbourne and Blackburn". It is interesting to note that the street in the original subdivision behind his home is named Clarke Street.

In 1889 Messrs Goodwin, Morton and Clarke attended a meeting with the Reverend W. Green regarding the establishment of a Church of England at Blackburn. In 1890 Clarke submitted plans for the church which still stands in Queen Street, Blackburn. In 1889 Clarke was also responsible for the design and construction of the "Nunawading Shire Offices" in Box Hill.

Despite the impressive and innovative promotion of the Model Township very few blocks were actually sold, and in 1892 liquidators, including T.R.B. Morton, were appointed. The land was sold off gradually over a long period of years.

Clarke's original home stands as one of the earliest examples of galvanised iron tied cavity brick wall construction, very new technology for Australia in the 1880's. It is one of a small group of houses that is historically significant as it exemplifies the great ambition and subsequent failure of the Land Boom Companies in the 1880's.

As a result of a heritage study undertaken by independent heritage consultants Context Pty Ltd. in 1994, on behalf of the former Nunawading City Council, the house at 35-37 Blackburn Road, Blackburn received a C+ classification - high local significance: those places that are considered to form an essential part of the heritage of the City and to play a vital role in helping people understand the City's history." This some rating (C+) was also given to the Walker Estate in Mitcham.

Historical notes compiled from:

- Robin Da Costa, *Blackburn: A Picturesque History*, Lilydale, Victoria, 1978.
- Diane Sydenham, *Windows on Nunawading*, North Melbourne, 1990.
- Lois Routley, *A Conservation Analysis of 18 Gordon Crescent, Blackburn*, 1995.

Protecting our heritage - who makes the decisions?

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State and Local Government play the significant part in the protection of heritage sites within the City of Whitehorse.

HERITAGE VICTORIA

Heritage Victoria serves as Victoria's central government heritage agency, providing heritage services and supporting the work of the Heritage Council. It is part of the Department of Infrastructure. Heritage Victoria works within the framework of the Heritage Act 1995 (Vic) which



The Old Shire Offices Blackburn & Mitcham/City of Nunawading at 360 Whitehorse Road - will this site get heritage protection?

bring together the protective mechanism provided previously by the Historic Building Act, the Historic Shipwrecks Act, and the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act to protect and register Victoria's cultural heritage.

The things protected are:

- historic archaeological sites
- historic shipwrecks
- historic buildings, towns, places and objects
- gardens, trees and cemeteries

Currently there are four sites within the City of Whitehorse listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

They are:

- Former Standard Brickworks, Federation Street, Box Hill.
- Wattle Park Chalet, Curators Cottage, Riversdale Road, Burwood.
- Primary School No. 461, Burwood Highway, Burwood.
- Wunderlich Terra Cotta Tile Works, 656 Mitcham Road, Vermont.

These sites are protected under the Heritage Act 1995, and are considered to be of special significance to the State of Victoria. They have legal protection to help ensure they survive for future generations to appreciate and are eligible for financial assistance from the Heritage Fund.

Permits are required from Heritage Victoria for alteration or subdivision of registered places including buildings, gardens and trees, disturbances

of archaeological sites and access to shipwrecks.

Anyone can nominate heritage places and objects for addition to the Victorian Heritage Register. Most nominations come from heritage studies conducted by local councils, or from community groups like the National Trust and local historical societies.

WHITEHORSE PLANNING SCHEME

The Planning and Environment Act 1987 requires municipalities [section 12(1)(a)] to:

implement the objectives of planning in Victoria,

with the Act clearly stating the objective [section 4(1)(d)]

to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural interest.

Clause 136 of the Whitehorse Planning Scheme relates to the conservation and enhancement of heritage buildings and places. It reads as follows:

136 HERITAGE BUILDINGS AND PLACES

Purpose

- * To conserve and enhance buildings and places of aesthetic, architectural, historic and scientific importance, or of special cultural value.
- * To ensure that development is compatible with the importance, character and appearance of the building or place.

136-1 Table - Heritage Buildings and Places

DESCRIPTION & ADDRESS

- * Former Wesleyan Day School 166-172 Burwood Highway
- * Former Protestant Hall 166-172 Burwood Highway
- * Former Main Brick School Building 751 Station Street

136-2 Buildings, works and subdivision

The requirements of this clause apply to land listed in the table at Clause 136-1.

A permit is required to:

- * Construct a building including a fence.
- * Alter externally any building or place by structural work, painting, rendering, sandblasting, or in any other way.
- * Demolish or remove any buildings.
- * Construct or carry out works.
- * Subdivide land.
- * Construct or display a sign.

This does not apply to repairs and routine maintenance to buildings and places that do not

change the external appearance.

136-3 Guidelines for Permit

Before deciding on an application the responsible authority must consider:

- * The purpose of this clause.
- * The importance, character and appearance of the building or place to be demolished, removed or externally altered
- * Whether the location, bulk and appearance of the proposed building will adversely affect the importance, character and appearance of the building or place.
- * Whether the proposed works will adversely affect the importance, character and appearance of the building or place.
- * Whether the subdivision will result in the development not in keeping with the character and appearance of the building or place.
- * Views of the organisation specified in the table to this clause.
- * Whether the sign will adversely affect the importance, character and appearance of the building or place.

WHITHORSE HERITAGE STUDY

In 1990 a heritage and conservation study by architectural historian Andrew Ward & Associates was undertaken for the City of Box Hill. A similar study was undertaken for the City of Nunawading by consultants Context Pty. Ltd. in 1994. Local planning controls were proposed/recommended for a large number of sites as a result of both studies but the recommendations were never adopted.

A heritage study (bringing together the Box Hill & Nunawading studies) for the City of Whitehorse needs to be completed as a priority by Council. A heritage culture needs to be developed within this City and recognition of our significant heritage sites is needed to protect our heritage and educate the community.

Increasingly identified heritage sites under threat of redevelopment are being brought to the attention of members of our Society. While the Society makes submissions to Council where appropriate many more sites will be lost where the local residents are not aware of the significant heritage sites within their community and no communication is made to the society or the Council when such sites are at risk.

A heritage study, (with recommendations adopted by Council) would ensure that the buildings and places which represent our historical past can be protected on the Whitehorse Planning Scheme with the owners, the public and the developers all made fully aware of the heritage of our City.

The Whitehorse community must let Council know that we want our heritage protected!

You're Invited

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Nunawading & District Historical Society

presents

A Special Slides Night with Supper

featuring

Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia



A historic town in Virginia that has been restored to its appearance in the 18th century.

When: Friday March 20, 1988 at 8pm

Where: Local History Room
Schwerkolt Cottage Museum
Complex
Entry via Irene Cr, Mitcham
(Melways ref 49 C7)

Cost: \$5.00

This is a special fundraising effort for the Society

Internet Addresses:

Public Record Office

Tel: 03 9285 799

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~provic>

Australian Archives

Tel: 03 9285 799

<http://www.aa.gov.au/>

Our Schools

Education Department of Victoria 1973, *Vision & Realisation, A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria*, vol. 3., The Government Printer, Melbourne.

4190 NUNAWADING: *formerly TUNSTALL*:

The first settlers in the Nunawading (previously Tunstall) area were Wright Abbot and Virtue, who, having obtained land deeds in 1850, cleared the land, carted timber and later planted orchards. The local clay resembles that used in the famous potteries at Stoke-on-Trent and pottery, brickworks and sawmills became the first industries.

Children attended schools at Mitcham and Blackburn until 1923 when Henry Tysoe opened SS4190, in the Methodist Hall on 4th of November. In 1923 the Department built a three-room brick school on a beautiful 4 acre site called Summerscale's Block. The Mothers' Guild began in 1925 when Mrs Pavey became President, Mrs Kendall, Secretary, and Mrs Gavin, Treasurer. A. Nettle served as a valued member of the Committee for thirteen years.

Between 1945-65, the population of Nunawading rose from 8,000 to 63,000. To alleviate overcrowding the Committee built an extra room in 1953. The Department added a wing of six classrooms in 1959, and another two rooms in 1962. Temporary classrooms were in use until Springview and Donvale SS were built.

The Hon. John Rossiter, Assistant Minister of Education, opened the John Mannes Library in 1966. John Mannes, popular and progressive HM from 1962-65, died while conducting the school choir in the Croydon District Music Festival. The name was changed from Tunstall to Nunawading (an Aboriginal name meaning Ceremonial Ground) in 1945, when Tunstall Shire (*sic*) was declared a city.

A Wedgewood urn, on display in the school hall, was sent to the school by the children of Tunstall, England to commemorate Empire Day 1928. In return the Mothers' Club sent them an Australian Flag.

Adelyne McPherson.

REMEMBER

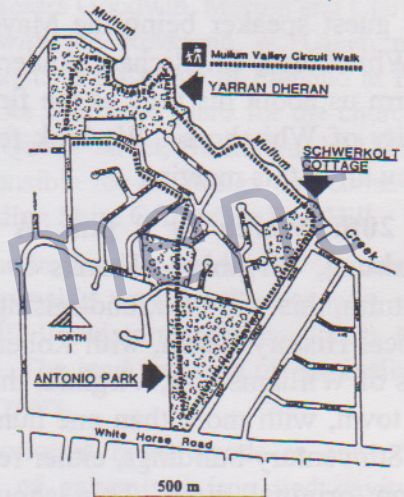
- ◆ *Street Name Project* - contact Anne Jones 9878 7276 with any details. Searches also available.
- ◆ *Box Hill Cemetery Records* - available for research.
- ◆ *Nunawading Historical Society Local History Collection* - open from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm on Wednesdays. Ring 9873 4946 to make an appointment.

Nunawading
& District

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Society Inc.
Newsletter

Nunawading & District
Historical Society Inc.
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Museum Complex
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Mitcham 3132
PO Box 272
Mitcham 3132
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(Melway Ref 49 D7)



The N&DHS acknowledge
support from
The City of Whitehorse



Museum Accreditation Program
Registered Museum

Museum Accreditation Program
Registered Museum

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Notes From the Secretary

Happy New Year to all members and readers of this newsletter - it will be another busy year for us, beginning with our attendance at the Australia Day Celebrations at the Whitehorse Civic Centre, Nunawading. This is an opportunity to promote our society to the wider community and to introduce our new society T shirts to the public. Our thanks to members who assisted on this important day.

T shirts with our new logo, are now available at \$ 15 each. Phone 9874 6592 to place an order.

February Meeting - Our first meeting of the year will be held at 1.30 p.m. on February 14th, at the Local History Room at Schwerkolt Cottage, with our guest speaker being the Mayor of the City of Whitehorse, Cr. Richard Anderson, who will inform us about his time as the first Mayor of the City of Whitehorse. We look forward to seeing you all at this meeting.

Friday, 20th March at 8 p.m. A Visit to Williamsburg, Virginia - Thanks to member, Robert Smith, this will be a fund-raising evening at the Local History Room, with Robert sharing his slides of Williamsburg, Virginia, the famous colonial town, with more than one hundred and twenty 18th century buildings, either restored or rebuilt on original sites. This should be a fascinating evening and we would suggest that you bring your friends and neighbours. Cost will be \$5 per person including supper.

Saturday, 28th March - Working Bee - 9.30 a.m. - Please make an effort to attend our first working bee of the year as we need to be all spruced up for the Heritage Festival Open Day. Bring some lunch if you can stay into the afternoon.

Heritage Festival Saturday April 4th. Meeting will commence at 1.30 p.m. with Guest Speaker, Ms Susan Priestley, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Sunday April 5th - Open Day at Schwerkolt Cottage, noon till 5 p.m. - Free admission, thanks to the City of Whitehorse - Please advise Valda or myself if you can help with afternoon tea, or assisting the attendants, who may need

help on this day. Demonstrations by Blacksmiths, Lacemakers and Woodturners should attract many visitors. Demonstrations will give valuations on items. The valuations will be conducted by the Rotary Club of Forest Hill. This should be a great day!

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Card Fairs - Shirley Jones's talk at the December meeting, sparked much interest in postcard collecting. Card fairs are held at Manresa Function Centre, 331 Burwood Road, Hawthorn 3122, 10 am. till 3 pm. on the following Sundays, February 1st, April 5th, June 21st, September 13th, December 6th.

Barbara Gardiner

From the President cont.

Council will have a historical architect's report on the building to assess its historical worth. It seems to be imperative for the Council to appoint a historical architect to review the Heritage Survey of the former Cities of Nunawading and Box Hill. This would ensure that the buildings and places which represent our historical past can be protected on the Whitehorse Planning Scheme and so that the owners, the public and the developers are fully aware of the heritage of our City.

Our Wednesday team recommenced on 14th January (what dedication) to continue the cataloguing and the work of the Society. The contents of the barn and smithy will be catalogued weather permitting. It is not a job to be done when it is too hot or too cold. This will complete the cataloguing. The archive team are up to date with the documents (the computer uses that word for all paper items) which have been collected since the computer was brought 'on-line'. We are about to begin converting the existing records for entry onto the computer.

At our first meeting of 1998 on 14th February at 1.30pm, our Mayor, Cr. Richard Anderson, has agreed to speak to us on his impressions of the first year of the City of Whitehorse under elected councillors, and his vision for the future. I hope as many of our members as possible will come to the meeting and of course we also welcome visitors. Hope to see you there.

Valda Arrowsmith, President