

# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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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,

We have just received the good news from the office of Mr. Bruce Atkinson, M.L.A. that our application to Arts 21 for \$2000 for a conservation study of the contents of the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex was successful. We are delighted as this will enable us to further our aim for full accreditation from Museums Australia (Victoria) Inc.

Our participation in this years National Trust Heritage Festival was well received by the community, the displays in the Nunawading and South Vermont Libraries and the Civic Centre generated interest in historical matters. The Open Day on 5th April was our most successful yet. Each year we have been able to include additional displays which have been much appreciated by the visitors.

My thanks to our members who gave their expertise and time to arrange displays, demonstrate their skills, and serve so many cups of tea, coffee and cordial. We appreciate the willingness of the City of Whitehorse for waiving the admission for the day.

We have also been given six display cases of various sizes by the Museum of Victoria. These are surplus to their needs as they store their collection prior to the move to the new museum. The cost of cartage was \$400, which was a small amount to pay, considering the assets we have acquired.

With the acquisition of these cabinets, we will need to re-arrange the museum, to more effectively display our collection and include some of the items which are now being stored.

Present day visitors to museums look for more information about items or local history and to achieve this, more space in cabinets is needed. Your committee is thinking that an extension to the museum could be an additional benefit to the residents of the City of Whitehorse, however, much planning and consultation needs to happen if this is to come to fruition.

We have purchased a scanner for the computer from the proceeds of the slide night at which Robert Smith showed

beautifully restored village and we all enjoyed the viewing. The scanner will enable us to copy photographs and to include Frances Warren's illustrations of our artefacts in the database.

I reported on the appointment of consultants for a heritage study of our City, unfortunately that has not yet commenced. The continuing delay is of concern, particularly as the Whitehorse Planning Scheme is being reviewed. We had hoped that the assessment of buildings/ places could have been included by the Council in the Scheme.

Our Wednesday working group continues with administration of the society and the important cataloguing as well as converting the existing collection to the data program. There are now over 1800 items on the computer database. Our new member, Jill Sampson, has joined the group and we thank each one of them for their contribution. If you would like to see what we do or join us, you are most welcome.

As advertised elsewhere, Sid Wright is our speaker on June 13th, and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Our first planning meeting for the Wisteria Party will take place at the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex at 10 a.m. on June 2nd. The Wisteria Party will be held on Saturday, October 10th. as the wisteria is always at its best in the second week of the month. All members are welcome to attend this meeting and bring their ideas with them.

Valda Arrowsmith.

## STOP PRESS

- ♦ *June 2nd: Friends of Schwerkolt Cottage Meeting 11:30 AM Local History Room.*
- ♦ *June 13th General Meeting of Society 1.30pm Local History Room, Speaker - Sid Wright*

## Planning Matters

### 360 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

The proposed amendment to the Whitehorse Planning Scheme -L21 has again gone before Whitehorse Council. A recommendation to adopt the amendment has been passed together with the inclusion of heritage controls for the site as recommended by the Panel.

It is expected that development proposals for the site will now be put forward and members are asked to take a continuing interest in this property to ensure that the proposed heritage controls are adopted and that any development is scrutinised to ensure the preservation and integrity of this significant building in our City.

The Society has in the last week sent a written submission to Council asking that they purchase this building both in recognition of its heritage value to the City and also for the valuable office accommodation for Council both in the long and short term. The Society has asked that this submission be looked at in line with current budget discussions.

### 456 Mitcham Road, Mitcham

Another property in the news at the moment is the former Walker house on the corner of Mitcham Road and Meerut Street Mitcham. A sixteen unit development for this site was refused by Council at its meeting on December 15, 1997, with the recommendation that the site be placed on the Whitehorse planning scheme to recognise its heritage significance.

Council has not acted on this recommendation and there are currently no heritage controls on the site. The owners have recently demolished a shadehouse on the property as they anticipate the sale of the site for redevelopment. The property is currently on the market.

While not ensuring its protection Council has employed contractors to advise on the most appropriate **development** for the site. This report has been noted by Council but no decision has yet been made.

Councils action has left this property at risk, and placed the entire area known locally as the Walker Park Estate - a nominated heritage area of the Nunawading Heritage Survey (1994) at risk.

Council officers have indicated that the Heritage Study for the City is underway, although we still await an invitation for Society or Community involvement. It is not expected that any amendments to protect heritage sites within the City will happen till after the Study is completed and this is estimated to be late in 1998.

Society members are asked to take an active role in development and redevelopment of their local area and to advise the Committee if they feel sites of significance are at risk.

We need to be ever vigilant!

## Pioneer Portrait

*OOP's* Member, Pat Turner has written to the Society pointing out the incorrect caption to last issues Pioneer Portrait. The Caption should have read **George Augustus Goodwin** - we apologise for this error



George Augustus Goodwin

Born on the 5th of May 1848 at Deptford, Kent, George Augustus Goodwin was the fourth child and third son of Robert and Mary Goodwin.

The Goodwin family emigrated to Australia in the 1850's and George's early childhood and schooling were in Melbourne.

His father, Robert, worked for the Victorian Government in the Crown Lands Department and George joined him there as a clerk. Later, using this experience to become self employed as a Crown Land Selectors Agent.

He married Annie Edwards on the 6th May 1869 and they had eleven children.

George and Annie acquired land in Vermont under a Crown Grant (Allotment 122G) in 1874, and lived on this property, with George commuting to Melbourne for work as needed.

In the early 1880's, George was offered and accepted the position of Agent Manager for the Freehold Banking Company Limited's development at Blackburn Park. The family sold the Vermont Property and moved to Blackburn - beginning a family association that remains to today. Goodwin Street in Blackburn is named for this Pioneering Family.

Pat Turner has written a fascinating book - *And Time Remembered Is Grief Forgotten, The Story Of The Goodwins of Blackburn And Toongabbie*. A copy of this book is in the Local History Collection and is well worth a read for those interested in the early days of Blackburn and the people who played a significant part in its development.

Reference:

Patricia Turner, *And Time Remembered Is Grief Forgotten, The Story Of The Goodwins of Blackburn And Toongabbie*, 1993.

# Notes From the Secretary

**MEETING - SATURDAY 13TH JUNE: AT 1.30 P.M. - LOCAL HISTORY ROOM, SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE AND MUSEUM COMPLEX.** All members should endeavour to attend this meeting as member, Sid Wright, will speak about a mysterious tragedy which occurred in Mitcham seventy years ago. This is an intriguing tale, which put Mitcham on to the front pages of the newspapers in 1928. Please ring me on 9874 6592 if you require transport.

## HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Our Open Day at Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex on April 5th, was a great success. It was a beautiful day, with many people attending and enjoying the attractions and the atmosphere of our cottage and museum. It was difficult to estimate the attendance exactly, but there were least 1000 visitors, maybe even up to 1500. Our helpers serving the drinks were certainly kept very busy for the whole time and we thank all members who helped in any way, making the day such a great success. Our thanks also to the blacksmiths, lacemakers, woodturners, to Ted Arrowsmith for his papermaking demonstration and to Bruce Reynolds for his antique appraisals. We have received letters of thanks from the Rotary Club of Forest Hill and from Christine of Aphrodite's Orchards, who contributed to the delightful atmosphere (especially the smell of the sausage sizzle and the tastings of the delicious preserves) Our thanks to attendants Bill, Irene and Angela who coped well with the sometimes overwhelming crowd.

Our displays at the Nunawading Library, the Vermont South Library, Forest Hill Shopping Centre, and in the foyer of the Civic Centre created great interest amongst the wider community and special thanks to Barbara Keene, Bruce Reynolds & Frances Warren for their assistance.

Our thanks to Susan Priestley, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, who spoke at our April meeting as part of the Heritage Festival.

A warm welcome to new member Jill Suggett of Nunawading. We look forward to meeting you and hope to see you at our meetings. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to our members who are feeling not so well at the moment, especially Doris Mattingley, Jess Barnes and Bette Jones. Our congratulations to Catriona Banks and David Miller on the arrival of their first child, a son, James. We welcome a new local historian to the society.

Congratulations are also extended to Bruce and Una Reynolds who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on the 2nd of June 1998.

Our thanks to Anne Jones All members of the society

thank Anne for her efforts as co-editor of our newsletter her resignation was necessary as her new baby will be born in June and there will be a great change in her life. our best wishes to Anne, Dan, Luke, Tim and Dominic as they await the new addition to the family.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

- ◇ Art Show at Wyreena, 13 Hull Road, Croydon- Two of our members, Shirley Jones and Wendy Rees-Harrison are displaying their work with two other artists, Julia Ford and Robyn Emerson until June 15th. - 10a.m.-4 p.m.Sunday to Friday.
- ◇ Card Fair - Manresa Function Centres 331 Burwood Road, Hawthorn. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Sunday 21st June. (Australian Cartophilic Society)
- ◇ Echuca Steam, Horse and Vintage Rally, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June, Rotary Park, Northern Highway, Echuca.

Barbara Gardiner.

## Street Names

The following streets were named by Norman Armstrong in memory of five local lads who lost their lives in the second world war:-

<b>Alwyn Street</b>	Alwyn Till
<b>Owen Street</b>	Owen Loftus, former postman
<b>Ross Street</b>	Ross Fenton whose father was a school teacher
<b>Ronald Street</b>	Ronald Peake
<b>Brian Street</b>	Brian Cox

These two lads were sons of Messrs Peak & Cox who were timber merchants in Whitehorse Road. The property is now incorporated in the Catholic School grounds.

## REMEMBER

- ◆ *Street Name Project - contact Anne Jones 9878 7276 with any details. Searches also available.*
- ◆ *Box Hill Cemetery Inscription Records available for research.*
- ◆ *Nunawading & District Historical Society Local History Room is open from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm on Wednesdays and at other times by appointment. The Local History Collection is a valuable resource and all are encouraged to make use of it for research. For further details on the collection phone the Society on 9873 4946 or the Secretary, Barbara Gardiner on 9874 6592.*

# Our Schools

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

2923 BLACKBURN:

John Williams, a man of very strong convictions, opened SS2923 in Stay 1889. He guided his school with a firm and just hand and for very many years, people remembered his name with respect and affection. For twenty-six years, he and his family - his sister and his own children - were teachers at the school, and between them, they moulded the lives and destinies of an earlier generation. In the old inspectors' reports there is a constant recurring remark 'Tone and discipline extremely good'. The parents, too, must have supported the school and its teachers well.

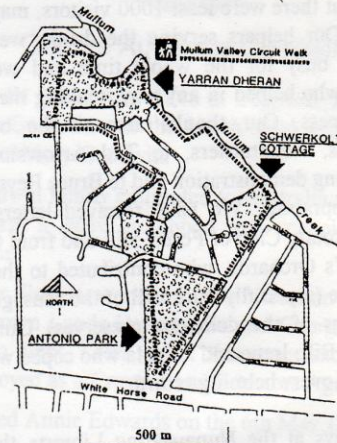
The school grew in attendance yearly. In the first World War expupils went to fight, and some to die for Australia, while the school children knitted comforts for the men at the front, raised money and bought War Savings Certificates and War Stamps. As the years passed, parents and teachers combined to establish a library and amass school equipment. Pupils established a pasture club, and took prizes in the Melbourne Show. In the bleak years of the depression in the 1930s we read 'Senior girls do needlework to aid the local unemployed and sixteen lunches are distributed daily'. Enrolments increased from 230 in 1940 to 414 in 1950, and reached over 1000 in 1960. As the school grew it required greater playing areas, and the year 1960 saw the acquisition of nearly 3 acres to form what is now known as 'The Green Area'.

Additions were made to the original building in 1923, 1940, and 1965, when the school contained a projector room, television room, speech therapy room and one of the best staffrooms in the State. The school has produced many famous men, amongst them John Arnold Seitz who became Director of Education, and Ex-Councillor W.A. Baker, who rose from the State Treasury to become Manager of the Victorian Wheat Commission. The school stands as a monument to the integrity and diligence of all associated with its progress.

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