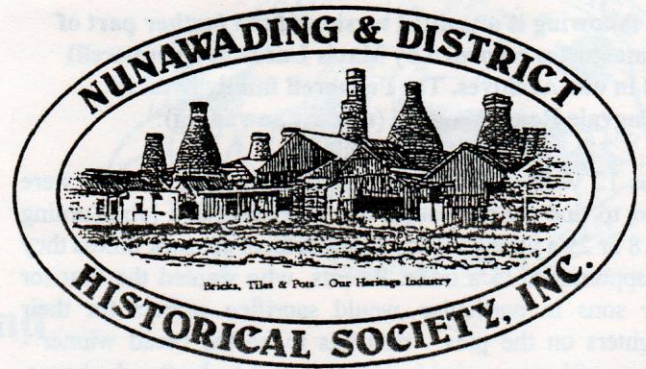


NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

President - Barbara Keene 9874 4919
Secretary - Barbara Gardiner 9874 6592
Treasurer - Barbara Rogalski 9874 4668



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October 1998

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

From the President

Dear Members,

You would have learned from your last Newsletter that Valda Arrowsmith was not nominating as President at the Annual General Meeting. In her four years as President Valda's professional and dedicated approach has seen the Society advance towards the 21st Century with her initiative in registering Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex for Accreditation with Museums Australia Vic. This has led to the continuing cataloguing of all the Society's artifacts and archives via the computer - another Valda initiative.

Perhaps the achievement of which Valda herself is the most proud is the registration by the National Trust of the former Shire Offices of Blackburn and Mitcham at 360 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. Preservation of our heritage is at the heart of the Society's work and the whole community has benefited from Valda's drive and determination to preserve this important building for future generations.

Thank you, Valda, from all the members for your inspired leadership and long may you continue to give wise counsel. Perhaps now you will be able to fulfil your wish to help catalogue and conserve the Society's archives. I am very pleased to announce that the City of Whitehorse has given us a grant of \$2,000 this year - double the amount for 1997-1998. This will allow us to follow the recommendations which the Victorian Centre for the Conservation of Cultural Materials are sure to give us in their Report and to continue along our path towards full Accreditation at the end of 1999.

The visit by the Conservators of the above group on 5th August was a delight to the Wednesday group of workers as they were full of praise for the work done so far in displaying and conserving our artifacts and archives. However, they have already given some verbal advice for future improvement and we look forward to their Report with anticipation but, it must be admitted, with some apprehension. We hope their advice does not involve too much work.

Congratulations to Peter Simmenauer on graduating as a Master of Library Technology.

At the Annual General Meeting we didn't have a nomination for Vice-President, but since then Bruce Reynolds has agreed to fill this position and we thank him for his nomination.

Bette Jones has indicated that she no longer wishes to be a member of your Committee and we extend to her our grateful thanks for her hard work and advice, particularly with the display and conservation of fabrics. Over the years Bette has given many valuable gifts to enhance the display in the Museum Complex and we are very grateful for her contribution towards the wellbeing of both the Society and the Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex.

The Gardiner family have kindly allowed us to display their considerable collection of Commonwealth and Olympic Games memorabilia during the month of September to coincide with the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. The collection includes items from our member, Bob, and his father Bert, and range from Hamilton, Ontario in 1930 to Edinburgh in 1986. I highly recommend that you make a special effort to visit this display as it is most interesting. Thanks to Robert Smith and Bruce Reynolds for their work in installing this display. See photo page 3.

We welcome a new Committee member, Peter Simmenauer and a new member, John Varley, to the Wednesday working group and welcome back Gordon Bate our hard-working Friday computer expert and cataloguer.

As your new President I have a "hard act to follow" and I can only assure you of my enthusiasm for the work of the Society and my willingness to meet the demands of my new position.

Barbara Keene

STOP PRESS - DATES TO REMEMBER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd - Working Bee from 9.30 a.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER, 10TH - MEETING AT 1.30 pm LOCAL HISTORY ROOM, SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE MUSEUM COMPLEX

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH - WISTERIA TIME GARDEN PARTY - 2- 4 p.m.

From the Archives.

The following is an edited version of the further part of the memories recorded by Mavis Lucas (nee Pepperell) held in our Archives. The Pepperell family lived in Springvale Road, Tunstall (now Nunawading)

I was 12 years old when the depression came.Jobs were easier to find for the young, but were dead end jobs. Turning 16-18 or 21 a young worker would expect the sack unless they were apprenticed to a trade. Parents, who wanted the best for their sons in particular, would sacrifice careers for their daughters on the plea - man has to be the bread winner - women will get married have babies and look after the house. This irked me in our family because although we won scholarships for free schooling, text books were so expensive plus school uniforms and train travel, there just wasn't enough money to continue at school, so we had to get a job and pay for extra education with the small allowance we kept from our wages. I was in my 4th year at Technical School feeling very privileged, as I loved school particularly the sciences - sport - authority and pride in achievement, when Mum became gravely ill and spent 6 months in Royal Melbourne Hospital. The drought hit Victoria, making flower growing almost impossible for a living. It became necessary for Dad to subdivide, obtain a mortgage to enlarge the house and obtain a job for himself, so I had to leave school, get a job and help the family budget. I think this abrupt end of my school days depriving me of a medical career in some area, was the bitterest pill I ever had to swallow. I obtained a job in a soft furnishing factory and after 3 months because I had bookkeeping knowledge was transferred to the office, which pleased my ego and at 15 years gave me status and the great salary increase from 15 shillings per week to One pound 1 shilling (\$1.50 - \$2.10 approx.). It was my only job, giving me privileges beyond my dreams.....

Returning to my job and its privileges, because my inherent talent with sewing and textiles I discovered another dimension in interior furnishing which my boss recognised and encouraged me to pursue. By this time I was 18 and he offered to have me taught to drive, as with a license I could help him to interview clients in their own homes and advise on furnishings. He bought me a small car for this purpose and allowed me the full use for private needs.

This was the highlight of my life and compensated for having to leave school. The year was 1933 and it was pretty rare for women to hold a license, plus giving me a tremendous boost ego wise in my own family. We were going through very bad times, Mum was back home again, but during her illness things slipped financially, as she was the business half of their marriage. After subdividing our property, the estate agent and solicitor handling the whole affair took advantage of the situation, selling the land to people who through the depression were finding it difficult to keep up their payments. The whole thing turned into a nightmare as the money from their payments was in turn to cover the mortgage Dad had with the bank - culminating in Dad and Mum walking off the property without a cent and a sleazy solicitor and estate agent finishing up rich men, because Dad didn't have the money or the heart to fight them. Through the help of friends we were offered a house to rent in Hawthorn and as all but Nancye were working were able to make a new start. we all had good jobs, but best

of all had a great family love and care for each other that over the next 2 years were very happy and fulfilling for us all.

The depression left a distinct impression on me and my values in life. Saturday matinees in the local halls - anything local needing admission fees - learning outside of State Schools like sport, art, musical skills, were all out of financial reach. Christmas and birthday presents were always clothing - one book and something recreational which was part of a set or could be shared with the family. We accepted all this without complaining because it was individual and made us important. Most kids lent their possessions to one another, so we did learn to ride bikes, roller skate, play all sports, and although self taught never felt inferior. Any big toys we did acquire were usually somebody's cast offs, which Dad or Mum were able to repair or adapt for us. Once again these things were shared. I remember Roma and I one Xmas were given a celluloid baby doll between us with complete knitted wardrobe made by Mum. We had years of pleasure from that doll and eventually it was handed down to Win and Nance. We never lacked imagination in dreaming up games to play and dressing up was probably our greatest joy. Bath night once a week on Saturday was one after the other - no bath heater, just kerosene tins converted into buckets with handles took pride of place on the stove to heat water. From the eldest down with a fresh bucket of hot water per person, you can imagine the last one in a curd of scum soap floating on the top. Our first bath heater (chip) was in Hawthorn in 1933 and what a thrill that was.

We had a crystal wireless set, which Dad made with 2 sets of ear phones, detachable so 4 people could listen at once. Anything exciting that we all wanted to share, Dad would put the ear phone into a crystal dish in the middle of the kitchen table and by leaning close we had a loud speaker.

We had a great interest in sport through Dad's involvement in his youth as an interstate footballer and cricketer, and always felt very proud of his achievements. He played for Vic. in cricket - fast bowler - and Subiaco W.A, as a footballer. Both Len and Bert were skilled in these sports, but only with local church clubs. Our whole lives were involved in church activities, both Mum and Dad came from Methodist upbringing and the Bible teachings were very important in our lives. We attended the Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church in Canterbury Road, Forest Hill - church at 11 am., Sunday School 3 p.m., evening workshop 7 p.m. every week and usually a couple of week nights for club activities. Sunday school anniversaries were a big deal - a platform erected, new dress and after weeks of rehearsing sang our hearts out for parents and relations who came to share in the celebration. The highlight was distribution of prizes - always books - for bible knowledge examinations and best attendance, which our family always were winners. Books were our most precious possessions and were a vital part in our school results, as we all seemed to have retentive memories. Len started work at the S.E.C. in 1927 and won a free place to study Economics and Commerce at Melb. University and with almost his first pay bought Mum and Dad a loud speaker wireless, which took pride of place in the sitting room. Later on he also bought Mum her first electric stove.

Notes from the Secretary

We welcome new members - John Varley of Vermont, Rod and Claire Taylor and John and Rose Vincenzi, all of Nunawading and look forward to seeing them at our meetings and activities.

Saturday, October 3rd, 1998 - Working Bee from 9.30 a.m.

We know this is election day but we hope you can spare at least an hour or so to spruce up the cottage and museum for their spring clean.

Saturday, October 10th, 1998 - Meeting at 1.30 p.m. with guest speakers Chris Adams, Manager of Design and Tracey Gosby, Environmental & Community Officer from VicRoads giving us information on the proposed extension to the Eastern Freeway.

Sunday, October 11th, 1998 2pm to 4pm- Wisteria Garden Party at Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex. This year will be a Fancy Dress and Crazy Hat Day so bring all the family along and have an enjoyable day. Thanks to the City of Whitehorse, children will be admitted free to the cottage/museum. The Brumbies Bush Band will entertain, and there will be lots of fun for the children with a bouncing teapot, and old fashioned picnic races. We will need some help on the day, so would appreciate if members could spare an hour or two, helping serve drinks and supervising the bouncing teapot. Ring Barbara Gardiner on 98746592 if you can help.

SPEAKERS AT FUTURE MEETINGS WILL BE-

12th December, 1998 - Rosalie Whalen, great granddaughter of August Schwerkolt, will speak on the Schwerkolt family history. We will meet at 12noon and share lunch, prior to the meeting at 1 30pm.

13th February, 1999 - The Mayor of the City of Whitehorse, Helen Buckingham, will tell us about her year as Mayor of our City and discuss future plans for the City.

Members who have not visited the cottage and museum recently will be interested to view the excellent interpretive signs which have been installed by the City of Whitehorse. These have added a new dimension to the complex and are greatly appreciated by visitors. We thank Bruce Reynolds for arranging the donation of a small fridge, which will be great in the summer for keeping drinks cool.

Our best wishes go out to those members who are not feeling so well at the moment, and we trust that they will soon return to good health. Bette Jones, Margaret Eklund and Max Grant are recovering after short stays in hospital

Ted Arrowsmith has been recruited as an additional Newsletter Editor - Ted's knowledge of our publishing package and the scanner will be invaluable in the production of the newsletter. We thank Ted for his help.

Subscriptions are now due - many members have paid already, and for those who have not done so, it would be appreciated if fees could be sent to P.O.Box 272, Mitcham 3132 - \$10 single, \$15 double or family.

Barbara Gardiner

VISIT TO THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION

A visit to the Johnston Collection by Society members has been arranged for 3rd December 1998 at 2.30 p.m.

Cost - \$10, Concession \$5, Free Admission to members of the National Trust.

The Johnston Collection consists of a house in East Melbourne and the entire collection of William Robert Johnston which was he left to the National Trust. The Collection concentrates on late Georgian and Regency antiques and collectibles and is quite amazing.

The house itself is decorated during different seasons and the December date has been deliberately chosen to coincide with their Christmas decorations and the serving of coffee and Christmas cake.

The Collection Management requests that we meet in the foyer of the Hilton on the Park and they transfer us in their bus to the house. If driving, please inform the parking attendants at Hilton on the Park of your visit to the Johnston Collection and the cost is \$3 an hour. Otherwise catch the Swanston street tram outside Flinders Street station and the tram takes you to the door of the Hilton.

December does tend to become very busy and I am giving you plenty of notice for this visit. Please advise Barb Gardiner on 9874 6592 or Barb Keene on 9874 4919 if you wish to join our group.



Photo from the Whitehorse Gazette - 16th September, 1998
Barbara Keene with the Gardiner Collection.

We thank the Whitehorse Gazette for the publicity for our Commonwealth Games memorabilia exhibition.

Our thanks to Robert Smith for re-arranging some of our displays in the Museum.



T Shirts - These are available at \$15 each - Our treasurer, Barbara Rogalski, wore hers on her recent holiday in Hong Kong. Has any member worn theirs in a more exotic place?

Please let us know and provide us with a photograph.

Editors

Dates for the dairy -

Saturday, 17th October, 1998 - 2 p.m - 3.30 p.m. Gary Presland will give an informative talk and slide presentation on the "The Nature of Aboriginal Sites" Presented by the Friends of the Lake, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Central Road, Blackburn.

Sunday, 25th October, 1998 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. City of Whitehorse Community Festival.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Annual Conference - The Great Australian Dream - Life on the Quarter Acre Block - Discussion on Life in the Suburbs Sunday 25 October 1998 - 9.30 a.m.- 5.00 p.m. at the Missions to Seamen Building, 717 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Cost \$35 which includes three course Sunday roast, with scones and Anzacs for morning and afternoon tea. Phone 9670 1219

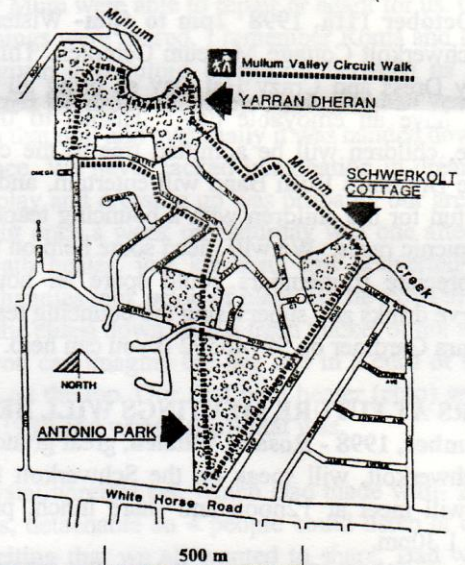
Saturday October 24th Family History Open Day at World Vision Conference Centre, 1 Vision drive, Burwood off Springvale Road. Entry \$6.00. Ring A.I.G.S. 9877 3789 for more information.

Friday November 6th, 75th Anniversary Celebrations at Nunawading Primary School, 104 Springvale Road, Nunawading - from 2 p.m.

REMEMBER

- ◆ **Street Name Project** - contact Anne Jones 9878 7276 with any details. Searches also available.
- ◆ **Box Hill Cemetery Records and the Nunawading Gazette for 1964-72** - 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 at other times.

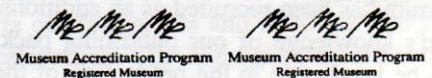
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Museum Accreditation Program
Registered Museum



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Editors:- Barbara Gardiner, Anne Munro and Ted Arrowsmith.

Typed by:- Barbara Gardiner, Anne Munro and Ted Arrowsmith.

Mailing Assistance:- Val Riches



**Friends of Schwerkolt Cottage
invite you to the
Wisteria Time Garden Party and
Fancy Dress and Crazy Hat Day
on Sunday 11th October, 1998
From 2 - 4 p.m.
At Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex,
Deep Creek Road, Mitcham (Melway 49 D7)**



FREE Fun for all the Family

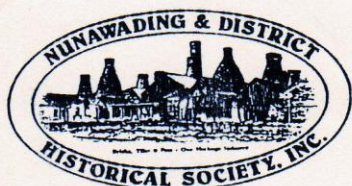
**Brumbies Bush Band!
Bouncing teapot!
Old Fashioned Picnic Races!
Face painting!**

**CHILDREN, MUMS AND DADS-
WEAR FANCY DRESS OR A CRAZY HAT!**

GRAND PARADE AT 3.30 P.M.

FREE TEA, COFFEE & CORDIAL

**VIEW THE COTTAGE AND MUSEUM;
ADULTS \$2 - CHILDREN FREE
(DON'T FORGET YOUR HAT AND SUNSCREEN)**



Reg. No. A0022235J

