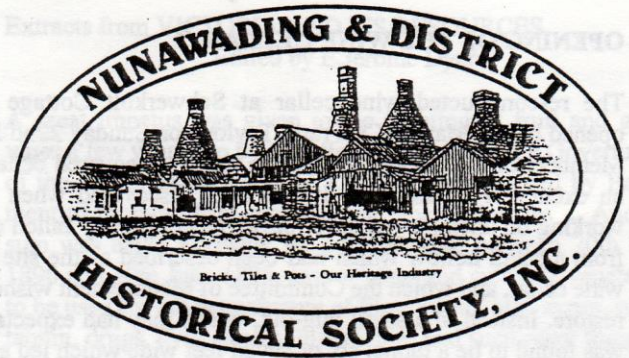


NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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



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June 1999

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

From the President

How kind the weather was to us for our Open Day! A wonderful day with all our displays being thoroughly enjoyed by the large crowd that attended.

Barbara Rogalski's "Paint the Cottage" attracted a large crowd of children and was so popular that we plan to extend this activity further next year. My thanks to all the volunteers who gave so freely and generously of their time and to all our members who attended.

Our thanks also to Barbara Rogalski for her painting and Bruce Reynolds for the frame, which formed the prize in our most successful raffle, which raised \$472 towards our funds. Barbara Rogalski thanks everyone for their support. Congratulations to Society member, Max Grant, who was delighted to be the winner.

The Heritage Study has been presented to the Whitehorse Council and letters of explanation will now be sent to home owners whose properties have been named in the Study. This is the next stage in the process and public consultation will occur at a later date.

Work is continuing on our Museum Accreditation Program and I particularly wish to thank members of the Sub-committee for their hard work and gift of time to this project which is so important for the future of the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.

The demands of working towards Accreditation have seriously cut into the time your committee is able to spend on maintenance type activities. We ask all members to nominate a convenient time in which they can assist in simple tasks for a short time. Hopefully, we can establish a roster so members may need to help only once or twice a year. Please ring Barbara Gardiner or myself if you can help for an hour or so.

Our Society was well represented at Committee of the Eastern Historical Societies conference at Healesville with speakers on Mechanics Institutes. Although many off the Institutes still exist, our only one was in Vermont where the Scout Hall is on Canterbury Road .

We will need a major working bee for the big jobs - Saturday, 26th June from 10 a.m. Please bring plenty of elbow grease as we will endeavour to improve the items in the barn and the cellar.

A thank you from Julie Jones, of the City of Whitehorse, to members who staffed the Antique Wedding Gown Display.

I hope everyone enjoyed Ann Dixon's display of costumes on the 29th May - a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

Barbara Keene

STOP PRESS

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 12 June 1999 at 1.30 p.m.
Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex.

Guest Speaker - Robert Morgan will talk on the experiences of showmen involved in sideshows at the Royal Melbourne Show and other shows.

WORKING BEE

Saturday, 26th June from 10 a.m.
Come along and help us spruce up the items in the Barn and the Cellar, as well the usual general cleaning jobs.

OPENING OF THE WINE CELLAR

The re-constructed wine cellar at Schwerkolt Cottage was opened by the Mayor (Cr. Frank Taylor) on Sunday 22nd July. Members of the Society visited the newly discovered cellar on an excursion of last year. It had been discovered when men working on unemployed relief began clearing away fallen earth from a small hollow which had been described as the site of a wine cellar, and which the Committee of Management wished to restore. Instead of a small dug-out, which they had expected, it was found to be a tunnel six or seven feet wide which led about 50 feet into the hillside. Several tools, and a huge padlock which was apparently used to secure the door were also found.

Since then the Council, with assistance from Wynn's Wines Pty. Ltd., have cleared away debris and re-roofed the cellar. Stone walls on either side were still in good condition, so that it was easy to determine the size and construction of the cellar. It is now completely restored, with gravel floor, new roof logs, and stocked with a grape basket, cart, barrels, demijohns and other implements used in wine-making. The whole is lit by concealed lights, and it is open to the public whenever the cottage is open.

There was a large attendance at the formal opening, including a number of members of the Mornington Historical Society. Most were surprised at the size and sound construction of the cellar. After the opening there was a small wine-tasting, with wine supplied by Wynns. Mr. Grace, of Vermont Winery, also assisted to assure the authenticity of the of the re-construction.

A few bottles of wine, bearing a special "Schwerkolt Cottage" label have been put down in the cellar. They are not to be opened before 2000 A.D.

A pleasing feature of the opening was the amount of publicity given by newspapers, radio stations and the Forest Hill Shopping Centre, which will assist in making the Cottage known.

Editor: In cataloguing the items in the cellar the bottles put down for 2000A.D. could not be found. It is also presumed that the large padlock referred to above is the same one referred in the last Newsletter.

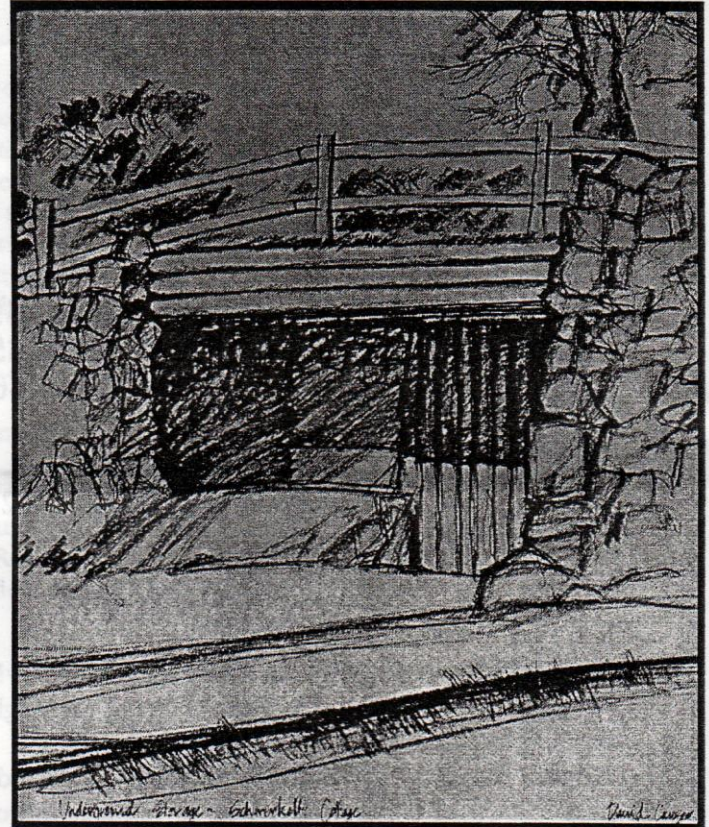
The photo in the adjacent column is of a charcoal drawing of the cellar, referred to in the above article, which was recently given to the Society. The artist is David Cayzer who is not known to the Society. It was considered to be an important enough drawing to have it framed. It has now been hung in the Local History Room.

Can anyone help with information about this artist?

Snippets - Diane Sydenham 1988

East Burwood Primary School, No. 454 may be the longest continually operating school in the City of Nunawading. It began accepting in 1861 as Harkaway School No. 184.

There were no government facilities for secondary education in the City of Nunawading until the Nunawading High School opened in 1955. Until that time students attended school in Box Hill or at various private institutions.



Secretary's Notes

Our Open Day was a great success! Our thanks to the City of Whitehorse for their contribution - they continued the tradition of free entry and also provided the Clydesdale Horses, the Steam Haybaler and the Musicians. These added to the activities organized by the Society - the Woodturners, Blacksmiths, Lacemakers, Papermakers, Quilters, Spinners and Weavers, Photograph Display, Collectable Stall, the Hands On and Artists activities, and of course the all important refreshment stall. We thank these people who added so much to the atmosphere on such a wonderful day. We have have received many compliments from the wider community.

We extend our sympathy to Phyllis Johnson on the sudden death of her husband, Ken. Phyllis and Ken had an enjoyable time at the Open Day and he died very suddenly on the following Wednesday.

Our thoughts also go to Jess Barnes on the death of her brother after a long illness.

I am pleased to report that Peg West is recovering well at home after surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Au Revoir Joan Sach.

We acknowledge our thanks to Joan for the contribution she has made to the Society. She was asked to help us by Doris Mattingley some six years ago and joined the Wednesday working group to help catalogue the documents. Her acquired knowledge of the Local History collection was also very helpful for research.

Having raised their family in Vermont, Joan and Ian have chosen a new life style by "going west" to Essendon. At our April meeting we expressed our thanks with a memento of a Schwerkolt Cottage painting by Barbara Rogalski and our best wishes in their new home.



Treasures from the Past.

TEA CADDIES

In Regency times, tea was not grown in India but had to be taken to Europe from China. It was introduced to England in the last half of the 17th century when it cost the equivalent of \$100 a pound. As the average wage was then about 40c for a very long week, one can realize the value of tea. Special chests or boxes with locks were made to keep the tea in. Only the mistress of the house had the key. These boxes were called "Caddies". Tea was grown in India from the middle of the 19th century and from that date the price fell very considerably.

However it was not until after 1760 that the word "caddy" was used, a corruption of the Malayan word "kati" or the Chinese word "catty" which were the names of weights of just over a pound. Tea caddies mostly were constructed of wood of various kinds, the costlier ones having handles and escutcheons in silver; there was also a great diversity of shapes, rectangular, oval, round and some even vase-shaped. The larger caddies often contained compartments or canisters in which to keep the tea. In the more splendid ones these canisters were of silver, otherwise they were beautifully made in wood lined with a metal foil to keep the tea fresh. Very often there was a glass bowl in the centre which it was thought was used for the blending of the two teas.

Our illustration above shows a caddy of about 1780, it is of mahogany and is a much more conventional shape, but it does have the advantage of still having its original and beautifully engraved glass bowl.

A caddy similar to this, but unfortunately without its engraved glass bowl, has been given to the Society by Doris Mattingley. This is a very special gift from Doris who is a foundation member of the Society and was Secretary and Newsletter Editor for many years. The caddy is now on display in the Museum with several of our embroidered tea cosies as an afternoon setting.

FROM THE ARCHIVES (N.H.S. Newsletters) July 1969

Extracts from VICTORIA AND ITS RESOURCES

Edited by E.Jerome Dyer

A great impetus was given to the planting of fruit and grape vines a few years ago by the offer of a bonus by the Government of the day ... when a sum of £233,000 was granted by Parliament to promote fruit-growing and other industries ... Another sum was made available for persons who, between 20th May 1890 and 30th June 1895, sow or plant and cultivate vegetables to be used for the manufacture of fibre, paper, oils, syrup, sugar, tannin, drugs, dyes, scents, insecticides and such other things as may at any time be approved by the Governor-in-Council ... Very little has been undertaken in these branches of culture.

Scent and Herb Farming

The Government itself, however, established a scent farm of 20 acres in extent at Dunolly a few years ago. The largest and almost the only other scent farm in the Colony is situated at Mitcham in the Shire of Nunawading, about 20 miles east of Melbourne. It was established about 25 years ago by Mr W. H. Slater, (a native of Mitcham, near London) who carried on the business of growing, distilling and otherwise preparing herbs and flowers for commercial purposes and who has found an excellent market for all he could produce. The extent of his herb garden is only 5 acres, but he is an orchardist as well.

Mr. Slater has found the business highly profitable, as for instance in the case of mint, he has obtained 4 tons per acre, yielding 6 lbs of oil to the ton or 24 lbs per acre; value 35/- per pound, equal to £41 from an acre of land; while lavender has yielded oil to the value of £117 per acre, results which clearly show the suitability of the soil and climate for their culture.

Editor:

The Slater land is now Slater Reserve. Purchased by the former City of Nunawading in 1978 and developed in consultation with the local community. The land is now used for active and passive recreation e.g. Basketball Stadium, Community Gardens and passive recreation.

FIRST FAMILIES -2001

First Families 2001 is a unique historical and cultural record of Australia. It is a database and a collection of stories about people of Australia, past and present. It has the potential to be the English Domesday Book of 1082, and in this way it will be an important genealogical resource, as well as a unique document about the people who are the history of this country. **First Families 2001** will be completed by 2001 in time to celebrate 100 years of Federation. It is accessible to all Australians on the Internet, and welcomes contributions from everyone.

Jess Barnes raised this at a recent Committee Meeting of the Society. Forms are available for the input of the details via the Internet. Members who are interested could get more information from the Library or I am willing to help and hope to have some forms. The details required are about the first family members, that is your ancestors who first settled in Australia, where they were from and their descendants.

Ted Arrowsmith.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 31st July 1999, 10am to 4pm. Conservation Workshop on artifacts/documents. The Committee of the Eastern Region Historical Societies is promoting and subsidizing this workshop to be run by the Victorian Centre for the Conservation of Cultural Materials. The Society is pleased to offer the Local History Room for this workshop. This is an opportunity to learn how to conserve the many items of our collection. The Workshop is subsidized by the Eastern Region Historical Societies and the subsidized cost is \$15.00. Contact Barbara Gardiner if you wish to attend.

Thursday, June 17th 1999, 8pm at the Strabane Chapel Hall. 29 Strabane Ave, Box Hill. Box Hill Historical Society Meeting. Guest speaker Wal. Ashton, speaking on "Old Watchmakers Tools and Equipment".

Monday, 21st June, 1999, 8pm. at Surrey Hills Community House Union Road, Surrey Hills. Sue Barnett will speak on "Stopping the Rot - How to Preserve Your Family Photos". This will include a short video presentation compiled by the National Library Service in 1988.

From the Archives N.H.S. Newsletter Oct - Nov 1975

PETTIGROVES LEAVE BLACKBURN

Pettigroves Breeding Farms Pty. Ltd., Fulton Road, Blackburn, is moving to Somerville. This ends an era of poultry farming in South Blackburn, which had been set aside as a poultry-keeping area by the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham.

At one time there were more than a dozen farms, two large hatcheries raising thousands of birds and some smaller ones. Pettigroves was established there in 1941 and Mr. Pettigrove recalled that Sutherlands had a large farm on one side of him and on the other was another which ceased operations five or six years ago. Further along the road were Caves and in Holland Road one farm of 2,000 to 3,000 birds had a gun-club at its rear. Opposite was another which combined pigs and poultry. In Blackburn Road, Barnes had a large hatchery and Reid and May smaller ones. Several poultry-keepers between Blackburn and Middleborough Roads included Fulton, Reid, May and Bird. In other parts of Blackburn, Sjorgrens had a farm off Wellington Avenue, which they sold to Musgroves, who have now moved to Wonga Park.

Gedyes had a large farm and hatchery in Whitehorse Road. When they sold the property to Cottees they were for some time in Orchard Grove. There were others along Surrey Road. Johnstons had a large hatchery there until about 1950 and Taylor had a smaller one until more recent times. Poultry keeping and hatching is no longer practicable. Land is becoming too expensive and vandalism is a problem. Mr. Pettigrove said that after a week-end he is likely to find \$400 or \$500 of damage done to the property.

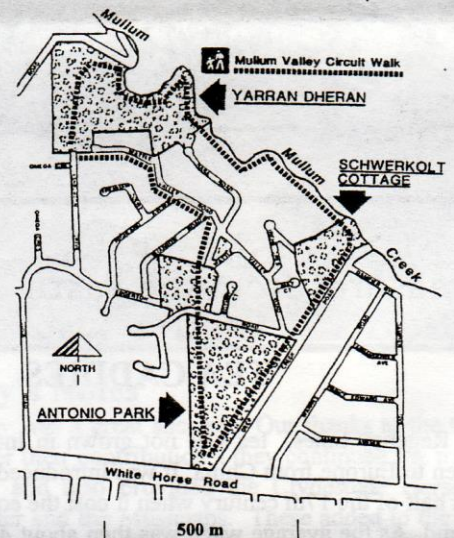
REMEMBER

Street Name Project - contact Anne Jones 9893 5274 with any details. Searches also Available.

Box Hill Cemetery Records and Nunawading Gazette 1964-1974 available on microfiche for research.

Nunawading and District Historical Society Local History Collection - open from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm on Wednesday
Visitors welcomed. Ring 9873 4946 for an appointment at other times.

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