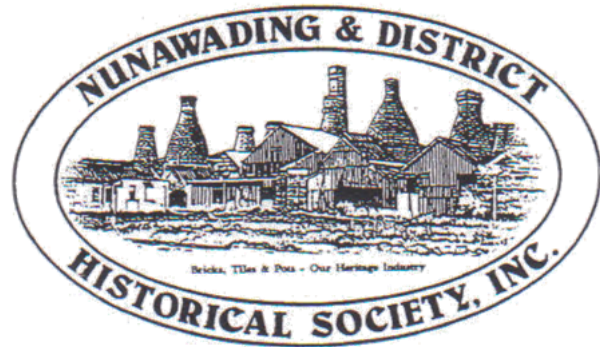


# **NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER**

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



Series 8. No.5.

A0012235J

October 1999

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

## **From the President**

After a year's "retirement", I am back in the President's chair to carry on with the work organized by our past President, Barbara Keene towards achieving our goal of accreditation with the Museum Accreditation Program, which will be our major aim for this year.

The work is proceeding, the Accreditation submission is having the final adjustments made and it will be ready for lodgement by the middle of October. The audit of the artefacts has begun. It requires the matching of the registration number and location information on the worksheet with that of the artefact. We now have a system in place, so if you could spare a few hours to help with the checking it would speed up the process.

You will read we have arranged a working bee for 6th November to spruce up the Complex for inspection on 10th November. So please put that date on your calendar "many hands make light work".

We are grateful to our member Ian Armstrong of Drake & Co, Estate Agent, Mitcham for arranging the use of a vacant shop in Enterprise Way (outside Coles Supermarket) for a display by the Society. Also thanks to Barbara Rogalski for collecting the stands and material to put the display in place. Photographs are of early Mitcham people and scenes, and an article about the Australian Tessellated Tile Co, together with some examples of their tile production.

Through a grant from the City of Whitehorse we have had the two needlework samplers cleaned and mounted by Mrs. Wilma Garnham of the Embroidery Guild of Victoria. They have been re-framed by members Rose and John of Nunawading Framing. This will help in their preservation. One was worked in 1803 and the other in 1836.

As a fund raising effort we are having ladies

handkerchiefs, in various colours, printed with Schwerkolt Cottage and the Society Logos. We hope you will consider buying some for gifts etc.

We as a Society are very fortunate in the members who are presently giving a great amount of their time to enable the Mission Statement, which cover the aims of the Society, to be achieved. Last years voluntary hours are recorded in the Annual Report. Thanks to each of you who are continuing with this contribution.

We have enclosed a leaflet about the Wisteria Garden Party.

Hope to see you there.

Valda Arrowsmith

## **STOP PRESS**

### **COLLECTING BUTTONS AS A HOBBY**

Saturday, 9th October at 1.30pm at our next General Meeting, Robyn Caddy will speak to members.

### **WISTERIA GARDEN PARTY**

**SUNDAY 10th OCTOBER 2PM - 4 PM**

Bring the children dressed as Fairies or Pirates so they can enjoy the fun with the Brumbies Bush Band, Simon's Animal Farm, story telling and face painting with Jason "The Faerie Tale Man".

### **WORKING BEE**

**Saturday 6th November**

Starting 9am we will be cleaning and dusting for the visit of the Museum Accreditation Panel on Wednesday November 10th. We will be pleased to have the assistance of all members.

The following article, written by our former President, Joan Rocznik of the memories of her life, for a retired Librarian's magazine, was so enjoyed by some members that Joan agreed to our publishing it for your enjoyment and inspiration. (Please give us a copy when you write your story).

### THE TRACK FROM RUGBY JUNCTION TO NUNAWADING by Joan Rocznik.

F.G.B. Hutchings was the first librarian in Rugby when it became a borough, and I was the first junior assistant he appointed. It was my ambition to be a librarian and FGB persuaded my father that to get a job in a library and take L.A. exams was the best way. I loved the work and the study, especially classification and literature. FGB's enthusiasm was infectious. We all moved the serried ranks of shelving into a fan shape, and opened up the service desk. Remember the days when the Chiefs worked with the Indians? I did everything from tidying the shelves with the staff each morning, counter work, petty cash, posters for book displays, typing subject cards for the cataloguer, to writing order slips from reviews marked by FGB. We labelled and prepared all books for circulation. Do people realise what a wonderful familiarity with the stock was provided by these jobs of preparing, shelving and tidying?

A children's library was added and I was made responsible for book buying, helping schools and providing such extra activities as story sessions, clubs to help in the library - and keeping control(?) of the multitude of rascals from a nearby slum. Thank heaven for the caretaker, who also collected overdues. When FGB moved to Sheffield, J.D. Reynolds arrived and introduced a loan picture collection operating from the Reference Library, and a collection of books for an Intermediate Library to help youngsters moving into the Adult Library. He introduced also sessions of records and readings, related to combined music and poetry, e.g. bits of Edith Sitwell's "Facade" rendered musically. During this time Coventry was bombed, and injured and homeless people streamed into Rugby.

In 1941 I moved to Reading to take joint charge of the Central Lending Library with Constance Relph. The town was full of East End evacuees and American, Canadian and British troops. We catalogued the additions and trained numerous ladies to take the place of staff called up. I undertook the collation of "see" and "see also" references for the dictionary catalogue ready for typing by returning staff. The book shortages were made worse by the bombing of the depot in London, and the frustration of people on waiting lists was a hazard. We "fire-watched" on the Town Hall (of which the library, was part) and one of the branches, about every fifth night. When this fell on a Saturday we were "sleeping" under the main hall where the troops danced to the big bands. Our nightly parade, with tin hats and axes, across the floor on the way to the roof during an alert added to the entertainment! The 1,000 bomber raiders passed over Reading and the steady drone on the way out contrasted with the staggering, heart rending, intermittent sound of the return. Lodgings were a problem but I managed the last section of the L.A. Finals. On being awarded a Fellowship the Reading Council gave me £20! We had a Baedeker raid on the already ruined abbey, but the Town Hall air raid shelter was hit. The library was closed on Wednesday afternoon but we lost a

number of good friends on the Council staff. I was active in Nalgo and was elected to represent women on the Joint Board with the Council. (I was also in emergency Sunday kitchen helper in the WVS canteen.)

In 1945 I moved to Derbyshire to be Regional Librarian of the Staveley area. This involved the supply by van of numerous voluntary centres and schools, and the development of a number of new branch libraries - once premises could be found - building in those days was out of the question. Staveley was a coal and iron producing area with a warm, close-knit community, and co-operation was rewarding. The railway dramatic society needed rehearsal space, and Mr Osborne agreed if a staff member attended. I joined and enjoyed acting with them; we also had a music group (and I sang with the Staveley Works choir) not to mention a hiking group with the Dales not too far away by rail. This was a happy period professionally and personally.

In 1947 I moved to HQ in charge of the "Lending and Postal" Section, a nonfiction lending library with good collections of plays and sets of orchestral parts, and a growing collection of reference and bibliographical materials. We received all the book and subject queries from branches and individuals all over the county. Dealing with these provided some of the most exacting work of my career. In those days if the answer was found in a book or encyclopaedia the passage was typed and posted out - no photocopier at that time! Working with Edgar Osborne and Ali Sharr was a great learning experience. Mr Osborne's book knowledge, and his personal collection of children's books (now in Toronto Children's House) inspired me in Norfolk to build a collection of titles from Aesop to Ransome. Mr Osborne together with Ali Sharr's administrative and organisational ideas helped me with some problems in Norfolk. On the lighter side I remember the battle the van staff had with Mr O. to be allowed to wear slacks. I also shared rooms and dramatic society experiences with Muriel Chadderton (now Taylor) who was in charge of Acquisitions and had been appointed to Chapel-en-le-Frith, when I was appointed to Staveley.

In 1949 I went to Norfolk County Library as Deputy. Although the Librarian had been there since the beginning and knew the county backwards, there had been no qualified librarian or staff with other experiences. Several hundred voluntary centres, four branches and many schools were served by vans from headquarters. The Librarian asked me not to make any suggestions until I had been there six months. In that time I filled an exercise book! Thus began the process of teaching staff to use bibliographies and to use the system to pass requested books between branches. I joined with Mr Hepworth and Norwich City staff in classes to help our juniors with the L.A. exams. Before I resigned in 1960 we had opened eleven more branches and established two mobile libraries. Apart from reforming HQ methods my job was to keep contact with branches, and with practical help in the early stages. I enjoyed book selection and talking to different groups. The collection of children's books from Aesop to Ransome, arranged in date order, I used at the local teachers' training college - where the Principal was the sister of the author of *Thomas the Tank Engine* etc!

During the years I had been active in the professional associations as well as Nalgo; when in Derby I was on the committee and an officer of the East Midlands Branch of the Association of Assistant Librarians. In Norfolk I became chairman of the

Eastern Branch of the Library Association. Personally I worked with the Norwich International Club, started by the Editor of the *Eastern Daily Press* and a group of Quakers. The club helped students from the colonies and Europe who came to study at the College of Technology & Arts, and to perfect their English. Here I met my Polish husband Jan, and we married in 1951. We had two daughters, the second arriving in 1960 when I retired from my job. For the next four years I worked two evenings a week in a local branch library. Two winters with roads and footpaths frozen from Christmas to Easter prompted us to look for somewhere warmer. In July 1964 we left for Australia with our two daughters. My husband - a food chemist - had a job lined up, but my postal enquiries met the "no married women" bar, although I was told they would love to have me! Within six weeks of arrival in Melbourne I applied for and obtained a job as deputy in an incipient library service in Nunawading under Constance Pavey. An old weatherboard house was the home for many challenging discussions and decisions. The collection of basic stock, reference and bibliographical material, as well as music (Nunawading's subject under Minterlib) proceeded well. I attended committee meetings with Miss Pavey, and trained the staff in the use of reference material before the first library opened.

However, the time was arriving when I had to put children ahead of a career. A good friend - Barbara Tapply - introduced to us by Ali Sharr, suggested I contact the Education Department. I became "temporary teacher in charge of the library" at Vermont High School. This was another learning experience (and how!). In those days in a school, a teacher could be a librarian, a teacher-librarian could be a librarian, but a librarian could not be a librarian. The library had been classified by a teacher who thought that everything with "History" in the title (whether history of food, history of clothes, or history of machines) belonged in 900. So in addition to coping(?) with classes of boys who had never read a book (and who is going to persuade them?), I had to recatalogue the lot - mercifully only about a thousand. I was also in charge of the "sick room". I built up the "reading public". At lunch time I took fifteen minutes to eat my sandwich, then admitted the queuing students until all chairs were full, only admitting others when some went out. Another classroom became the Private Study for Forms 5 and 6.

After five years I spent a year at Monash University as a cataloguer. My area was classics - French, German and Latin. If I met one in Greek I prayed for a German titlepage! I also "presided" over the use of new subject headings with the Library of Congress as the Bible, suitably adapted by us for Australia. This was the time of the Vietnam protests (one of the leaders is now my son-in-law). I was impressed by the courtesy of these "ratbags" to me, and noticed that they got four-inch headlines when protesting, but two lines on the back page when ferrying old people to the theatre.

I began to miss "readers" and returned to Nunawading in time to "master mind" the move of stock and shelves to the basement of the Town Hall while the central library was being completed. We were regarded as aliens for quite a while and the Town Clerk harangued me in the middle of the open public offices as to why our clerical staff according to the Award should get a few more dollars more than his!

I eventually returned to the Education Dept and took over the

Norwood High School library. Then I had the chance of a year's teacher training which (at age 55) I thoroughly enjoyed and could apply what I learned to my earlier observations at Vermont. However, I also saw that the school's use of the library related to the school's curriculum, and while I had 100% membership of the library I could add the wider interests and lifelong value of libraries to my curriculum. When we acquired a Commonwealth Library we added audio-visual carrels and materials, some especially to help those having difficulty. Clerical and technical staff were added and we enlisted parents and children in book preparation.

When I retired in 1983, although my husband was unwell he was able to go in 1984 with me on a tour of our English, European and Polish friends and relations, and also to the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Casino. (In Italy he won the *Virtute Militare* - the Polish VC - and three crosses of valour.) He died in 1986 of Motor Neurone disease and Alzheimer's.

While overseas I heard that the local Historical Society of which I was a member was in difficulties because the original collector of archives and the lady who helped him had left, and we might have to hand everything over to the LaTrobe Library. The documents and maps were housed in a metal cabinet and cupboards in a damp kitchen in the museum of our historic Schwerkolt's Cottage, and we were infested with silverfish.

I embarked on a rescue operation. I outlined a job specification and the Council gave us two paid assistants for six months (they refused a paid archivist!). We cleared out the silverfish and put the documents etc into acid free envelopes I devised a classification scheme based on the groupings formed by the original archivist, fitting them into a scheme using the letters of the alphabet as a framework to accommodate anything else we might be given. (We were quickly inundated!) I allocated the class numbers and taught the ladies some elementary cataloguing, all done by hand. We moved out of the kitchen to the basement of the Town Hall, then in 1988 to an archives room built on to our museum in the grounds of the Cottage. It was built to measurements I had suggested; although it is more than adequate for the archival work, now being computerised, it barely holds the burgeoning Historical Society meetings! At first it was the usual - struggle cake drives to buy second-hand shelves and cabinets, and more to buy blinds, but now we are fairly secure and near to receiving Museum accreditation.

In 1996 I succumbed to my asthma and pneumonia, and although I resisted death twice I am now unable to drive and must use a walking frame. So I am no longer actively useful. However, when conveyed to meetings or to visit, I am greeted as a "tribal elder".

Although my work in Australia has been varied for the sake of my family. I have enjoyed it as much as the career years in England. I count myself fortunate to have been able to combine an absorbing, challenging profession with a happy family life with a husband, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Hobbies: Choral singing (no longer), reading, piano playing, languages, Radio National and ABC TV, painting, friends, reading to grandchildren, - and sleeping!

**EXCERPT FROM  
AUSTRALASIAN  
BAKER  
FEB. 1972**



*Harringtons*  
**MELBOURNE'S  
FINEST BREAD  
FOR OVER  
100 YEARS**

**HARRINGTONS**  
497 Canterbury Road, Vermont  
FOR DELIVERIES PHONE:  
**87 1417**

**Melbourne's Largest Independent Baker**

**OLD FAMILY BAKERY  
WITH YOUNG IDEAS**

Harrington's Bakery, at Vermont, Victoria, is one of the oldest family bakeries still operating in Australia, and one of the few fully automatic bakeries in Australia, with a capacity of 2,850 loaves an hour untouched by human hands from mixing to wrapping.

The bakery became automatic in May, 1970 and the decision to automate has proved its worth many times over.

When the new automatic equipment was installed, a new breadroom with slicing and wrapping machines was added.

For other than standard loaves a separate oven is used.

The operation has attracted Australia-wide interest from bread manufacturers.

**Century-old tradition**

Baking has been a tradition in the Harrington family for more than a century.

Earlier generations of the Harrington family were bakers in England, and the tradition is carried on in Australia.

The founder of the firm was the great-grandfather of Mr. Hector Harrington, who manages the business today.

The founder came to Australia more than 100 years ago and founded a bakery at Williamstown.

The family have been baking at Vermont for more than 30 years, and have seen the area develop from a rural district to a number of cities within 10 miles of the Melbourne GPO.

Before going to Melbourne the Harringtons had operated bakeries at Macarthur, Ascot Vale and Bendigo.

Mr. Hector Harrington in his early life was a naval man, passing through the local naval college and finishing his course at the Naval College in London.

After World War II he joined the P. and O. Line, but family traditions were too strong, and he returned to the baking industry.

The fifth generation is represented in the firm today in Hector Harrington's sons, Bob and Lloyd, who help to make it a true family business.

As a progressive firm, Harringtons believe in promoting their public image.

Schoolchildren, church groups, service organisations, etc., are always welcome at the factory. Nearly 3,000 project sheets have been given away to visitors.



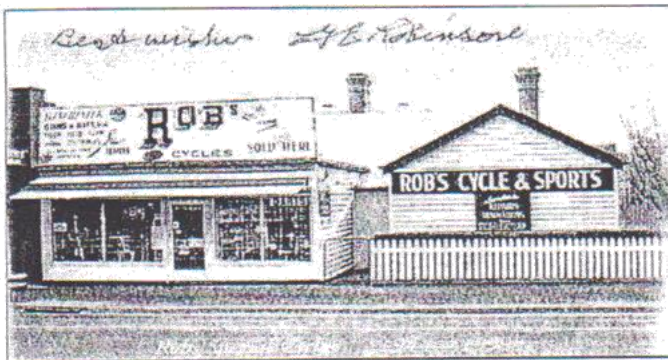
### “Remember, if it’s a Rob’s it’s Special”

“Rob’s Cycles” closed on Saturday, 4th, September, following days of people calling in to farewell him, including an old work-mate who travelled from Footscray with a “carer” to renew old acquaintances and say goodbye. Some members of the Society were able to visit “Mr. Rob” and say goodbye. The television, radio and newspaper coverage of his final days in the shop would have been enjoyed by most of us.

“Mr Rob” has donated two of his hand made bicycles, one to the Victorian Museum and the other to our Society. We took delivery of the bicycle last week, from Noel Shone, “Mr. Rob’s” righthand in the shop, a 26 inch boy’s bicycle, vintage c1960. It is an important acquisition as it is one of the last bikes to be hand made.

There are not many kids who grew up in this area, who owned or wanted a bike who did not know “Mr. Rob” and his shop, which he had occupied since 1944- a total of 55 years devoted to building bikes and serving the community.

The shop is of special interest to the Society as it is one of the oldest buildings in Blackburn, having been built in 1861. It has been used as a Post Office and a Newsagent amongst other things prior to “Mr. Rob” establishing his business there in 1944.



*Rob's Shop Railway Road Blackburn*

Highlights of this important piece of local history include -

- The shop was built in 1861 and is two doors from the railway crossing.
- The sign “Rob’s Special Hand Made Cycles Made To Order” has been there since 1944.

There are many handmade tools representing “Mr. Rob’s” work over a lifetime.

- He started work in 1933 working for Malvern Star at 25 Shillings (\$2.50) a week.
- His first job was welding stars on the front of the bikes.

He was a keen amateur bike rider, winning many trophies and championships.

We wish him a happy retirement with thanks for the contribution he has made to our community.

### Whitehorse Manningham Heritage Network Project

The results of months of work by the four historical societies in the Whitehorse Manningham Project, Box Hill, Nunawading, Templestowe and Warrandyte has resulted in the Project Leader, Vicki Court, getting the information on to the Internet.

It is now possible to “surf the net” and find information on our history.

The web site address is that of the Whitehorse Manningham Library and can be accessed as follows-

[www.wev.vic.gov.au/](http://www.wev.vic.gov.au/)

When library window opens click on SEARCH and on the resulting page click on WHITEHORSE MANNINGHAM HERITAGE NETWORK PROJECT. Read the Background information and then click on LOGO TO THE WHITEHORSE MANNINGHAM HERITAGE NETWORK PROJECT.

The project is a continuing one in that we still have to convert many hundreds of items for inclusion in the Inmagic Program.

Can you help? - instruction given.

### The Royal Historical Society of Victoria

The Royal is moving home. Its new home is 239 A’Beckett Street, Melbourne. And they have a new telephone number 9326 9288.

### WHITEHORSE IMPRESSIONS by Barbara Rogalski

An exhibition of paintings will be held by Barbara during the month of October in the Foyer Gallery of The Whitehorse Centre behind the Whitehorse Civic Centre 397 Whitehorse Road Nunawading

Over the past 12 months Barbara has been recording the changing seasons of our beautiful City of Whitehorse. Subjects include Yarran Dheran, Schwerkolt Cottage, Campbell’s Croft, Bellbird Dell, Blackburn Lake, Ronald.E.Gray Reserve, Mitcham and local private gardens.

Barbara invites you to view her work during the hours of 9 am to 4.30 pm and when the Whitehorse Centre is open for special functions.

## Notes from the Secretary.

A warm welcome to new members, Lynette Davey of Mitcham and Valerie Day of Vermont. We look forward to seeing them at our meetings and other activities. We also welcome volunteer, Joan Crick, who has joined the Wednesday group and is assisting with the cataloguing of documents. I am pleased to report that Barbara Keene is feeling much better and has taken over the cataloguing of the photographs.

Members enjoyed our August meeting, where Alice Tucker displayed her fascinating collection of historic fans. Our thanks to Alice, and to Bruce Reynolds for his assistance.

We can look forward to our October meeting where Robyn Caddy, local antique dealer, will speak about the interesting hobby of "Collecting Buttons". Once again, the second weekend in October is very busy for our members, with our meeting on the 9th and the Wisteria Garden Party on the 10th. We will appreciate help serving refreshments. Please phone me on 9874 6592 if you are able to help.

Our best wishes to members who are not well at the moment, especially Rupert Muckleston who has had a short stay in hospital.

The working bee on Saturday, 6th November is very important as we will be preparing for the visit of the Museum Accreditation Panel and we must have everything spic and span for this day. We have been complimented by the Conservation Centre for our good housekeeping standards, but the panel of experts who are all professional museum people will be examining all aspects of the Complex. Please spare some time on this day to ensure everything is up to standard.

Membership Fees - We know how easy it is to forget things in this busy life we all lead - those members who haven't yet paid their annual fees can forward them to P.O.Box 272, Mitcham 3132. Single \$10 - Family \$15

Member Max Grant will speak to our December meeting on the history of the Mitcham Repertory Group. Max is a much loved member of the community and was a foundation member of this group.

Barbara Gardiner

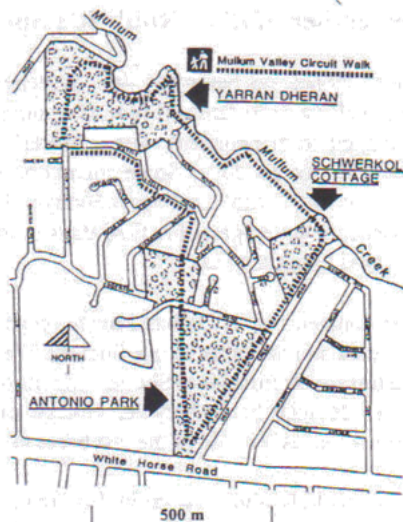
### REMEMBER

**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.

Nunawading & District  
Historical Society Inc.  
Schwerkolt Cottage  
Museum Complex  
Deep Creek Road  
Mitcham 3132  
PO Box 272  
Mitcham 3132  
Telephone: 9873 4946  
(Melway Ref 49 D7)



The N&DHS acknowledge  
support from  
The City of Whitehorse



*MP MP MP*

Museum Accreditation Program  
Registered Museum

ISSN 1328-2395

#### Newsletter Editors

Barbara Gardiner  
Ted Arrowsmith.

#### Typed by

Barbara Gardiner  
Ted Arrowsmith.

#### Mailing Assistance

Val Riches