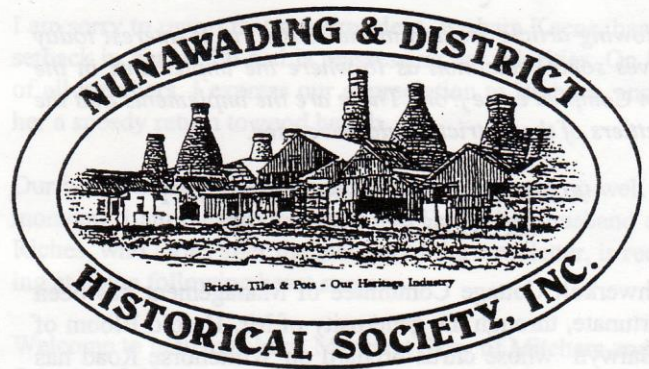


NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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



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

From the President

You will notice that there is an amended Mission Statement and Policies accompanying your newsletter. These have been recommended to you by your Committee and we are asking you to read them before the meeting on 14th August. They will be considered at the General Meeting following the Annual General Meeting. These must be enclosed with our Accreditation Submission in October and our August Meeting is the last chance we have of gaining membership approval. Would you please read these carefully and if you have any alterations which you feel should be made, could you write them down and give them to Secretary, Barb, so they can be presented to the Meeting.

We are now in the process of "fine tuning" our Accreditation Submission to the Museums Accreditation Program and are into our third draft. It is amazing that something which appears to be fine one week, can be so full of mistakes and omissions a week later. Still, we feel that the proverbial "light is at the end of the tunnel" can at last be faintly seen.

Your Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting and I do urge you to consider standing. It is an interesting and enjoyable experience shared with some very nice people! If you are interested in nominating, please complete the enclosed nomination form and forward it to the Secretary, Barbara Gardiner at 7 May Court, Mitcham.

A small group enjoyed the visit to the Immigration Museum on the 11th July and if you haven't visited this interesting Museum I can highly recommend it to you.

Nepean Historical Society have extended an invitation our Society members to visit them and perhaps we can arrange this for later in the year when we can expect

better weather.

Our working Bee on 26th June was attended by extremely hard working volunteers and we thank them for their efforts. At the end of the day, Ted Arrowsmith stated "that was an excellent working bee" and indeed it was, with all rooms and outbuildings in the Complex being thoroughly cleaned. It is vitally important that the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex be kept spotlessly clean, not only for the enjoyment of visitors, but most importantly, for the conservation of the items on display, which are in the Society's trust.

Our next working bee will be held prior to our Accreditation Inspection day in November, and I would recommend to you the old adage "many hands make light work"

Barbara Keene

STOP PRESS

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc. will be held on:

Saturday 14th August 1999 at 1.30 pm

In the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham.

If you are unable to attend please ring
Barbara Gardiner, on 9874 6592 or
Valda Arrowsmith on 98741414.

Please find a nomination form and the policies to be considered at the Annual General

From the Archives

The following article, written in the 1970s, is of interest today as it gives some indication as to where the implements in the Museum Complex came from. These are the implements that the early settlers of the district would have used.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AT SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE.

The Schwerkolt Cottage Committee of Management has been most fortunate, through the generosity of Mr. Harold Bloom of North Balwyn whose citrus orchard on Whitehorse Road has been sold, and Mr. Stevens of Vermont, to have acquired an almost complete set of agricultural implements once used by orchardists and farmers in this district.

There are single and double furrow hand ploughs - the single furrow plough is pulled by one draught horse, the double by two. An orchard plough which has a series of discs set out from the main body of the plough, enables the orchardist to plough under the trees without endangering the trees themselves - this is pulled by two strong draught horses.

There is also what is known in agricultural circles as a scoop which was used for making dams and drains. This has handles which the farmer holds to guide it; as well, he holds a rein in each hand to steady the horse - a strong draught horse is needed here, as clay is heavy and when the scoop is tilted forward by the drivers it digs into the ground and fills with earth which is then carried to the edge of the dam and tipped off. Horses working with agricultural implements become very intelligent and can do the work needed with only a command from their drivers.

Vine growers also used small cultivators which fitted neatly between the rows. These have a series of fingers which break up the soil finely.

There is also at the Cottage a set of harrows used usually in sets of 2 or 4 and pulled by 1, 2 or 3 horses, according to the number of harrows joined together. These are usually used to make the earth fine and friable for the sowing of crops. On large properties, one might have seen a large set of harrows joined by what is known as a seeder drill and would probably be pulled by 6 to 8 horses - a fine sight.

On wheat properties today and on any farm where there are large acres to be sown, a disc plough is used. The discs are large circular concave circles, set in rows as many as 8 wide. This plough would be drawn by about 6 to 8 horses in the olden days - now of course, it is tractor drawn.

The breeding of heavy and strong horses for farm work used at one time to be very profitable, as a well bred Clydesdale for instance, would bring about £80, £90 or £120 (\$100, \$180 or \$240) each, now most farms are mechanical.

This breed of horse can be seen at the Royal Show in the Grand Parade - his colour ranges from dark Bay to Strawberry Roan. The Clydesdale was originally a Scottish breed, but was so popular with everyone that he has become world famous for his good temper, intelligence and strength.

There is also another breed of draught horse, an English one called the Shire - he too is a splendid animal but longer in the leg and not quite as stockily built as his famous counterpart, and his colour is usually brown-black.

The Suffolk Punch, a strong short legged horse with very heavy neck and large head - his colour dark chestnut, was once very popular in the fine County of Suffolk in England, but his popularity in general appears to have somewhat diminished. One does not see many of this breed in Australia today, although, in my opinion, he is a splendid horse and extremely strong and enduring for his size.

When crops are grown, the land is often rolled when the seed has been sown and amongst the implements to be seen at the Cottage at a later date, will be a roller made from a natural log. It is not complete yet, but we hope soon to be able to furnish it with the lost parts. Housed in the same building will be Mr. Steven's farm waggon which has been in use on his property for over 60 years.

So as you look at these relics of early agriculture and rural industry in the district, you may compare them with the up-to-date modern versions of the same thing displayed in the Royal Show, and see for yourselves how progress has revolutionized agriculture in Australia today.

All of these implements are now on display in the Outdoor area behind the Museum with the exception of the roller referred to in the second last paragraph. It was either not completed or has since rotted away

Mr Bloom's Citrus Orchard was on the corner of Cochrane Street and Whitehorse Road where the light industrial area is located. Mr Stevens, a former councillor, had an orchard in Forest Hill where we now have Brentford Square.

Ted Arrowsmith.

Unveiling of Headstone on Joy Hester's grave. Saturday, 28th August at 2 pm at Box Hill Cemetery

Members have been invited by the Box Hill and District Historical Society to attend this unveiling. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion. To assist in catering please ring 03 9897 4167 Tuesdays, 11am or leave a message on the answering machine at other times.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Monday, 16 August at 8 pm at the Surrey Hills Historical Society, Union Road, Surrey Hills, Bernie Nitschke and some of his students at Luther College will give a talk on "Soldiers of the Shrine".

Thursday, 19th August at 8 pm at the Strabane Chapel, 29 Strabane Ave, Surrey Hills, Janine Burke will speak about the artist Joy Hester at the Box Hill Historical Society.

Saturday, 9th October at 1.30pm at our next General Meeting, Robyn Caddy will speak to members on "Collecting Buttons as a Hobby"

Sunday, 10 October 2 pm Wisteria Party. Don't forget!

The Year 2000 and all that!

We are privileged to be a part of a historical event in the commencement of the new millennium and we as a Historical Society should need to do something positive about it. So the following is a suggestion.

Our municipality has changed dramatically over the past 50 years from a rural shire to the large metropolitan City of Whitehorse. We have seen major developments in the way land is sub-divided and in housing styles, in the business community and in the way we shop. We need to do something positive to record the passing of the 20th century.

In 1979, Andrew Hillier took a number of photographs of our streetscapes and we could now return to record the changes that have taken place.

Here is the challenge - put a film in your camera and take some photos of your local neighbourhood. The houses of today will be quite different to those built in 2099 and the Historical Society of that day will be vitally interested in them as we are in those buildings built prior to the 1939 - 45 War.

If you want to go further the current streetscapes of our districts, especially those of our shopping centre need to be recorded, in addition to our schools, churches, offices, factories, major intersections, trees, etc. Think of the two new buildings just erected in Whitehorse Road, Nunawading for Brand Smart and Dick Smith. Is this new style of retailing the beginning of the next change in the way we are being enticed to shop?

There will need to be some co-ordination so if you are interested in being involved contact a member of the Committee (we hope a co-ordinator will be appointed) if you can help.

It is preferable that it be done in black and white film, rather than in colour as the photo will be longer lasting (we all know how colour photos can fade). The additional cost is a small one for future generations.

Ted Arrowsmith



"Fairy" Charlotte at the Wisteria Garden Party



The Tree That Moved!

Recently the Mitcham Lion's Club sought information on the emblem of their Club which is the weeping elm at Campbell's Croft. The following information given is of interest to us all and is worthy of including in this Newsletter.

Information about the "Ulmus glabra Camperdownii" transplanted from the Wunderlich Tile Co. property, Mitcham Road Mitcham, to Campbell's Croft, Boronia Road, Vermont, September 1984.

John Kirkpatrick planted the elm tree, c1910. He owned the land and established an orchard on it. The adjoining land was owned by the Wunderlich Tile Co. who subsequently bought John Kirkpatrick's land when it came on the market. The tree continued to survive and grow with probably very little horticultural attention.

In the early 1980s it was made known to the former City of Nunawading that the Wunderlich Tile Company's future plans were to cease manufacturing on their site and a request to rezone the land would be applied for. At this stage Mr. John Brandenburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Nunawading, approached the Company about the future of the elm which by now was a feature on Mitcham Road, particularly in spring and autumn, and, as the Company had no plans to preserve it, they were most agreeable to the City moving it.

Then 18 months was spent planning the move. The root and branch pruning in preparation for the removal of the tree took this period of time.

Happily the tree survived the trauma (and the heated 'fors' and 'against' the cost) and today is a great addition to the tree stock in our City of Whitehorse.

Congratulations to the Mitcham Lions for choosing such a worthwhile emblem. The tree is on the National Trust's Significant Tree register

From the Archives



Obituary - Mr William Cook - August 18, 1939

The death of Mr. William Cook, of Mitcham, familiarly known in the district as "Bill" which occurred last week, removes a well known figure from the community. The funeral, which was of a private nature, took place at Box Hill Cemetery.

In his younger days Mr. Cook was one of the hardy band of men who carted wood along White Horse Road to Melbourne, when the road was a mere track. About forty-three years ago he migrated to Western Australia where he engaged in carting from Southern Cross to Coolgardie and to Menzies. After some time in that occupation, he returned and settled on his orchard on White Horse Road, Mitcham, where he specialised in cherries to such an extent that he became known as the "Cherry King." It was his pet boast that his were always the first cherries on the market.

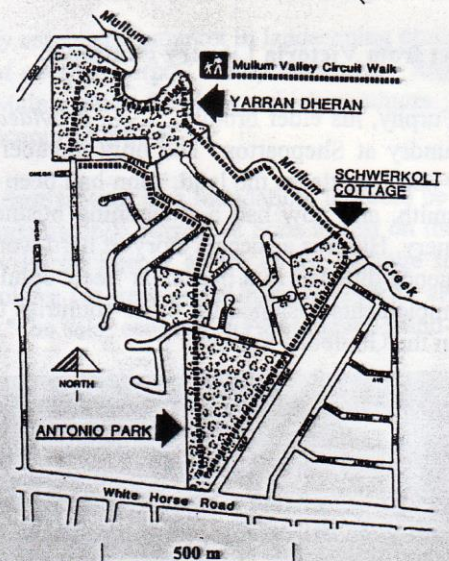
A bluff, hearty man, of extreme good nature, Mr. Cook was held in esteem and was liked by everybody. At one time he was on the vestry of Christ Church and took an active interest in its affairs. He was over eighty years of age when he died, and was predeceased many years ago by his wife. He is survived by his daughter, Miss Amy Cook.

Cook Road, Mitcham, was named for William Cook, who owned all the land in that vicinity.

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 Wednesdays. Visitors welcomed. Ring 9873 4946 to make an appointment at other times.*

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