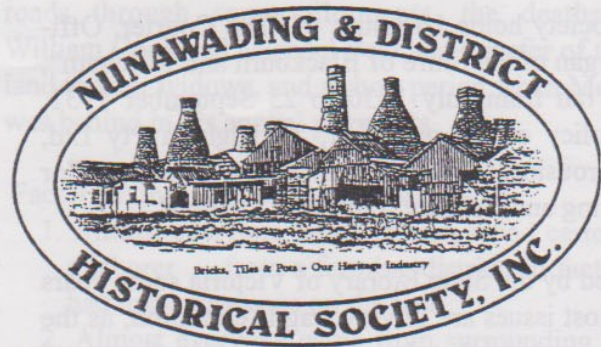


# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

President - Valda Arrowsmith 9874 1414  
Secretary - Barbara Keene 9874 4919  
Treasurer - Barbara Rogalski 9874 4668



Series 9. No. 5

A0012235J

October 2000

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

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Society is to foster historical interest and knowledge. To collect, document, research, preserve and exhibit items that show how people have lived and worked in the development of the Whitehorse area from human settlement to the present day.

## From the President

Unfortunately no nominations for the position of President at our recent Annual General Meeting, so I'm here for another year which will definitely be my last in this position.

We are grateful to Barbara Keene for accepting the position of secretary and Peter Simmenauer as minute secretary. Barbara Gardiner as our Secretary for six years has done a sterling job. She has given many hours to the Society in administration, meeting visitors and in opening up the complex for researchers and others. Among her contributions has been the co-ordination of the Friends of Schwerkolt Cottage and organizer of the Annual Wisteria Garden Party. (To say nothing of co-opting Bob for help). Sincere thanks Barbara for your contribution. Barbara Rogalski has agreed to continue as Treasurer - thanks Barb.

The Committee members are Joy Kenny, Judith Fry, Frances Warren, Anne Jones, Barbara Gardiner and we welcome Kevin Abbott. The Committee under Rule 15.7 of our Incorporation Papers can appoint Bill Gray, Clare Kelly and Jay Miller to the Committee. Thanks to these members we will have a full committee.

I have no further news to report on the possible extension to the Museum as we are waiting for a Conservation Architects Report. This should be available when Ms Lois Binnie returns from long service leave. The Heritage Trail will also progress when she returns.

The City of Whitehorse is now looking to the second stage of places to be protected on the Heritage Overlay on the Whitehorse Planning Scheme.

Those of us who supported Bob Gardiner on his carrying the Olympic Torch on Springvale Road had a real spine chilling experience. Bob was great with the crowd having his photo taken with all comers and keeping his happy smile.

We have included the photo a few of us "got in". Congratulations Bob.

Valda Arrowsmith



## STOP PRESS

**Working Bee- Saturday 30th September 10am to 12 noon.** Come help us tidy up for the Wisteria Garden Party

**WISTERIA GARDEN PARTY Sunday 8th October 2pm - 4pm.** Can you help? Please Ring Valda or Barbara if you can.

**Next Meeting -Saturday 14th October, at 1.30pm** Magdalen Bognar will show and talk on her collection of Hungarian embroidery.



The Society holds 16 issues of "The Courier, Official Organ of the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham", which ran from July 1930 to 25 September 1931. The policy of the publisher, T.J.Higham Pty Ltd, was a rousing "Two Sides to Every Question, For God King and Country, Pro Bono Publico".

Donated by the State Library of Victoria some years ago, most issues are in very fragile condition, as the acidic newsprint that they are printed on yellows and deteriorates over time. As the originals would fall to pieces even with careful handling, we have photocopied them so they will be accessible for reading. Although reduced in size, they are quite legible.

The papers contain some fascinating reading. Detailed accounts of the proceedings at the Box Hill Police Court, reports from the meetings of Blackburn & Mitcham Shire Council and Ringwood Borough Council, of activities of local societies and of local football and cricket matches, as well as advertisements from local traders provide insights into local events, personalities and attitudes during the early Depression era that are often not recalled in oral histories and other recollections of participants.

For example, 17 July 1931, Council discussed the question of permitting the unemployed to work for sustenance; bicyclists riding without lights at night; noisy motorcycles "There seem to be a number of young men about Burwood who have nothing better to do than to travel up and down the streets on their motor bikes ... making a fearful noise". "Butcher" Bladin, "Pulling down one of his characteristic skyscraping marks, posted eighth goal for Kilsyth" (10 July 1931); Frank Fisher, Blackburn Auctioneer, advertised that he was also an agent for A.W.A. Radiola wireless sets at twenty-nine pounds ten shillings and thirty-nine pounds ten- the Blackberry Pest was rampant in Main Street Blackburn; and a case for assault (by sprinkling with a hose) was dismissed by the local court. 15,000 onlookers watched the 6th Battalion Volunteer Force conduct the "Battle of Mont. Albert training exercise in November 1930, although "a number of machine-gun spare parts were lost during the battle, and anyone finding any of these were respectfully asked to return same" to the Drill Hall, Surrey Hills.

Council considered a request to abolish the "prohibition of the passage of cattle along the White

horse Road at certain hours in December 1930; the Rialto Theatre, Box Hill was showing Walleye Beery in "The Big House", Norma Talmadge in "New York Lights" and Clara Bow in "No Limit" in May 1931, there was an article by Henry Ford, "Why I Believe in Prohibition" in the issue of 28 November 1930, and the serial "For the Love of Jennie Adair" by G.W.Appleton went on, and on...

Anyone with a relative who was involved in a local event or organisation during this period might be able to find details of their activities in the pages of "The Courier". There may be some surprises!

Peter Simmenauer

---

## Dates for your diary

**Friday and Saturday October 20 & 21**  
**HERITAGE STEAM FESTIVAL AT THE PORT OF ECHUCA.** Entertainment for all - 8 pm on Saturday Evening - Night sailpast of the World's largest paddleboat fleet and fireworks display.

**Saturday, October 21st.**  
**FAMILY HISTORY OPEN DAY** 10am - 4pm  
World Vision Conference Centre, 1 Vision Drive East Burwood. (off Springvale Road) At 12 noon talk on Irish Family History. Tours of National Archives. Information AIGS 9877 3789

**Sunday, October 22nd. Antonio Park Primary School is celebrating its 40th Birthday until Friday 27th October .**  
Open day on the Sunday 1pm - 5pm. Sausage Sizzle, Afternoon Tea, Paint a Tile, Memorabilia Display.  
**Dinner Dance Friday 27th October** \$35 per head at Karralyka Centre. Ring Anne Griffiths or Dallas Boulton at school 9874 4371 for details.

**Saturday December 9th. General Meeting**  
This is our Christmas Lunch and General Meeting. Please bring food to share. Lunch at 12 noon. General Meeting commences at 1.30pm. Speaker will be Arthur Tonkin who will share his knowledge of the Riverboats on the Murray and other Riverina rivers. It is a very interesting talk. Please bring your friends.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*This article researched by the late Keith Patterson, a former Secretary of the Society, appeared in the June/July Newsletter of 1970. The Nunawading referred to is the area covered by the former City of Nunawading.*

### LAND SETTLEMENT IN NUNAWADING

Nunawading was the site of one of the most successful agricultural settlements of the eighteen-sixties. By the Land Act of 1865, it was possible to take out licences to occupy small to moderate-sized areas on or near a gold field for residence or cultivation. In most eligible districts, there was a great rush for licences from all sorts of people, from small and miners to teachers and policemen. Many of them were only dabblers who were glad to have a second source of income, but gave up when they found it required more time and work than they were prepared to give to it.

Because of its nearness to Warrandyte, Nunawading was open to applications and a combination of circumstances made the Nunawading settlers outstandingly successful. This was particularly gratifying, as the country between Nunawading and Lilydale was judged, on the basis of crude soil analysis, to be particularly barren.

Almost all unoccupied land was taken up between 1866 and 1869. Land around the present Vermont shopping centre, between Boronia and Terrara Roads was claimed by Isaac Moore, Thomas Jobbins, Joseph Cann, Thomas Bowen and John Keenan. Abraham Rooks, David Boyle and Francis Voigt took up the area in Canterbury Road between Mt Pleasant and Rooks Roads. Patrick Geraghty, John Matters, John McClelland and Robert Sergeant settled along Whitehorse Road between Springvale and Mitcham Roads. William Cook and Ainger settled on the north side of Whitehorse Road, east of Mitcham Road. Towards Donvale, along Mitcham Road, were John Brenock, William Logan, Patrick McKean, Rudy Larkins, George Hislop, John Wakefield, Michael Britt, James Kent, Robert Simpson, Carl Schmidt and Herman Herr. All except one made a success of his holding and their transactions went smoothly to the stage when they received the freehold of the land. This was unique, as no other district came within sight of 100% success.

The only disturbances to a completely uneventful

process of selection and purchase were the cutting of roads through some allotments, the deaths of William Cook and Michael Britt and transfer of their land to their widows, and a short period when Moore was behind in his annual payments.

Factors in this excellent record were:-

1. Almost everyone was a farmer, wood carter or a laborer from a farming district, in fact, all had had experience on the land.
2. Almost everyone came from surrounding districts - Hawthorn, Camberwell, Box Hill and Doncaster, and had some local knowledge.
3. Almost everyone lived on the land and preferred mixed farming, including cultivation, fruit and vegetable growing, poultry-keeping and dairying, so that if one failed, another might succeed. The poorest result was that of Jobbins, who was described as a gentleman and his address given as Prahran. He does not seem to have lived in the district.

In contrast to other districts, where selectors usually fenced, cleared, cultivated and built a small house, the Nunawading settlers in addition frequently had stables, dairies, fowl-houses or piggeries, and one or two waterholes on each block.

Results in Warrandyte, which should have benefited most, were very different. There were about twelve selectors, but the successful ones were mostly in that part of the parish touching Ringwood shopping centre of today, whose experience and activities were very similar to those of Nunawading. Some did take up land near the present site of Warrandyte. Apparently all abandoned the land except a printer from Richmond, who secured an area near Pound Bend.

K. Patterson

#### Bruce Reynolds

It is with regret we record the death Bruce Reynolds. Our first contact with Bruce was when he came to give us a "showing" of his antique jewelry and other pieces. He joined the Society and enthusiastically embraced our aims for the success of the Society and the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex. Bruce joined the Committee and took the responsibility for displays at which he excelled, organized fund raising and used his expertise to assess the collection and organize those necessary repairs. He will be greatly missed



## Jean Field

Norma Jamieson has advised that Mrs. Jean Field died on 19th July, 2000 aged 91 years. Jean Field made a remarkable contribution to heritage and local history at both Nunawading and Sorrento.

Along with Pat Faggetter and other supporters, she was instrumental in saving our very precious Schwerkolt Cottage from demolition in the early sixties. It was through their efforts that the City of Nunawading purchased the property and restored the building. Jean was the first secretary of the Committee of Management for the Schwerkolt Cottage Reserve and worked hard to obtain furnishings for the Cottage. We have copies of her correspondence in our collection.

At Sorrento, where she had spent much of her childhood and where she and Fred built a holiday house in the late forties, she founded the Nepean Historical Society and was responsible for the establishment of the Pioneer Memorial Gardens which are located next to the interesting museum of the Society.

Present day residents of both these areas owe a great debt of gratitude to Jean Field.

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY.

We welcome a new member, Christine Pitt of Nunawading. We hope Christine will enjoy the activities of the Society and look forward to the pleasure of her company.

Our Annual General Meeting was well attended and I don't know about you but I found the film on Nunawading an absolute delight and only wished it was longer. We also thank the members who shared not only their mementos but their treasured memories with us all. Our next general meeting will be on Saturday 14th October and our guest speaker is Magdelana Bogнар displaying and talking on her fascinating Hungarian Embroidery Collection.

Don't forget our Wisteria Garden Party on Sunday 8th October which will feature Jason the Teddy Tale Man, the Brumbies Bush Band amongst other activities. In order to have the Complex looking its sparkling best your help on the Saturday 30th September Working Bee would be appreciated.

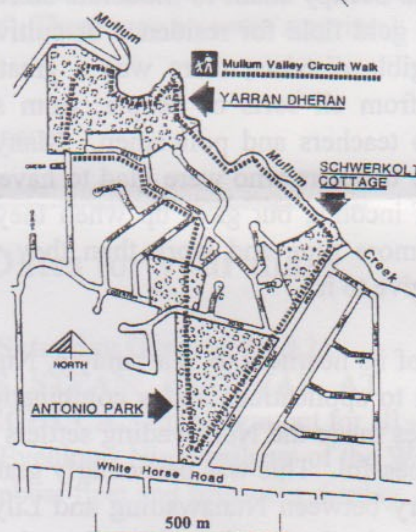
We are pleased to advise that Jess Barnes is out of hospital and at her new address - Wantirna Village, Apartment 402, 2 Old Stud Road, Wantirna, 3152. Telephone 9887 4012.

## REMEMBER

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



Museum Accreditation Program

*Mr Mr Mr*  
Accredited Museum

ISSN 1328-2395

Newsletter Editors  
Barbara Gardiner  
Ted Arrowsmith.  
Typed by  
Barbara Gardiner  
Ted Arrowsmith.  
Mailing Assistance  
Val Riches