

# *Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc. NEWSLETTER*



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

## From the President

This is our last newsletter for 2000. It is hard to believe how quickly this year has gone. I know we do an annual report, but now seems a fitting time to look at our achievements.

Following our accreditation we have reviewed the panel report and have implemented some of their suggestions. The auditing of the collection on display was done by several members and the checking of the items in storage has been continued by Frances Warren and Margaret Skey. This work is close to being finished.

The photo negative album has been audited. We have made prints made of those negatives where we did not have prints. These proved to be very interesting and also frustrating as we did not have any information about some of them. We will include a copy in the newsletters from time to time to see if you have local knowledge and can recognize some of those in the photos.

During the year we have been able to have restoration work on four dolls and a sewing box with abalone inlay work repaired. Two clocks have been restored by John Skey, who is a professional clock maker. These are in Schwerkott Cottage. To hear the chimes when passing gives the Cottage a very authentic atmosphere.

We raised just on \$240 at a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Hardware. This was organized by Barbara Gardiner with the

assistance of Peter Simmenauer, Frances Warren, Judith Fry, Barbara Rogalski and myself.

We participated in the City of Whitehorse "Spring Festival" in October with a display of toys, tools and photographs. The day was a great success.

As mentioned in the October Newsletter, Ms Lois Binnie, Manager Arts and Culture, City of Whitehorse, has prepared a brief for the appointment of a conservation consultant. This should be made before the end of the year.

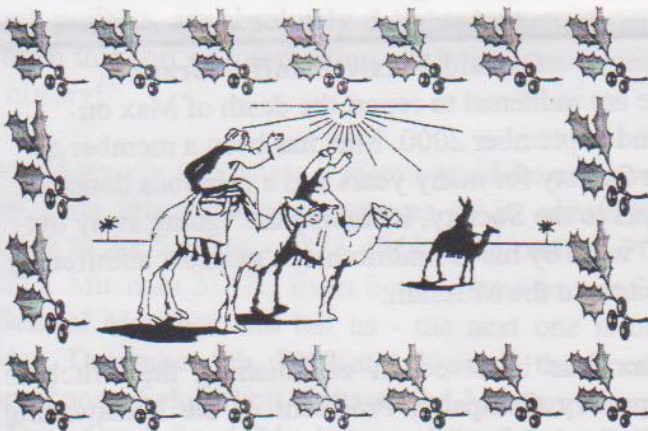
The Heritage Trail is progressing. The target for the installation of the interpretive signs and a brochure is April, 2001.

All of the above could not happen without the hours and enthusiasm given by members and my thanks for your support goes to each one of you

As is the practice for our December meeting we will meet at 12noon for a shared lunch, but the meeting will be at 1.30pm if that suits you better.

I also thank all members of the Society for your interest in the history of our Municipality and wish you a joyous Christmas and peace and good health in 2001.

Valda Arrowsmith



### *A happy and safe Christmas and best wishes for 2001*

**General Meeting and Christmas Lunch  
Saturday December 9th. Lunch at 12 noon.  
Bring lunch to share. Meeting at 1.30pm  
Speaker will be Arthur Tonkin who will share  
his knowledge of the Riverboats on the Murray  
and its tributaries.  
Please bring your friends.**

#### 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 Archives.

The following article appeared in July 1968 Newsletter of the Society.

#### FRUITGROWING IN OUR DISTRICT

From the early days of settlement in this district, fruit growing has been successfully carried on. All orchards had their dams for irrigation, pumps and gravity being used in conjunction for this necessary chore. Horse-drawn wagons took fruit to market for many years before motor transport took over. Cup Day meant Sunday School picnics to Blackburn Lake in past years, but other picnickers also would arrive and help themselves liberally to the ripening cherries in the local orchards. Owners of these properties were always glad when this day was past.

Victoria can claim the distinction of being, the first state in the Commonwealth to have cool storage of fruit, and the first to export pears overseas. The "Somerset" in 1910 took the first shipment of William Pears. Victoria is still the main exporting state for pears, but ranks second to Tasmania in the amount of apples sent to other parts of the world.

The first cool-store in this district was a Government one at Doncaster; others followed later. The Blackburn cool-store was opened in 1918, the first engineer being the former operator of the Box Hill-Doncaster tram.

In 1930, owing to difficulties with space and particularly with overseas markets, local growers decided to form a company, with an overseas representative to protect their interests. Pears were exported first, later apples, plums for a time, and for a short period, cherries to New Zealand.

This company, the Blue Moon Fruit Co-operative Ltd. has prospered and now has subsidiary companies in N.E. Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. Fruits handled are pears, apples and citrus fruits.

The small group who began this venture could not have envisaged the world-wide contacts which developed in later years for their fine company.

*From information supplied by Mr. F. Moore, Canterbury Road, Blackburn, in 1968.*

P.S Blue Moon was sold and redeveloped as a series of wholesale outlets for a variety of businesses. It can be seen as you approach Blackburn Station on the north side of the railway line.

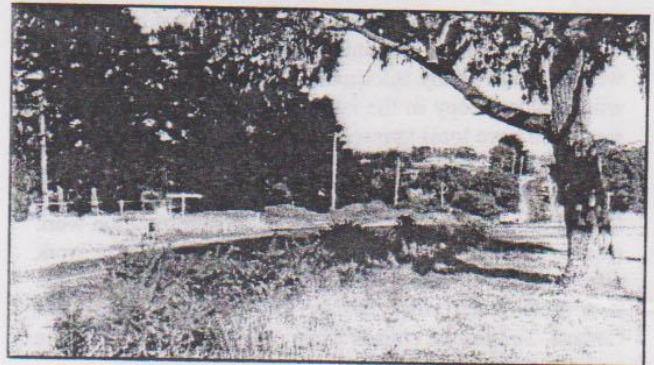
#### Congratulations to our Bob.

Bob Gardiner has been awarded an Australian Sports Medal by the Australian Government in recognition of a lifetime in sport and sport administration. Congratulations, Bob, from all Society members. A well deserved honour.



*General Store, cr. Springvale and Canterbury Roads Forest Hills.*

Can you recall it?



*cr. Springvale and Canterbury Roads, Forest Hill looking West. Forest Hill Chase would be located on the hill under the bough of the gum tree*

#### Oswald Maxwell Joffre Grant

We are saddened to report the death of Max on 22nd September 2000. Max has been a member of the Society for many years and a generous donor of items to the Society, including the "going away outfit" worn by his Grandmother, a garment admired by visitors to the Museum.

Max was involved in establishing the Mitcham Repertory Company, President of the Nunawading Arts Council, a Nunawading Citizen of the year and was once named by the Gazette as "Mr Nunawading" for his contribution to the community.

Thanks Max - we will miss you.



## Street Names Project - Help!

One of the most common enquiries made to the Nunawading and District Historical Society is "How did my street get its name?" Often we are able to help, because of the information that people, sometimes those who bought their house soon after the area was subdivided, have passed on to us.

We have recently commenced compiling a central data base of this information, covering streets in the areas of Blackburn, Blackburn North, Blackburn South, Forest Hill, Nunawading, Mitcham, Vermont, Vermont South and those parts of Burwood East that are part of the former City of Nunawading. It is estimated that so far we have information on about 10% of streets in these areas.

Very few origins of these names were documented at the time, although occasionally some are revealed in a report by a local newspaper, such as recent articles on streets named after local men who were killed in action during World War 2.

As so much of this information is only available through the recollections of local residents, it is important to gather it while their memories are still fresh.

We are asking you to make a special effort to ensure that this information is passed on to us now, whether it is your own recollection, or that of an older relative or friend. Sometimes people who lived here some years ago have moved elsewhere, but are still in touch with people in these areas, and would be happy to help.

People who have recently moved into the local community, as well as those involved in school-based and other research projects, are absolutely delighted when we can give them this sort of information - it is real grass roots local history!

We would greatly appreciate it if you could let us know of any such information, or sources of it, either by telephone to the Society - 9873 4946 or by mail to PO Box 272, Mitcham 3132. Even better, come to one of our General Meetings and tell us - the next one is on Saturday, December 9th, 2000 at 1.30pm in the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham, and the Speaker will be Arthur Tonkin who will share his knowledge of Riverboats on the Murray and other Riverina rivers.

Please help now!

Peter Simmenauer

## Notes from the Secretary

Our December Meeting will start with a basket lunch at 12.00 and it will be greatly appreciated if you could bring a plate of food to be shared by all. Do remember, however, that if you can't come that early that our Meeting begins at 1.30 as usual and we would be very pleased to see you then.

Our February Meeting will be held on Saturday, 10th February, 2001 and the Mayor of Whitehorse, Cr. Jessie MacCallum, will speak on her year in the Chair and the future plans for the City of Whitehorse.

Our normal date for the April Meeting falls on Easter Saturday so we will be changing the date as soon as we can speak to John Lahey who has been booked to speak to us on Federation as, of course, 2001 is the Centenary of Federation. We will give you notice as soon as we can confirm the date.

We have changed the format for posting our Newsletter to you in order to save the cost of envelopes. I'm sure that you have noticed that most organisations use this format for mailing and for the same reasons.

We welcome three new members, Ivan and Pat Holt and Barbara Hurley, and hope they have a happy time with us.

I wish all members a happy and joyous Christmas and may the New Year bring nothing but good things.

Barbara Keene

### THANKS:

for the provision to the Society of space to display our photographs.

John Cybula, Estate Agent, 108 Canterbury Road, Blackburn South, and

Ian Armstrong of Drake & Co, Estate Agents, 483 Whitehorse Mitcham

### REMEMBER

**Box Hill Cemetery Records and Nunawading Gazette for 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.



**President**

Valda Arrowsmith 9874 1414

**Secretary**

Barbara Keene 9874 4919

**Treasurer**

Barbara Rogalski 9874 4668

**Editors**

Barbara Gardiner

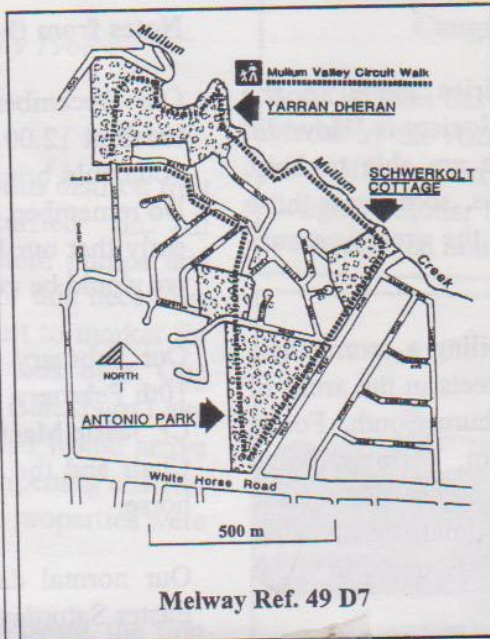
Ted Arrowsmith.

**Distribution**

Val Riches

**Our Society on the Internet.**

[www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/)



*The Society acknowledge  
the support of  
City of Whitehorse*

*Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum  
Complex is accredited under the*

Museum Accreditation Program



Accredited Museum

***Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc.  
Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.***

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