

# *Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc. NEWSLETTER*



A0012235J ABN 44 352 041 634  
Series 9, No. 11 October 2001

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

## From the President

It is with some trepidation that I take up the role of the President of the Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc. Valda Arrowsmith will be a hard act to follow. She is totally committed to the Society and with Barbara Gardiner and later, Barbara Keene in the role of Secretary, they were a formidable team leading the Society into the 21st Century.

Since my ten year stint as Secretary to Bill Gray a number of years ago, before the advent of computers in the Society, historical societies have come a long way. Not being computer literate, I will be relying on the skill of our Secretary, Peter Simmenauer and hoping that being a fourth generation Mitchamite will help.

I look forward to meeting you all at the Wisteria Garden Party on the 14th October and the City of Whitehorse Spring Festival on the 21st October. If you can help in any way in making these two events successful, please contact me or Peter Simmenauer, or a member of the Committee

Judith Fry

## A Bucketful of Berries.

This collection of oral histories collected by volunteers working through the City of Whitehorse Community Houses has recently been reprinted and copies are available at \$10.00.

For further information ring Anne Jones 9873 5274

**WISTERIA GARDEN PARTY**  
Sunday, 14th October 2 - 4pm  
Celebrate the coming of Spring  
Attractions -  
"Cuddles & Kisses" Animal Farm  
Brumbies Bush Band  
Old Fashioned Games for  
the Children.  
Children - come in your favourite  
dress up. Admission free. Small  
charge for adults to view Cottage  
& Museum.

## NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 13th October 2001 at 1.30pm.

The speaker will be Jay Miller, a member of the Society and her subject will be "The Stables at Stonnington". Jay has recently been working at Stonnington, an early Colonial home and her subject should prove to be very interesting.

Saturday 8th December 2001.

This will be our Christmas meeting and we will have lunch together commencing at 12noon. Please bring lunch to share. The General Meeting will follow at 1.30pm, after which two of our recently joined members, Charlie and Lorraine Findlay will speak on their exciting and unexpected finds in the pursuit of collecting bottles and their history.

## 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.

## WHITEHORSE SPRING FESTIVAL.

The City of Whitehorse Spring Festival will be held on Sunday 21st October, from 10am to 4pm at the Civic Centre -Nunawading.

The theme will celebrate the Centenary of Federation with a Federation Fashion. This is a great opportunity for we adults to "dress up", so get your bright ideas to work and participate.

The Society will participate in the fun and contribute photographs and artifacts from early last century.

We will need members to be on duty at the display. Can you help?

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Recently an early Lindberg Foster Refrigerator was donated to the Society by Graeme Stone of the Burwood History Group. This model of the fridge was manufactured from the mid '40s to '50s. This example was used by the one family until recently, and is still in working order.

It is cream in colour, has a single door, and a white enamelled cool compartment which includes a small freezer. Wood is used as insulation in the door, and possibly elsewhere - it is very heavy!

This will extend the collection of artifacts in this area and will compliment the coolgardie and meat safes, and an ice chest already in the Museum Collection. It shows how food was kept from spoiling in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Our thanks to Peter Simmenauer and Norm Foun for transporting it.

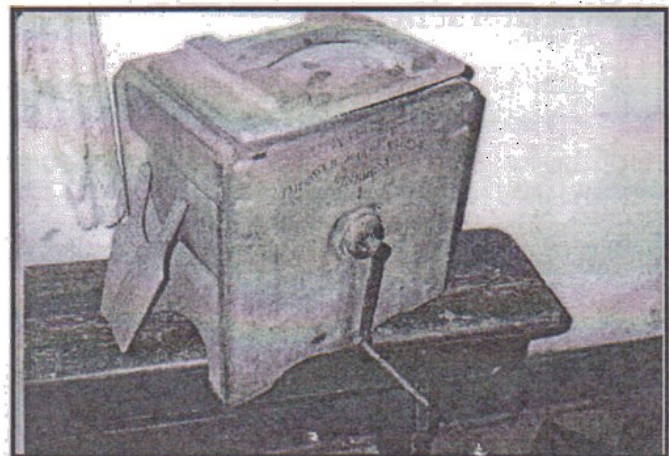
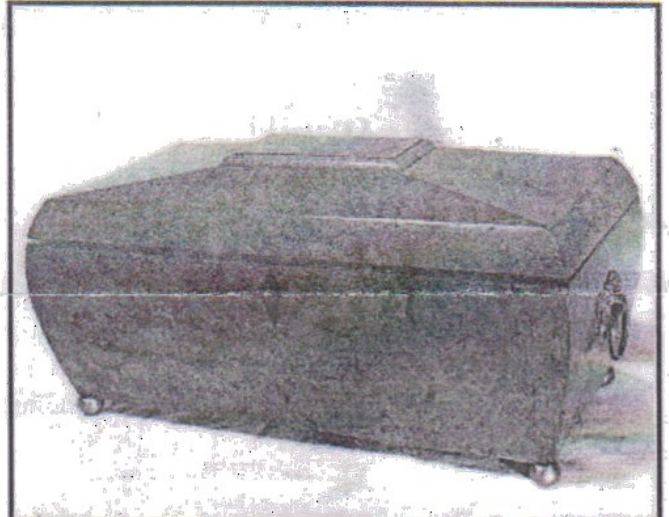
A Snare Drum has been donated by the Nunawading Pipe Band (formerly the Highland Pipe Band). This was an early instrument used by the Band. The Band has achieved many championship successes including the Edinburgh Festival.

## THANK YOU, TED GOODE.

Not many members of the Society except those of the Wednesday Group will be aware of the contribution being made by Ted Goode. Ted has been photographing our more significant artifacts so that we would have a pictorial record in the event of the Society being able to display our collection on the Internet and also as a record of the item. Ted's dedication to this task has resulted in nearly 500 artifacts being photographed, and at the cost to the Society of the

materials used. In addition he has taken a set of photographs of Deep Creek Road and the surrounds of the creek and the Cottage prior to the recent work being carried out on the Deep Creek Road Bridge.

Included below are some of Ted's photographs of the Tea Caddy donated by Doris and Grant Mattingley and one of a butter churn. These shows his dedication to this task.



*Opening Today!*

# REGAL

THEATRE  
HARTWELL

Director: *Mr. J. W. G. and Mrs. A. M. G.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The Theatre is completely SOLD OUT for Tonight's Performance. Book Now for next week.

For Directions: Ring W. 1111

OPENING PROGRAMME  
Screening for Our Feet...

BREATH TAKING IN ITS BEQUEST!

## RAMONA

with *Laura YOUNG in Colcot!*  
DON AMECHE  
LEAT TAYLOR

CLASS EVERYBODY DANCE  
with *Cecily Courtneidge*

Special of Today at 7.30 PM  
*SHIRLEY TEMPLE*  
*POOR LITTLE RICKI GAL*

6 Mickey Mouse Cartoons  
Call For General Exhibition

CONSTRUCTED at a cost of £30,000 the luxurious Regal Theatre at the corner of Teorak and Kimberwell Roads Hartwell, embodies every modern improvement for added comfort and entertainment... Just a few of the unusual features of this theatre are: a commodious car park; an indoor bicycle park; a spacious roof garden; ample parking space indoors for perambulators; a soundproof nursery where mothers with babies can enjoy the show; modern air conditioning; and the latest word in sound reproducing and biograph equipment.

## Victoria's Suburban Cinemas.

*This interesting article by George Ivanoff appeared in the Victorian Historical Journal Vol 66, No. 2, October 1995. I am sure that many of us can remember the Regent and Rialto at Box Hill, and the pictures shown in the Mitcham Memorial Hall and the theatre at Ringwood.*

The suburban cinema was more than just a place to watch films. It was a place for social contact. A family could spend an evening together or with friends from the same locality. In effect the cinema was an extension of the family environment, and was treated as that. Domesticity, in all forms, was perpetuated in the suburbs, while city centres were exactly the opposite - their very size created a certain anonymity for an individual.

Perhaps the greatest attraction of the cinema for adolescents and unmarried couples was the opportunity to spend time with the opposite sex. The suburban cinema provided the perfect opportunity for young couples to spend time together, especially in the darkness of the back rows. Cinema, in fact, became an important aspect of the courting ritual.

Saturday afternoon matinees were very popular with children and adolescents, and the cinemas showed appropriate films. The Regal in Hartwell maintained that:

"Parents may rest assured that only the best of entertainment, embodying wholesome adventure, educational items and enjoyable comedy, will be provided for the little ones."

It was not, however, just the films which attracted the children. It was a chance to get together with other kids and have some fun. Roy Holt remembers some of the things that he and other children did:

"Nobody ever ate their ice blocks. They used to... break them up and pelt them around the theatre at random. You

know, you'd be sure to hit somebody... another favourite trick was to go out and buy some peanuts - peanuts in the shell - and then throw all the shells into the aisles, so that anybody who came down the aisle, it would be 'crunch, crunch, crunch'... And the people that used to sit up in the dress circle, they used to throw well-chewed chewing gum down below."

The chance to get away with doing something that is not allowed is very attractive to children, and the cinema provided the perfect opportunity. In the darkness it was easy for them to retain their anonymity, and difficult for the management to stop the pranks. The cinema became part of the children's environment.

If the children were happy to spend time away from their parents, then the parents were glad to be relieved of their children for a while. The Saturday afternoon matinees provided parents with the opportunity to keep the children entertained and out of the way. They could also be content in the knowledge that their children were watching such wholesome and educational material as the Regal claimed to show.

Many cinemas built in the 1930s and 1940s also catered for mothers with small children by providing a 'crying room'. This was a sound-proof area where babies and young children would not disturb the other patrons. The Regal provided not only a crying room (which they called 'a nursery'), but also 'ample parking space indoors for perambulators'. The souvenir programme had an illustration of its 'nursery', accompanied by the following explanation:

No need to worry about baby crying during the performance at the Regal Theatre. This modern theatre is equipped with a private, sound-proof theatre, containing comfortable lounge chairs. In this special room for mothers with young children you will be able to hear well, and your view of the screen will be equal to that of any seat in the main auditorium. Therefore, mothers, forget your worries at the Regal, take the kiddies into the nursery, which has been specially provided for family parties.

The exhibitors providing this service were aiming at a family audience. Publicity for the Austral Theatre in Collingwood claimed that the management would endeavour to make 'our theatre a fitting place of entertainment for mothers, daughters, sisters and wives - a place of comfort that makes it appeal to all'.

A cinema added an extra dimension to a suburban shopping strip, creating customers for surrounding businesses. Many early suburban cinemas did not have their own snack bar, and so were dependent on the local stores. Marcia Rowe remembers that as a child, 'you came out at half time and you could go to the Lolly shop... and of course some of the kids would go over and get chips at the chip shop'. Some stores deliberately stayed open late in order to catch the patrons as they left the cinema in the evenings. 'There was Lackadays opposite the Regal Theatre... stayed open always until 11 o'clock when the pictures were out and you know lots of people went down there for suppers...'

Cinemas created both problems and possibilities for the public transport system. Prior to mass car ownership, the majority of cinema patrons used public transport, and so overcrowding often resulted after an evening session ended. The manager of the Burnley Theatre would usually ring the Hawthorn Depot to tell them when the show would finish, so that the depot would arrange for extra trams to be waiting.

## Foreign Language Cinemas

Prior to the Second World War the majority of Australians were of English, Scottish and Irish origin. With the gradual loosening of immigration restrictions after the war, the entrance was cleared for many continental European migrants. While the largest number of migrants still came from the British Isles, many were now also coming from southern European countries such as Greece and Italy. Of the 2.8 million migrants who arrived in Australia between 1947 and 1971, more than 650,000 were of southern European origin. They were the



## VICTORIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2002

This festival will be conducted between the 30th March to 14th April 2002. The theme will be "Beyond the Big Smoke". The date of the Nunawading and District Historical Society's OPEN DAY will be Sunday 7th April 2002.

## WANTED

We have had an inquiry relating to the Tun-stall?Nunawading Cricket, established in 1927. Do you know about it or have or know of a photograph of club members or of the Sports Ground (now the Nunawading Recreation Centre in Silver Grove.

## THANK YOU

-for paying your dues so promptly and to those who are still to renew your subscription could you please send to me as soon as possible. It was gratifying to see so many members at the A.G.M adding a donation, so I thank you also for that.

Barbara Rogalski - Treasurer

## Oral History Workshop

Presented by Oral History Assoc. Vic Branch led by Lesley, on Saturday 20th October 2001, 9.30am to 4.30pm, at the New International Bookshop, Trades Hall, corner Victoria and Lygon Streets, Carlton.  
**Cost: \$30 OHAA members, \$40 non-members, \$35 concession.**

Inquiries and registrations to Lesley Alves, telephone (03) 9438 2791

## WORKING BEE

Thank you to the following members who turned up for the working bee on the 29th September -  
Barbara and Bob Gardiner  
Margaret and John Skey  
Margaret Eklund  
Frances Warren  
Jay Miller  
Valda and Ted Arrowsmith  
Norm Foun

To maintain our high standard of care and cleanliness and meet the accreditation standards this regular cleaning of the Cottage and Museum is essential.

Our next working bee will be on 1st December at 9.30am.

Thank you Ian Nethercote for the material from your mother's collection on the Schwerkolts

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Current to 6th November.** Exhibition of the illustrations included in **BANKSIAS Volume 111** by Celia Rosser in the Box Hill Town Hall Art Space, 9am - 5pm weekdays.

**7th - 14th October Mullum Mullum Festival** Various activities are taking place over the two week-ends. Contact phone number 0500 802 804 (standard call costs apply)

**20th & 21st October HERITAGE STEAM FESTIVAL - Port of Echuca.** Ring 03 5482 4248 for details.

**Sunday 28th October at 7.15pm MOONLIGHT TOUR of the KANGAROO GROUND CEMETERY.** Cost \$5.00 or \$10 per family. Phone 9712 0363 Or 9712 0311.

**Saturday, 9th February** is the date for our first meeting in 2001. Please note it in your diary.

Thanks, **Bob Gardiner** for repairing that the Display Cabinet in the Museum. A difficult repair!

## NEW MEMBERS.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members.

June Ventouras of Nunawading  
Val & Fred Smith of Mitcham  
Louise Blake of Ferntree Gully  
Lorraine Chambers of Mitcham  
Brian & Jacqueline Duvoisin of Nunawading

We look forward to seeing them at our activities.

## Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	Items catalogued	2880
Documents	Items catalogued	3286
Photographs	Items catalogued	2870

## 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.

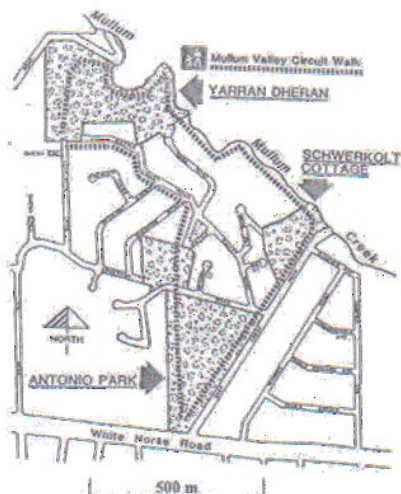
**President**  
 Judith Fry 9874 4220  
**Secretary**  
 Peter Simmenauer 9877 0141  
**Treasurer**  
 Barbara Rogalski 9874 4668

**Editors** Barbara Gardiner  
 Ted Arrowsmith

**Distribution** Val Riches

**Our Society on the Internet.**

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



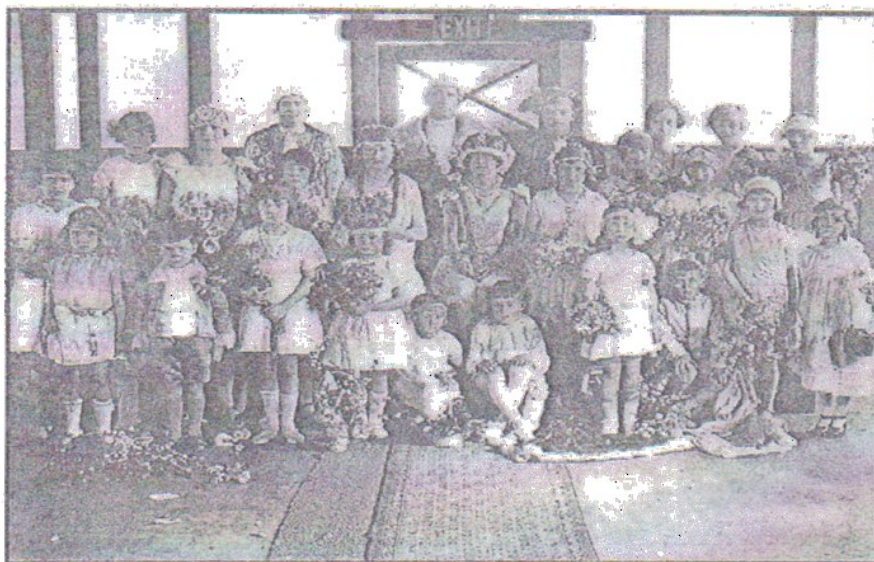
Melway Ref. 49 D7



*Nunawading and District  
 Historical Society, Inc.  
 acknowledge the support  
 from the  
 City of Whitehorse  
 Museum Accreditation Program*

*Mr/Mr/Mr*  
 Accredited Museum

ISSN 1328-2395



The picture shows the members of a Queen Carnival assembling for their participation in the Queen Carnival in 1928. Whilst we have many of the names of those in the photo, can you recognize any one.

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

Deep Creek Road, Mitcham, Vic, 3132 (Melway Ref. 49 D7)  
 if undeliverable please return to P.O.Box 272 Mitcham, 3132, Vic

Mr. Peter Simmenauer  
 6 Stewart Avenue,  
 Blackburn South  
 3130

