

Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc. NEWSLETTER



A0012235J ABN 44 352 041 634
Series 10. No. 4 August 2002

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

From the President

How quickly the time has gone since the last Annual General Meeting. I can't believe it is that time of the year again.

There always seems to be something going on at the Historical Society. We just seem to have time to reflect on one successful function and its time to organize the next.

On Saturday 31st August, at 1.30 pm at Christ Church Mitcham Forster Hall we are presenting "Fashion Through the Ages", sponsored by Nunawading Arts Council. Come along for an afternoon's entertainment. Following the August function will be the Annual "Wisteria Party" on Sunday 9th October.

At the June meeting much interest was shown in Arthur Tonkin's talk on "The Outer Circle Railway". It was interesting to note that our railways started in private hands, and were then taken over by the Government. The quotation "Nothing is new under the sun", applies to a lot of happenings.

The extension to the Museum is to go ahead and our new car park off Deep Creek Road is also being planned.

We welcome two new members, John Sears of East Burwood and Roger Rooks of Montrose. Roger is a former resident and a descendant of Cr. Rooks after whom Rooks Road is named.

Judith Fry

STOP PRESS

Council has advised that our Governor, His Excellency, John Landy, will be visiting our Municipality on Monday 9th September. He is to visit the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex between 10 and 10.25am. You are invited to meet the Governor over morning tea. Please arrive by 9.30 am.



*"Fashion
Through the Ages"*
*A Parade of Historical Costumes
and Afternoon Tea*
Saturday 31st August, 2002, 1.30pm

*Forster Hall, Anglican Church
Cnr. Edward Street and Whitehorse Road.
Mitcham*

Donation \$7

*Contact Barbara Gardiner 98746592
Barbara Keene 98744919
Sponsored by Nunawading Arts Council, Inc.*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 10 August at 1.30 pm. This will be followed by a talk by Doug Livermore, a former orchardist in Morack Road, Vermont will speak on "Orcharding Today and Yesterday".

Nominations are required for the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members. A nomination form is enclosed

WORKING BEE

Because of the Governor's visit the working bee will now be on the 7th September at 9.30 pm.

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

A further excerpt from Denise Moorhouse's draft on the history of the former City of Nunawading started in the April Newsletter.

Through the Forest.

Dennis intended to make use of the land he had recently purchased at public auction. He had no desire to possess land, wait until the value rose, then sell it. Apart from the fact that he had no desire, he was not a wealthy man and he could not afford years of waiting. True, he had enough money to buy a horse and dray and the essentials to begin farming in this wild country they had decided to call home.

The horse was a sturdy little cob. Dennis had felt that his short legs would be better suited to the rough track out east than a more aristocratic horse. This horse had to do everything. Pull the dray, carry him on trips back into Port Phillip or around the district and yet have strength to pull a small plough when he had cleared the ground.

Dennis was fortunate in having money to buy a horse, his hardships would be more than halved with a sturdy animal to do the heavy work. Some of the other settlers in the colony were poverty stricken and yet the courage they shared with their wives would carry them through. Determination, courage and faith were the essential qualities in this new land. Back home a man had needed background and education to make a financial success of his life, but here that would not be necessary. Each man hoped that with success in the new life they could give their children the education that would be needed in the years when the colony was maturing and no longer was success a clearly defined battle with nature. Other factors would enter into success when the next two or three generations began their separate lives.

The sun was hot, unbearably hot and the flies swarmed over the horse, Dennis and his family as they made their way to their land. They had not been in the colony for long, and this was the beginning of the first summer. Freckles were showing in a fine dust across the nose of his dark haired daughter and his son was covered with them.

Dennis began to realize how different life would be. The velvet caps on the boy would have to be changed to wide brimmed felt ones, the girl would need too, bonnets to shade her whole face. In place of the pale skinned women he had always admired would be tanned skins and the soft dewiness would go. It was a hard land and it would harden all who came in contact with it.

Unprepared for the heat of the sun during a whole days trek, his daughter had carried her doll in her arms. Suddenly she began to realise that the wax face was melting, and hastily put it under cover. The wax was still warm and forever her doll carried the imprint of the canvas where it had rested on the face. By lunch time they were all unnerved by the silence and the uncanny feeling of the unseen but possible presence of aborigines.

December 1850 and the road was so hard to follow. Dennis had been out to the land twice since his purchase. He had added extra marks to guide him. His memory was sound and as he crossed what they called Back Creek he remembered that about a mile further on he would travel over what would be a water

course in winter and then it was only five hundred yards before he forded another tributary of Kooyung Koot Creek.

Once over the second creek he stayed parallel with it on the eastern bank and if he followed it north-east until he came to a pond he was on his own property.

Dennis was wise and was taking no risks with a shortage of water in summer. With two ponds on his property, he would be safe when the water dried up along the bed of the creek. These ponds were probably springs which remained full of water through the most severe droughts.

It was almost dark when they reached the site he had picked as a place for a home. His first task was to light an enormous fire. The fire would serve three purposes, or four. First it would add a feeling of security for his children, outside for the first time, in the Australian night. Next it would provide light to unpack some of the articles they would need that night. Blankets would have to be unpacked, even though they would all sleep in their clothes, a cover would be needed. Sandwiches had been cut to last for the two meals that day, but a cup of tea, in a billy, would be a blessing, so a fire would be needed for that. Finally a fire would keep any wild animals away. Everyone had assured Dennis that there were no really dangerous wild animals, but out under the stars, with odd, crunching and crackling noises close by, it would do no harm to have the comfort of a fire.

The children slept, as children will, but whether the parents slept on that first night is another matter. Each pretended to have slept well but Dennis had his first doubts. So large was the forest, so alien, so eerie, so lonely. Was the task too big for him?

Early in the morning, when the air was still and the heap of coals and ashes looked dead, the bird calls were particularly clear and beautiful. The sun was still to rise when he stirred the fire and added a few small sticks in order to cook a breakfast. The heat of the day would make a fire unnecessary, as soon proved by the first streaks of sunshine that hit him as they slanted through the trees. His doubts of the night had gone, and this clean, beautiful day added impetus to his planning.

His wife wanted a shelter built before anything else was attempted, and with daylight to give him light to see, he erected the tent and added a lean-to of saplings and brushy tops covered with grass and a thin cement of mud to hold it all together. This would do until he was able to build a home of mud, slabs or even bricks if his venture proved profitable.

He would clear his land, cultivate it, have a few laying hens, and milking cows, perhaps pigs, but all the while he would keep his mind open for some other way of making money. The idea of a small hotel appealed to him when the blocks of land were thrown open for sale. He realized it was a wide land and there was plenty of space to be filled, but he felt sure more and more settlers would come and who could tell what possibilities lay ahead.

A man could dream out here. He would have to work and work hard, but a man could dream, and in this land of opportunity many a dream came true.

VALE – NOEL WEBSTER

Noel died on 12th June, 2002. The Society is grateful for the support given to it by Noel when he was a Councillor for the former City of Nunawading and Mayor in 1973/74. We extend our sympathy to his wife Jean who was President of our Society. Both Jean and Noel have contributed to the success of both Schwerkolt Cottage and the Museum.

STONNINGTON VISIT

Our thanks to Jay Miller for arranging our visit to Stonnington on Sunday 26th May. All who visited on that day agree that it was a very successful. Jay gave us a conducted tour of the beautiful house and modern gallery converted from the stables. Thanks Jay.

“THE WHEEL”

Some time ago, the late Max Grant was searching on our behalf for a copy of a film made on the Nunawading area in the 1970s. He was not successful.

Recently, Barbara Gardiner renewed the search and has been able to locate a copy in the archives of film at Screensound. Arrangements are being made to buy a copy, in video format, for our archives.

RESTORATION OF GOWN

Joan Nethercote of Vermont recently donated a period gown from 1868, which is considered to be a valuable acquisition to our collection. Unfortunately the skirt and bustle had been unpicked, leaving the Society in a quandary as to how to reconstruct it.

Three members of the Society, at another function, met with a lecturer in costume construction at the Prahran Campus of Swinburne University and spoke of the gown. He invited them to attend his class where he was teaching construction of period costumes,

It was a early start (8 am) for Valda Arrowsmith, Frances Warren, Margaret Skey and Barbara Gardiner who provided the transport, attended this class and were shown how to construct a bustle and to reconstruct the skirt. They will now endeavour to complete this task.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Recently we have been given photographs to copy. Rather than have negatives prepared and a print made (which is expensive) we have investigated scanning them to a CD-ROM. This has proved to be successful. We now have an image on the CD-ROM which is our permanent record from which we can get a good print

Two collections have been scanned – one from Mr. Eckermann of his parent's poultry farm in the 1960s in Mt Pleasant Road Nunawading. The other from Robert Collier of his family and of historical places of interest in Tunstall (now Nunawading) and Mitcham in the early 1900s. We appreciate their interest in local history that enables us to add these photos to our collection.

One of the photos is included on the back page of this Newsletter.

Springfield Ward Residents Interest Group

For those members residing in the Springfield Ward, the next meeting of the group will be held on Thursday 22nd August commencing at 7.30 pm at the Whitehorse Civic Centre

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Working Bees for the rest of the year are 9.30 am to 12 noon on the following Saturdays – **7th September and 9th November.**

Thursday 8th August – Eastern Freeway discussion at Civic Centre at 6.30pm An information meeting discussion of issues associated with the Freeway.

Saturday 31st August. –“Fashion Through the Ages” It will be held in the Forster Hall at the Anglican Church, at the Corner of Whitehorse Road and Edwards Street at 1.30pm See front page of Newsletter.

Wisteria Garden Party – Sunday 6th October 2-4 pm Keep this date free and bring along the children and grandchildren for an enjoyable day.

October General Meeting, Saturday 12th October at 1.30pm. Our guest speaker will be Rachel Faggetter who will speak on “Recollection and Memories of Schwerkolt Cottage and Garden” Rachel is the daughter of Pat Faggetter who was very involved in the acquisition and refurbishing of Schwerkolt Cottage and the gardens surrounding them.

December General Meeting, Saturday 14th December at 12 noon. We will have our annual Christmas Luncheon at 12 noon (Bring your lunch to share) followed by the General Meeting. At 1.30pm there will be the General Meeting. Our speaker is still to be arranged.

From the Treasurer.

Our Annual Fees are now due – \$12.00 per member or \$18.00 for a family. We have decided to keep the fee the same for this year, but as our Public Liability Insurance has doubled an increase for next year must be considered.

I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard selling our books, cards serving afternoon teas, etc. Without our fund raising, we would be running a very tight ship indeed.

Barbara Rogalski

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	Items catalogued	3102
Documents	Items catalogued	2602
Photographs	Items catalogued	3872

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.

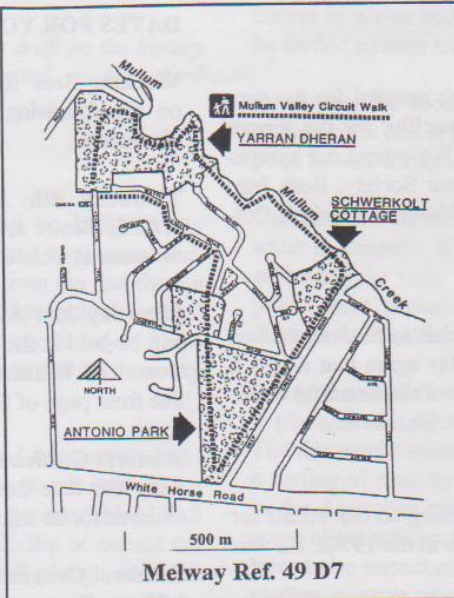
President
Judith Fry 9874 4220
Secretary
Peter Simmenauer 9877 0141
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Barbara Rogalski 9874 4668

Editors Barbara Gardiner
 Ted Arrowsmith

Distribution Val Riches

Our Society on the Internet.

www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/



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

Museum Accreditation Program

Map/Map/Map
 Accredited Museum

ISSN 1328-2395



A Collier Collection Photograph.

Do you remember the Tunstall (now Nunawading) railway crossing like this. It shows the station in the background and a steam train coming to cross Springvale Road

***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





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*Nunawading and District
Historical Society, Inc.*



invites you to

"Fashion through the Ages"

A Parade of Historical Costumes

on Saturday 31st August, 2002

at 1.30 pm

Forster Hall

*Christ Church Anglican Church
Cnr. Edward Street and Whitehorse Road,
Mitcham.*

A Delicious Afternoon Tea will be served.

Donation \$7

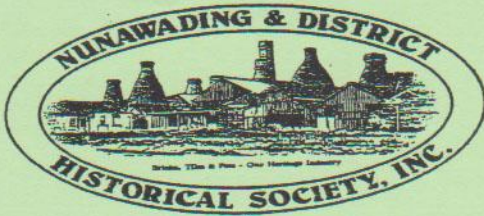
CONTACT

Barbara Gardiner 9874 6592

Barbara Keene 9874 4919



Sponsored by Nunawading Arts Council, Inc.



**Membership
Application/Renewal Form**

New Membership Renewal

Mr/Mrs Miss/Ms

First Name(s)

Address

..... Post Code

Phone (B) (AH)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	(\$per year)
Individual	\$12
Household (2 adults and children under 18)	\$18
Donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Forward to: Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 272
Mitcham 3132
Phone: (03) 9873 4946

NUNAWADING AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

**The 37th Annual General Meeting will be conducted on
Saturday, 10th August, 2002 at 1.00 pm
At the Local History Room
Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex
Deep Creek Road, Mitcham**

AGENDA

Welcome

Apologies

**Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held
11th August, 2001**

Presentation of Annual Report and Financial Statements

Election of Office Bearers and Committee

**President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
8 Committee Members**

General Business

**Speaker: Doug Livermore
“Orcharding Today and Yesterday”**

Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc

Nomination Form

I hereby nominate.....

For the position of President..... Vice President..... Secretary.....

Treasurer..... Committee Member.....

Signed.....(Nominator).....(Seconder)

I accept the above Nomination.....(Date).....