

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

The extension has been completed! Those who have seen both the exterior and interior agree that the area is indeed very pleasing – the green exterior walls also compliment the surrounding bushland. Now we have a new kitchen with a place for everything, even racks for the cups and saucers.

The former kitchen in the Museum has enabled an increase in the area in which to display artifacts that have been in archival boxes. The display units which were in the Local History Room are now on show in the Museum. We now have a 1950s kitchen display in place.

Thanks to all who moved the furniture and fittings into place and also helped with the cleaning to bring the complex back to its pristine condition.

At our February meeting we welcomed the Mayor of our city, Cr. Robert Chong, O.A.M to hear of his experiences over his term in office. Our next meeting will be back in the extended Local History Room on Saturday, 12th, April at 1.30pm. Come along and enjoy the larger room. The topic will be Water – a very appropriate subject considering our current drought that we are suffering in Victoria. We will have a speaker from Yarra Valley Water.

Our Heritage Festival is fast approaching. In April there will be a display in the Nunawading Library. When you are near the Library please take some time to have a look. On Sunday 13th April we will have our Open Day at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex as part of the Heritage Festival. We will need assistance at the beginning of April to deliver pamphlets, and on the day, members to assist with afternoon tea and with displays etc. Please contact us if you can help.

The Council has displayed the permit application for the building of “two super loos” and formation of the entrance to the circular drive. These will replace the existing toilet block where a new site will be erected for buses and cars to set down their passengers for tours of the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

We extend our thanks to the Council and senior staff of the City of Whitehorse for the consultations held with us in planning of these necessary works due to building of the Deep Creek Road bridge.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 12th April.
Judith Fry.

Heritage Festival 2003

Sunday 13th April 2003

Open Day at the Schwerkolt Cottage
and Museum Complex Noon till 5 pm.

Open Day attractions will be as follows :-

Demonstrations by Blacksmiths, Art in Bark Artists, Antique Lamps, Tatters, Spinners and Weavers, Wood Turning, Pergamano (Paper Craft). Display of Historic Fire Fighting Equipment, Stationary Steam Engines and Vintage and Veteran Cars.

The Rotary Club of Forest Hill will conduct the traditional **Sausage Sizzle**.

Stall with Plants, Heritage Books and Cards

It would be appreciated if members could bring along any hardy cottage type plants for the Plant Stall which was so successful last year.

Next Meeting Saturday 12th April

at 1.30pm in the Local History Room,
Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.

Speaker will be David Elliott from Yarra Valley Water and he will speak on the **History and provision of water in the Eastern Suburbs**

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.

Recollections of Ron Pearce great grand son of William Slater, an early pioneer of Nunawading.

My grandparents, Mr. E & Mrs. M Pearce owned 18 acres on the north east corner of Middleborough and Springfield Roads. Their original family home is still there at the rear of 9 Mall Court with units in front of it. Grandma sold the 18 acres in the early stages of the Second World War to Mr. W. Lawford, 18 acres for £1800.

The property had been rented out for many years, Grandma having established what is reputed to be the first shop in Blackburn on the corner of Railway Road and Chapel Street about 1878, selling groceries and green groceries. It was still selling green groceries until sometime in 1999. Her son, Duncan Spencer Pearce, helped her in the shop. They had a horse and cart and used to deliver around the district. As a child I used to go with Uncle Spencer on his rounds.

They bought a Chev truck in the early 1920s and this used to be used on Saturday afternoon to take the Blackburn Football team to the away matches.

Mrs. M. Pearce was the daughter of William Slater, who migrated to Australia about 1876 and bought land on the south side of Koonung Creek with frontage to tracks now know as Surrey and Springfield Roads. He cleared the land and planted acres of roses and various herbs – he came from England where he had been employed by Potters and Moores, the perfume manufacturers. He built up a successful business in herbs and distilled essences. He produced his own brand of eucalyptus oil which was marketed as Possum Brand.

He had an orchard also which was expanded and used for university field days. My father and I kept this going until it was finally subdivided for building blocks.

Grandpa Pearce came from Collingwood. His original house was in Fairchild St, he was a builder by trade and presumably built his own house on the property near the corner of Springfield and Middleborough Roads, which is still there.

I am enclosing a photo of Mrs. M Pearce taken near her shop in Railway Road, Blackburn. I spent a lot of my childhood at my Grandmothers and so able to orient myself to be fairly certain of my bearings. As a result I would say that Grandmother and the horse were standing on what is now the site of 71A Boutique, Railway Road, and the pigeon loft at the rear of picture was on the site of the Inner East Community Options.

There was no water main along Springfield Road where we were in 1927, so my father, Mr.E.H.Pearce, Mr. C.R. Toogood, Mr. C. G.Gill, Mr.T. Lawford and Mr. N. Lawford brought their own water main down Williams Road from Whitehorse Road to supply their properties with water.

I have lived in Springfield Road, Blackburn for over 84 years. My father had an orchard here. Part of it is now the North Blackburn Square Shopping Centre. Another part is the site of the Blackburn High School and the rest is extensions of Bordeaux Ave, Kevin Ave, Kerr St and Suffolk St.

We grew a large number of cherries – for many years about 2% of Victoria's Crop – during the cherry blossom time the photographers from the Herald and Sun used to come out each year and take photos for publishing.They also used to come out and take photos when the first cherries were available.

One year a representative of the Commonwealth Department of Trade and Commerce came out with a professional model and two children who were also models to take photos for overseas trade publicity – copies of some of these are enclosed.

The photos of the cherry blossoms were taken on what is now the site of the Blackburn High School and the others were taken on what is now the Shopping Centre.

Ron Pearce 2001



First shop in Blackburn, built by Mrs. Pearce at corner of Railway Road and Chapel Street. C1907



Cherry Blossom on Pearce's Orchard, Blackburn. Now the site of the Blackburn High School



Picking apples at Pearce's Orchard, Blackburn. Now the site of Blackburn High School



Barbara Gardiner and Barbara Keene with Barbara Rogalski, Whitehorse Joint Citizen of the Year and Valda Australia, awarded the Order of Australia Medal. Taken at the Citizen of the Year service on 26th January 2003, at the Whitehorse Centre. Thanks to these four members for a job well done for our Society over the past ten years. We also congratulate Margaret Eckland, who was awarded a Deakin Citizen Certificate in January.

Recent Acquisitions.

The Acquisition Committee met on the 18th of May and acquired twenty six items, amongst them was a 1950's Christening Gown, a set of Spring Balance Scales and two Glass Pedestal Dishes from the early 20th Century .

Julie Jones, of the City of Whitehorse has recently donated some clothing and hats that belonged to her aunt, who resided in Blackburn. These have filled some gaps in our costume collection. Thanks, Julie!

Wednesday Working Group

We are delighted to be back to normal after a long break while the building was completed. We are enjoying our new set up but taking some time to find our way around.

We are pleased that Betty Sharp has come to see how our systems work. We are always in need of volunteers.

We are pleased to see Jill Sampson back, and we know all members send their condolences to her, following the sudden death of her husband, Noel.

Dates for your Diary.

Sunday, 13th April, OPEN DAY see front page.

Saturday, 10th May at 9.30am Working Bee. This will be the first one for the year. Please come along.

Saturday, 14 June, at 1.30pm –General Meeting.

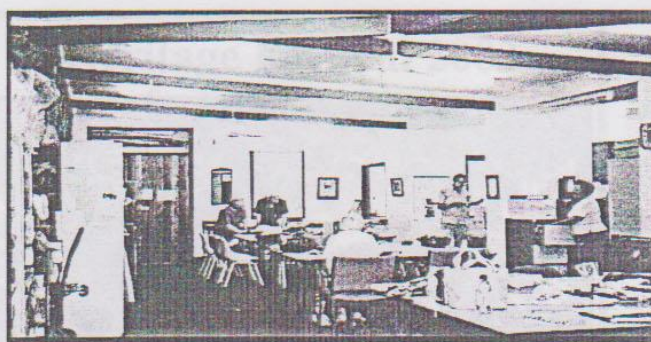
Our speaker will be Gordon Keene and his subject will be the History of the Overland Telegraph.

From this.



The Local History Room after the extension and painting had been completed before the items were put away

To this.



Our new Local History Room. Much more room thanks to the City of Whitehorse. Come along and see the extended Museum and the new displays.

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3225	Items catalogued
Documents	4180	Items catalogued
Photographs	2760	Items catalogued

THANKS:

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

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

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.

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Our Society on the Internet.

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



Accredited Museum

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Can you identify any pupil
 in this photo of Grade 2A
 pupils at Blackburn State
 School in 1964. Please ring
 us on 9873 4946

***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

