

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

Welcome to the New Year. The extensions are going along nicely. The exterior has been completed and is awaiting painting, the walls between the kitchen and the museum have been demolished and some work has been done on the new disabled toilet. As with any renovation, many hands will be needed to clean, unpack and reinstall the museum display. Once our existing kitchen cabinets are re installed in the new kitchen help will also be needed. Are you available to help in the next few weeks? If so please contact me (9874 4220), Valda Arrowsmith (9874 1414) or Barbara Gardiner (9874 6592).

Whilst the extensions are occurring the Museum has been closed to visitors to the Complex.

Thanks to all who helped in the storing of the contents of the museum display cabinets and those who packed and moved the kitchens items/books into the Local History Room.

I am sure all who came to our December meeting enjoyed the Christmas luncheon and Norm Foote's entertaining rendition of Australian Poetry.

The first meeting for the year will be on Saturday 8th February at 1.30pm. Our guest speaker will be the Mayor of the City of Whitehorse, Councillor Robert Chong, O.A.M. As with the last meeting, this meeting will be held in the Forster Hall, Christ Church, Anglican Church, Edward Street Mitcham. There is ample parking in the multi-deck car park.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Judith Fry

Heritage Festival 2003

Sunday 13th April 2003

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

Planning for the 2003 Open Day is going ahead with the following attractions confirmed:-

Demonstrations by Blacksmiths, Art in Bark Artists, Tatters, Lace Makers, Spinners and Weavers, Wood Turners.

Display of Historic Fire Equipment, Stationary Steam Engines and Vintage and Veteran Austin Cars.

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

It would be appreciated if members could pot up cuttings of hardy cottage type plants for our stall which was so successful last year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

February General Meeting

1.30pm Saturday 8th February 2003

in the Forster Hall at the Anglican Church Complex, Edward Street, Mitcham.

Our speaker will be the Mayor of the City of Whitehorse, Cr. Robert Chong, O.A.M.

April General Meeting

1.30pm Saturday 12th April, 2003

in

Local History Room

Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex

The topic will be

WATER.

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.

MORTON FAMILY REUNION

Members will welcome this note from Dorothy Bullen on her ancestors especially as it refers to one of our city's early founding fathers.

A Morton family gathering was held in Melbourne recently. Present were a number of direct descendants of Thomas, Richards Burrowes Morton, a man well known in Blackburn and Box Hill areas in the late 1880s and until his death at the age of 69 in 1923. The invited guests were descended from two cousins who arrived in Victoria in the early 1850s, George Pickering Morton and William Nassau Morton. George Pickering Morton's descendants numbered 42 of the 64 persons who attended, that number including husbands and wives.

Thomas Morton was born in Collingwood on 12 March 1854. Later he lived with his parents in Windsor and was educated at Wesley College. He matriculated at Melbourne University in nine subjects and was said to be good at figures.

Thomas Morton's grandparents John and Ann Morton arrived in Victoria on 23 June 1853. Eleven members of the Morton family are listed as passengers on the Earl of Charlemont, which ran aground on a reef close to Barwon Heads. They had brought their entire family to commence a new life in Australia. All their possessions were lost in the wreck. The only item saved was the family Bible. They eventually reached Geelong, the women and children being transported by bullock dray, the men having to walk. Their eldest son, George, Pickering, Morton, had married Ann Eliza Burrowes shortly before leaving Ireland. With them were George's three younger brothers and five younger sisters. Ann Eliza gave birth to Thomas exactly nine months after their arrival.

Thomas married Louisa Mary Esther Morgan, whose grand father, Captain Robert Clark Morgan, brought the first settlers to South Australia on the Duke of York in 1836. Louisa was born in a tent on the gold fields in Wedderburn, where her father, also Robert Clark Morgan, was the warden with whom all the diggers had to register their claims. His duties included riding shot gun on the coach when the gold was being transported to Melbourne.

Thomas and Louisa had five children, Lillian (Mrs Sargeant), George Burrowes Morton, Mary Violet Holder, Dorothy Emily and Irene Burrowes James. Present at the gathering were three of the next generation, Derrick George Morton aged 90, who flew from Queensland to be present at the event, his sister Phyllis Wainwright from Mitcham, and Dorothy Bullen from Fountain Court Retirement Village, Burwood.

Thomas Richards Burrowes Morton, or T.R.B. as he was often referred to, moved from Surrey Hills, where he had been in business, to Blackburn. He built his family home in 1888 on the south east corner of Blackburn Road and

Gordon Crescent, where it stands today looking in mint condition. A medical centre now occupies the corner of Blackburn Road which was once the front garden of "Clonmore", the name he chose for his home. In 1888 there were only 4 other houses in (Gordon Crescent) Blackburn.

According to his obituary in the local paper, T.R.B. was associated with the Nunawading Council for about 33 years and served as President on four different occasions. During the whole period of his connection with the Council, he had only to contest one election. Blackburn was well satisfied with their representative and he remained in office until the last.

As one of the early residents of Blackburn, he at first came into prominence as Secretary of the Freehold Investment Company which carried out a good deal of work that was greatly appreciated. Among other things, the Blackburn Lake was made, a hall erected, while various other undertakings were successfully accomplished. "T.R.B. negotiated a loan to the Council for the making of roads in the Blackburn area. He took a great interest in St Johns Church of England and had been Secretary of the Vestry from when the church was opened in 1890 until 1920. A memorial tablet was unveiled in 1925. When necessary he traveled in his horse and buggy to outlying areas to act as lay preacher. One of his finest achievements was the influence exerted in having parks purchased for the Shire. It is possible for people to see today the benefit of the provision made. It would cost a great deal to purchase parks at the present time."

A gathering of the descendants of the passengers from the Earl of Charlemont is to be held at Barwon Heads this year, on 22 June, 150 years after the disaster. The ship's anchor was brought up by divers in 1972 and is mounted on the lawn opposite the Barwon Heads Hotel. A book has recently been released called "Breakers Ahead" by Brian Latter. It details the plight and final success in the safe transfer of all passengers and crew to the shore.



"T.R.B.", Morton in his horse and buggy, outside "Clonmore" in Gordon Crescent, Blackburn.

Awards to Members -

Order of Australia Medal to Valda Arrowsmith and City of Whitehorse Citizen of the Year to Barbara Rogalski.

Members will be pleased to hear of these awards to two of our hard-working and deserving members. Congratulations to them both!

Valda was listed in the Australia Day Honours List as a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal, for Service to the Community of Nunawading with her involvement in countless community groups and to Local Government as a Nunawading City Councillor for 11 years including one year as Mayor.

She has made a great contribution to our local heritage with her involvement in our society and its Accreditation from Museums Victoria, Inc. In recent years, she has also been a willing helper to members of the community who have been concerned about inappropriate development in their neighbourhood.

Barbara Rogalski and Keith Rooney were presented with joint City of Whitehorse Citizens of the Year Certificate by the Mayor, Cr. Robert Chong OAM at a ceremony at the Whitehorse Centre on Australia Day.

Barbara has been a member of the Mitcham Arts Association (now Whitehorse Arts Association) for many years and has served as Committee Member, Vice President and President.

She has served on the committee of the Nunawading Arts Council, for several years and continues to support the various workshops and forums conducted by the City of Whitehorse.

Our members know her as our very efficient and long serving Treasurer, who takes great care of the Society's finances. Barbara will be remembered for her generosity in the donation of her paintings for raffle prizes and for presentation to retiring committee members.

Barbara Gardiner

Our Christmas Meeting & Luncheon.

Our December meeting was well attended despite the need for a change of venue. The support of members to the Society is excellent.

We were entertained by Norman Foote's presentation of classic Australian poetry, which kept us enthralled and moved by his interpretation of the words.

We have included a poem written by our member, Valerie Day, which Norm read to us.

CHRISTMAS DINNER, BY Valerie J. Day

Dropped the pudding, burnt the chook;
Never been a blasted cook.
Flies keep swarmin' in the door,
Babies crawling round the floor.

Try Dad's home brew, great this time.
You're not game? Then have some wine.
Watch those nuts don't break your teeth -
Gawd, me bunions hurt a treat.

Carve the turkey, cut the cake.
How many glasses did Fred break?
Who let in that flamin' dog?
Grandpa - you're a blooming hog!

Christmas dinner's such a treat,
But not the best in all this heat.
Open your presents! Aren't things dear?
Merry Christmas; Happy New Year!

Published in "Stockman's Hall of Fame", December 1986.

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3308	Items catalogued
Documents	4176	Items catalogued
Photographs	2539	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 & 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.

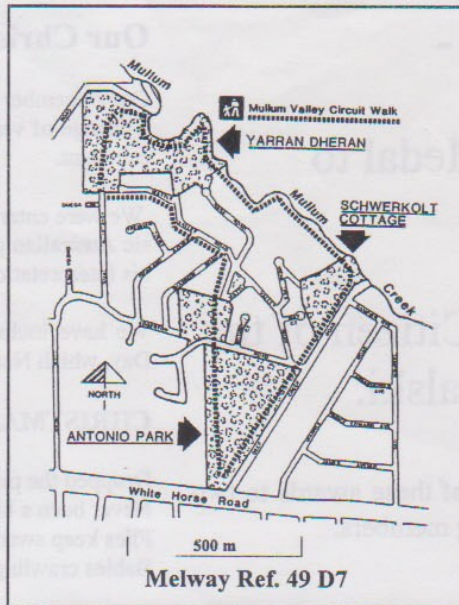
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Our Society on the Internet.

www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/

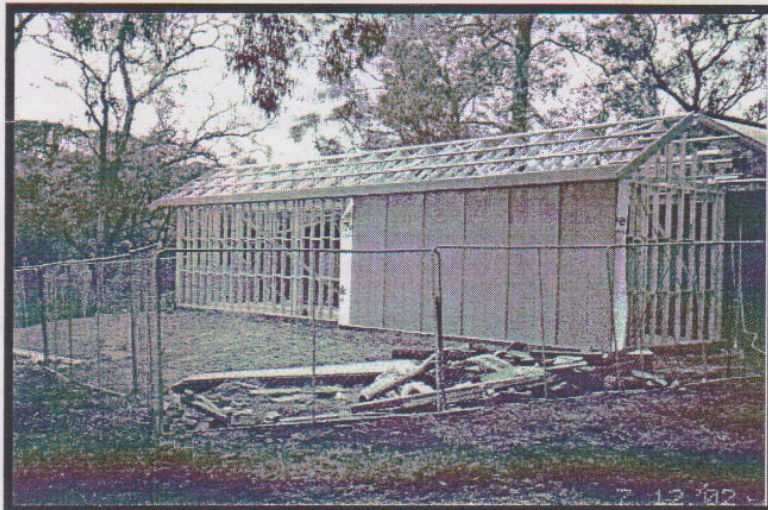


*Nunawading and District
 Historical Society, Inc.
 acknowledge the support
 from the
 City of Whitehorse*

Museum Accreditation Program

MAA MAA MAA
 Accredited Museum

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Extension to the Local History Room.

Progress is shown in the adjacent photo of the extensions to the Local History Room on December 2002.

***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

