

Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER



A0012235J ABN 44 352 041 634
Series 11. No. 3 June 2003

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

From the President

At our April General Meeting, members voted to accept the Committee's recommendation to change the name of our Society to "Whitehorse Historical Society Inc." The main reason is because of the confusion of the name "Nunawading" now referring only to the suburb, and many new residents of surrounding suburbs which formed our pre-amalgamation City of Nunawading are unable to understand the current scope of our Society. It will take some time for this change to be implemented but we expect the process to be completed by the end of the year.

Another successful Heritage Open Day is over and even though the day was overcast, it didn't deliver the promised rain until near the close, and we had many visitors. The Council giving us permission to use old Deep Creek Road for parking, helped to ease the parking problem.

The Austin 7 Club, the historic fire fighting equipment and the stationary engine display were great attractions. Unfortunately, George Henwood, who organized the Austin 7 cars and is member of the Society has since been in Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital. We wish you well and hope to see you up and doing in the near future.

The preceding Saturday afternoon our speaker at the meeting, David Elliott from Yarra Valley Water, spoke on "The History of the Water Supply in Whitehorse area". A very appropriate subject for the present situation with water. Because engineers piped water to the city and suburbs, and adopted the principle of closed catchment areas, Melbourne has the cleanest water in Australia. At a later date we hope David will return and explain the sewerage system too. Werribee has one of the largest sewerage systems in the world.

We at the Historical Society are blessed with the support of many members. Following an appeal for helpers,

Wendy Standfield has joined the Committee, Barbara Gardiner has consented to become Publicity Officer (a very important position), Jay Miller has joined the Acquisition Sub-committee. In addition Chintin Paul and Wendy Standfield have joined the Wednesday working group. A big thank you to these people. However we still need a Newsletter Editor, as this will be Ted's last Newsletter, and an Oral History co-ordinator

Last Saturday we invited Whitehorse Councillors to morning tea for a guided tour of the Complex and surrounds. They were very impressed with the stage one extensions. Whilst only two councillors came, we had apologies from others and we look forward to showing our extensions to them at a later date.

Judith Fry

**Next Meeting Saturday 14th June at 1.30pm in
the Local History Room, Schwerkolt
Cottage and Museum Complex.**

Our speaker will be Gordon Keene and his subject will be the "History of the Overland Telegraph". Gordon is the husband of Society member Barbara Keene.

From the retiring Editor.

As members at the April Committee meeting are aware I have resigned as Editor and this will be my last Newsletter. I wish to thank those who have assisted me with articles and advice. I would especially like to thank Barbara Gardiner, the Co-Editor who has been kind to me when I needed it.

I do hope someone will volunteer to take on the job. As the Newsletter is our link to each other and a means of reminding ourselves of the history, and of matters for the future, we will not know what the Society is doing. Someone please volunteer.

In my last Newsletter I have included a letter from Harold Bakes who was a very enthusiastic member for over 20 years. It is very interesting in detailing what he did in the Museum. I hope the photographs will be of interest. Also the letter from Joan Roczniock who contributed to and developed the document collection and helped to "save" Society in its moment of time. Ted Arrowsmith

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.

History - NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

From a letter by the late Harold Bakes, a member of the Historical Society when the Museum was developed. (edited)

I would never have been a member, only for Wally Spooner, as one day he was telling me about it. I possibly did not know it existed, work came first. When we used to meet at the Coffee Shop or the Anglican Church Hall, Mitcham, if my memory serves me right I moved a resolution that the only proper working arrangement for the Society was to have an office or similar arrangements as the Museum. I was more surprised later on when I think the Council found a grant for the work.

The two ceiling roses came from the Station Masters house (*in Mitcham in the late 1970s*) (We used to visit Mr and Mrs Tom Hutchison, Station Master at Mitcham). There were three, but not knowing how heavy they were - one was broken. Shirley Jones mentioned them firstly. I got on to the Railways and got permission to take them. Shirley and I put them on a board and filled in all the holes. Mr Eric Sunderland helped me cut them out as it was quite a job. On the board were a sample of fittings that also came from the house. It stood just past the last building in Station Street towards the Station. (*now a carpark*) Every Railway House had a number and the one on that board is DR number. Those other bits of Victorian fittings I came by and the one that was an early house knocker (you can see one on the Yackandandah Museum that way back in the Bank of Victoria).

The Blackburn and Mitcham Shire Plaque we came by and I remember working with steel and chains, (as it was heavy) to hang it where it is today. The post with the lamp (Buggy) was refurbished by me and my son-in-law, Bill Ingham. That post was the type used before turned posts were used. In the century old places today you can see them. They were usually square with a chamfer down each corner.

As regards the two cupboards (*Display Cases*) in the far corners, there was a discussion and I said if they left it my hands I would undertake to build places to depict a shop at Beechworth, Yackandandah or Maldon. It was left in my hands.

I bought all second hand timber to do them. The only new material was the glass and I think that was out of a shop window and we got it cheap off Varga Bros in Richard Street, Mitcham. They virtually gave it to us. Again Eric Sunderland made a big contribution, as, he is an excellent carpenter and fixer. We brought the second hand material from Able Demolitions, McGlone Street, Mitcham and they virtually gave us the material. I carried it all on an old trailer and whilst I kept up material, Eric worked till we had enough for the job. The doors represent one Victorian and one Edwardian. The knocker on the Victorian one someone gave it who brought it from London.

The Edwardian one has a bell (push) that is right for the era of the doors. I don't know where the brass plaque (Misses Wilson) came from but the one of Mr. Jenkinson I saved from a house in Nicholson Street, Nunawading owned by the Jenkinsons. Mrs. Jenkinson died in Strathdon and was buried on her 100th birthday. Ron her son died quite young. I took that plaque to pieces to refurbish it. It was made in 1922. It was going to be dumped so again I saved it.

When we built those two places it may be noted that the roofs or ceiling are made strong enough to walk on. This was part of the

plan. Those lights - who gave them I know, but my son-in-law, Bill Ingram checked them at the time and rigged up the lighting etc. The big cabinet near the door we bought in Canterbury because I got it on the trailer. The old bowser (pity the glass got broken) came from a Telecom place in Canterbury again carried on my trailer. One of the cabinets in the centre of Museum was made by Wally Spooner, but, he could answer for himself better than me.....

As regards the tiles etc., probably you know more about them than I do, as you had some connection to Walkers speaking at your meeting. The Tessellated Tile Coy, probably the main employer 50 - 70 years ago and drove (*of people*) used to arrive on trains those times who worked there. Remember, walk, bike or public transport the order of the day. There were two tile yards, one near by. One near Rooks Road was the Builders Roofing & Trading Co (Monarch) and there was another towards the station before the Tessellated. Daniel Robertson used to also make roofing tiles and still makes bricks there. Blackburn used to make bricks and tiles near where the Blue Moon's old buildings still stand. Blackburn tiles were sought after; cement tiles (*sales*) effected terra cotta tiles. but really its like at that time comparing silver and gold.

Where that Jennings retirement village is in Springvale Road, Geal Bros made fancy bricks (you will see them in many houses) sill tiles for windows 9 x 4.5" and 9 x 9" for patio etc. plus agricultural pipes. One would have to wait for months to get an order through.

I want to mention those kero cases under the corner shops in the Museum. They were the standard cases used by orchardists. The Cool Stores were all marked out for that size (not fruit cases). They stacked better and were placed 8 high both for apples and pears.

When buses came on the run Wodonga We used to take a side on the cab steps to school and the cop Sergeant Black, used to wait with a cane he carried and you would get a whack across the bottom and mum would. say serves you right etc. None of this do good stuff those days. Strange none of us has been a failure in life yet we were kept in line. Yet I used to carry a shotgun at 15 to try and get a duck, so we must have been responsible. I can only remember one bloke our age wasn't responsible and we never again took him with us. People would not believe that we used to have to ring a squatter to walk along the bank of the creek. How many in the party? 5 and should something happen that the number was altered 4 to 6 one would have to ring again otherwise a bloke in riding gear, a good horse, a dog, and a stock whip would soon arrive to investigate etc. The reason I wanted to go along that creek? I knew a spot that I could always catch a Murray Cod. Mum would be pleased because with a big family me being the second boy (my eldest brother left home to work) I could always catch a rabbit, shoot a duck and catch a fish again. The conservationists may squirm, but what would they do when there was always a shortage of food etc..

I started paying income tax in 1933. Its a bit torn but my original return in 1934 was £154 (or \$308) for a years work. Tax £1.12 (or \$3.40) and they showed me 4/7 (or 92 cents) omitted income.

Your friend
Harold.

See photos on back page - Editor

Recent letter from Joan Roczniok.

Joan recently wrote to us to tell us that she was moving. We asked if she would mind us using parts of her letter in the Newsletter. Here are the excerpts:

...Allow me to recall with pride my hand in restoring the Museum, but especially the rescue of Keith Patterson's collection of maps and documents which damp and insects in the old kitchen were destroying. I began their repair and with help got them into acid free envelopes, and devised an arrangement which embraced Keith's groupings and absorbed the deluge which began to descend on us.

The kitchen was an impossible work place so we spent many months in a dark basement in Nunawading Town Hall. My husband who was ill would sit outside in the sun. As a lifelong librarian I set up the simple cataloguing system, but as we had no typists (except me) the cards were handwritten. Multiple unit entries were a problem until we acquired a photocopier. (The computer has now fixed all this!)

We were in clover when the Council provided the first Local History Room. Its dimensions were suggested by me with adequate workspace in mind. Then came the hunt for cheap shelves and other furniture. Cr. Barelli was a generous helper, and the Council bequeathed old map and other cabinets. The shoestring was helped by cake and plant stalls to provide blinds and so on. The help given by people like Andrew Hillier, Betty and Rupert Muckleston, Beryl and Bill Gray (Beryl later took over the organising when I became ill – sadly she also became ill and we lost a wonderful worker and great lady.) There were many others whose faces and friendliness I remember, but names elude me.

Our current President was one who helped with herbs and plants. We were able to help students at all levels, and I and others spent many weekends in the room with them.

That the Society has outgrown the original room brings great satisfaction and I hope that sometime I shall see your new splendid premises...

Thanks Joan for your letter and generous donation.

Thanks to Ted for including Harold Bakes' letter as for the more recent members of the Society, it solves quite a few mysteries. I did not know the origin of the doors on the showcases and the lamp post. We certainly should be grateful to the many early members who worked so hard.

Barbara Gardiner

All Aboard the Station Pier Project

A call for Contributions

Did you arrive at Station Pier?

- Do you remember preparations for the journey, the trip and finally the arrival.
- Did you take photographs, or keep a journal.
- Did you keep anything from the ship or any souvenirs purchased along the way.

Please contact Jenny Gardner, Station Pier Project.

Dates for your Diary

The important working Working Bees -

We need you all to mark these in your diaries or on your calendars. We begin at 9.30 am but come along for a hour or so anytime up till about 12.30. Your help will be much appreciated.

Saturday July 12th

Saturday September 13th

Saturday November 8th

Future Meetings will be conducted on the following dates:

Saturday August 9th - 1.30 pm - Annual General Meeting with elections for Office Bearers and Committee Members. Speaker to be confirmed.

Saturday October 11th - 1.30 pm - speaker to be confirmed

Saturday December 13th - lunch at 12 noon and meeting to begin at 1.30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed.

Sunday October 5th Our Wisteria Party will be on between 2 pm and 4 pm.. Planning is underway for this event - attractions will be announced in the next newsletter.

Thanks to Ted Arrowsmith

As co-editor of the newsletter, I express our sincere thanks to Ted for his hard work during the past few years. He will continue to work with his beloved computers, and will undertake the many tasks within the Society.

Please contact me on 9874 6592 if you are able to help with editing the newsletter.

Barbara Gardiner.

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.

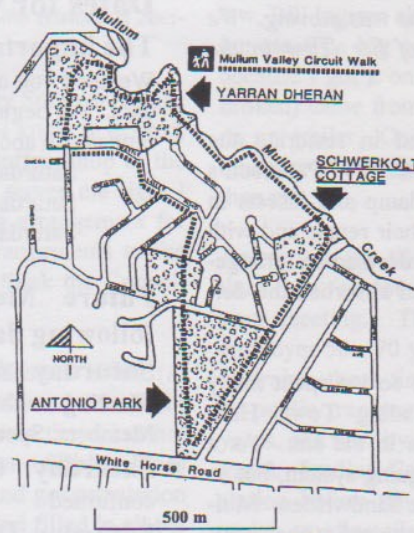
President
Judith Fry 9874 4220
Secretary
Peter Simmenauer 9877 0141
Treasurer
Barbara Rogalski 9874 4668

Editors Barbara Gardiner
 Ted Arrowsmith

Distribution Val Riches

Our Society on the Internet.

www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/

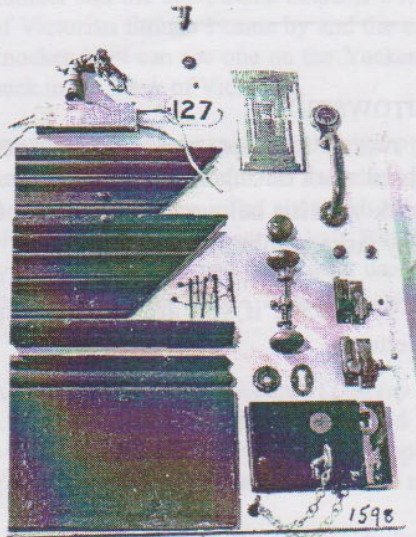


Melway Ref. 49 D7

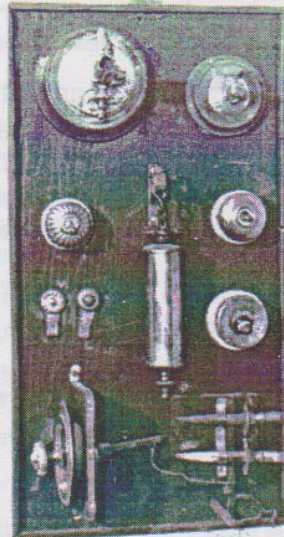


*Nunawading and District
 Historical Society, Inc.
 acknowledge the support
 from the
 City of Whitehorse
 Museum Accreditation Program*

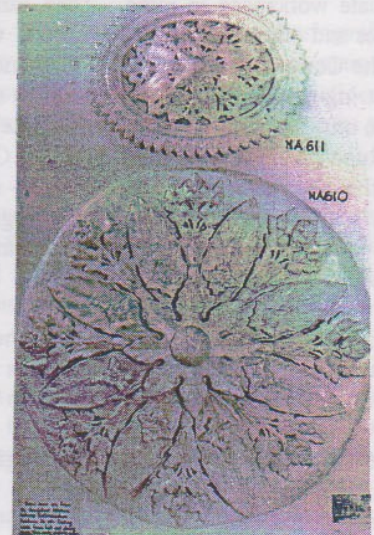
MA MA MA
 Accredited Museum



Fittings from Railway House



Brass Fittings from Railway House



Ceiling Roses from Railway House

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

