

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Edition 26, June 2017

Incorporation No. **A0054430X**
ABN **64 318 435 402**



Presidents Report

Hi Folks

The Society encourages everyone to compile their family history and those of us that have done so or in the midst of it have gained an insight into who we are and why we all have our own personality. Besides the frustrations and the dead ends encountered along the way a great deal of satisfaction comes when you have gone as far as resources allow and you have put your research together for your family or for a wider audience.

Jacinta Crealy has just completed and published her history on the life and times of her Great G. G. Grandfather Robert Whatmough who was one of the earliest pioneering families in Greensborough. Jacinta accompanied with other members of the extended Whatmough family launched her captivating book at our June meeting with a pleasing presentation enjoyed by those gathered.

Jacinta also joined us for the walk alongside the Plenty River the next day retracing the path that Robert would have taken so many times tending his orchard all those years ago. There was quite a gathering and once again the 6 degrees of separation was evident when walkers found they had something in common with others as they joined in the mix of conversation along the way. Just what we are all about.

We have a display again at Greensborough Plaza in the window of Diamond Valley Community Support, level 3 adjacent to the car park just around the corner from Kmart. This organisation made up mainly of volunteers does great work for those in need of help in one form or another and we thank it for the opportunity to use its facilities each year. Our nomination and then success of receiving a Banyule Volunteers Group Award was quite exciting and is due to the hard work put in by your Committee with the support of members. And this week we received a cheque for over \$600 from Banyule as part of our award. Thanks to Banyule Council for their support and well done everyone.

Keep warm. Spring is on its way

Noel



Committee 2017

President Noel Withers 94354513 **Vice President** Peter Van Eeken
94358715

Secretary Norm Colvin 94352903 **Treasurer** John Gibson 94350097

Committee: Sue Ballantyne Anne Paul Marilyn Smith
Suzanne Brenkovich (Membership Secretary) 94350389

Contact the Greensborough Historical Society

Web Site: www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au

Email: info@greensboroughhistorical.org.au

By Post: Greensborough Historical Society Inc.
4 Jenna Close, Greensborough 3088.

In Person: **Resource Centre**
34 Glenauburn Road (off Para Road), Lower Plenty
Open Thursdays from 10.00am to 3.00pm
Visitors welcome

Meeting dates and times for 2017

New members and visitors are most welcome to join us at our meetings.

Committee meetings are generally held at 7.00pm on the third Wednesday of each month. Venue: Resource Centre.

The Resource Centre will be open on the second Saturday of April, June and August for research into your family or the local area. All welcome!

Date	Day	Time	Venue
28/07/17	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM – GHNC – Guest Speaker Ella Hinkley on Bundoora Homestead
26/08/17	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum GHNC – member Jillian Durance (nee Riley) – Ashril Theatre
22/09/17	Friday	1.15 pm	AGM - GHNC
28/10/17	Saturday	1.15 pm	Heritage Meeting – A walk through Yandell Reserve
24/11/17	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM Christmas Meeting – GHNC

Please Note: All meetings for 2017 will be held at Greenhills Neighbourhood Centre

Banyule Volunteers Awards 2017

by Anne Paul, GHS Committee Member

It was with great pleasure that representatives of the Greensborough Historical Society attended the 12th annual Banyule Volunteers Awards on Wednesday 10 May. Denise Scott was MC for the night and delighted the audience with her wonderful brand of humour, which included some hilarious reflections on her childhood, living and growing up in Greensborough. Mayor Tom Melican was a gracious host and the evening was a fitting acknowledgement of the important contribution volunteers make.

The Society was nominated in the Group category by our well-known member Rosie Bray, who was also in attendance. Other group nominees represented organisations across the municipality. There were also individual, youth and multicultural awards.



Peter and Noel accept the Award on behalf of GHS, here with Cr Rick Garotti, Mayor Tom Melican and Deputy Mayor Mark Di Pasquale

Greensborough Historical Society was honoured to receive one of the Group awards. The award recognised the scope of the work carried out by



the Society in recording and preserving local history, including archiving, oral history interviews, research, publications, the Thursday group work, maintaining the website, assisting in compiling family trees, Museum Victoria's

Victorian Collections data, local history walks and talks to school and community groups.

There was some lovely synergy with the other Group recipients, the 3081 Angels and Contact Bundoora Community Centre. I have attended classes at Contact over the years and know some of the committee, as do other members. Even closer to home, many will remember the wonderful support Suzanne Crellin provided the Society in its early years, through her position at the Diamond Valley Learning Centre. Suzanne now co-ordinates the 3081 Angels, with Banyule Community Health and Rosanna Baptist Church. They are an inspiring group who collect preloved baby and children's furniture and clothing for families in need in the area. I volunteered with the group in its early years, helping make deliveries and saw first-hand the importance of their work. They welcome donations and can be contacted through their web page <http://www.bchs.org.au/Services/3081-angels>;

Philip Ciravolo, a Greensborough accountant and president of Diamond Valley Relay for Life, was announced as the 2017 Banyule Citizen of the Year. **The other individual recipients are listed on the Banyule website at** <https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Arts-and-Events/Volunteer-Awards>

A copy of the Awards booklet that lists all nominees and their contribution is available at the GHS Resource Centre.

The Award is great recognition for the Society and all members should be proud in knowing they have helped contribute to this success. Our thanks are extended to Banyule City Council for their consideration.

And finally, a huge thanks to our wonderful, indomitable and wise Rosie Bray for making the nomination and doing so much to ensure we continue to seek, collect and research.

Robert Whatmough

Report by Dawn Bennetts and Sue Brenkovich

At our meeting on Saturday 24th June, Jacinta Crealey launched her book about her Great G G Grandfather Robert Whatmough, an early Greensborough pioneer. Jacinta gave an interesting and informative talk after which followed our regular afternoon tea – but this time we also shared a luscious sponge cake to celebrate the life of Robert Whatmough 1815-1887.

NOTE: Jacinta's book is available for purchase, details on the GHS website.



On Sunday 25th June, a group of 20 braved the cold to meet at Whatmough Park for a walk along the Plenty River, tracing the steps of Robert Whatmough. Aably led by another Whatmough descendant, GHS member Faye Fort (nee Partington) we followed the path, stopping to look at and learn about "the apple tree", then on to the "Pioneer Children's Cemetery". Buried there are 6 children from the Whatmough and Partington families, and the jonquils planted at each grave site were just beginning to appear once again.



Our group from the June meeting, GHS members and descendants of Robert Whatmough. Thanks to Marilyn Smith for 'stitching' us together

Reminder: Membership fees are now due.

A message from Society Treasurer John Gibson: Annual subscriptions to the Greensborough Historical Society are now due and the good news is that again your Committee has not increased the membership fees.

Below are the members who are already financial to 30 June 2018:

Steve & Sue BALLANTYNE; Eric BARCLAY; Dawn & Adrian BENNETTS; Paul BONSAK; Jasmin BURGE; Norm COLVIN; Carol DU PLESSIS; Jillian DURANCE; Glenice DYKE; Neisha FORBES; Faye FORT; Chris FOSTER; John & Kathryn GIBSON; Harry GILHAM; GREENSBOROUGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; June HALL; Bryan HENDERSON; Elizabeth HINE; John & Lesley HOOPER; Bruce McDOWELL; Marilyn MULLAVEY; Gary PARTINGTON; Eric POULTER; David RADONICH; Brian & June ROBERTS; Peter SIMMENAUER; Marilyn SMITH; Sylvia TUPPER; Peter VAN EEKEN; Marcus WALKER; Val WILSON; Noel WITHERS and our newest member Jacinta CREALY.

If your name is not on the above list please use the attached membership renewal form. You can mail your renewal, hand it to me at one of our meetings or direct deposit your subscription into the Society's bank account (shown on the form).

Doing so by 31 July 2017 would be appreciated. If you don't wish to renew your membership, please let Sue Brenkovich or John Gibson know.



Welcome to our WINTER Newsletter – there's no better time to talk about Football - the Greensborough Football Club of course!

Thanks to GHS members and experts on the Club's history Rex Smith, Gary Partington and Bruce McDowell for their generous input.

*Earlier this year, Bruce McDowell sent a story about Stan Judkins, part of which is reproduced here as well as giving access to the Hall of Fame documents. Gary spoke of the Partington family's pride in their induction into the Greensborough Football Club's Hall of Fame and Rex provided photos and information. We hope you enjoy this look at the **Greensborough Football Club**. Further information is available at the GHS Resource Centre and more articles will be added to the GHS website over the coming months.*

Over the past 124 years, many great players, coaches, administrators and supporters have been associated with the Greensborough Football Club and in 2016, the Club decided to honour those who had made the most outstanding contributions.

What a task! How do you choose who will be honoured in this way?

Hall of Famers were players who excelled on the field for many seasons, went on to be administrators of the Club and supported the Club in many other ways.

Hall of Fame inductees fall into 2 categories, **Legends** and **Members**.

In 2016 the following people were inducted as **Legends** of the Greensborough Football Club:

- Percy Adamson
- Brett Fowler
- Don McDowell
- Joe Murphy
- Trevor Partington

Members of the Greensborough Football Club Hall of Fame are:

- Peter Banks
- Neil Brindley
- John Carmody
- Neil Carroll
- Dickson Family
- Scott Didier
- Wayne Dobson
- Arthur Franklin
- Teddy Godwill
- Robert Hyde
- Stan Judkins
- Glenn Meredith
- Alf Montfort
- Partington Family
- Horrie Richmond
- Jack Waites
- Peter Watkins

Note from Bruce McDowell's History of Greensborough Football Club: "Stan Judkins went to Richmond via Northcote in the VFA, and won the 1930 Brownlow Medal. His Brownlow Medal qualifies him as the most highly decorated Greensborough player of all time. Although rarely acknowledged outside the town, Stan was definitely a 'Boro Boy'."

Stan Judkins by his son, Noel Judkins

As a youngster Dad would arrive home from school, in Greensborough, and there would be his older stepbrothers waiting just inside the gate in the front yard holding a cricket ball. Each night the task would be set: the older boys would throw the ball at Stan who just had to catch it. If there was a fumble, and he dropped the catch, the stepbrothers would walk down and *whack* him. Drop it - you get wacked - that was the rule. This exercise had a marked effect on young Stan through his football career, as he was renowned to have very safe hands, and to be a great ball handler.

In fact, when he went to play in the VFA at Northcote after leaving Greensborough, Stan would get to training early and do some fielding while the Northcote Cricketers had batting practice. During one of these sessions, the great Jack Ryder witnessed Stan fielding, and told him that if he could take a specialist fieldsman to England on the next tour - he would take Stan.

As you all know, Stan won the Brownlow Medal in 1930. At that stage the umpires only cast one vote to the Fairest and Best player on the ground for the day. Stan won with four votes, originally tying with the great Harry Collier of Collingwood and Alan Hopkins - a legend at Footscray. Stan won on a "count back" because he only played 12 games whereas the other two had played 15 and 17 games respectively.

In 1989, the AFL, in its wisdom, awarded retrospective Brownlow Medals to all the players who had lost on count backs through the years.

Stan, who passed away in 1986, would have been delighted with the AFL's decision, as he was a very vocal advocate of these great players getting their just reward. He was always saying it was a tragedy that they had missed out getting the medal they so richly deserved.



Collecting the Medal: Stan arrived home after work one evening after the end of the season and his father told him that a telegram had arrived that afternoon with the news that Stan had won the Brownlow Medal - and congratulated him on doing so. The telegram asked that he contact the VFL Headquarters and arrange a time to come in and have it presented.

Stan made arrangements for the following Tuesday evening and was asked to be at Headquarters at 7.30pm. On that evening, Stan caught the train from Greensborough to Princes Bridge Station, which is now the sight of Federation Square. He got off the train, and noticing it was only 6.45pm, decided to fill in time by going for a walk. He went up Swanston Street to Latrobe Street, then up Latrobe Street to Spring Street, then down Spring Street to VFL Headquarters (Harrison House) - which was a few yards from Flinders Street - arriving about 7.25pm.

He was met at the door and shown into a nice lounge where dignitaries were waiting to present the medal and celebrate with him. After celebrating with a cup of tea and cake, Stan was on the 8.30pm train back to Greensborough. The next day another telegram arrived asking Stan to make contact to arrange to go to the Herald Sun building in Flinders Street, as they had forgotten to take a photo. Stan was always annoyed by the photo that they took, because it showed him in borrowed shorts nearly down to his knees, and he was quite proud of the fact that he had introduced the shorter, more modern shorts, that would become the norm, due to his job as a tailor.



One of the things that I learned, as his son over the years, that he didn't ever mention was that he was actually Richmond's top vote getter in the Brownlow for 5 x years. Things were certainly different in 1930, as now there would be a frantic media blitz on the winner and photographers galore.



Jack Dyer told me at Dad's funeral that Dad was a real showman, and only ever played on the Grandstand wing. Also, that the supporters used to sing a song as he sped past "*Number 6 is Judkins - isn't he a flyer - he even runs so fast at times - he sets the grass on fire.*" Jack also told me that Dad often "acknowledged" the fans as he sped by with a little wave. Jack wrote an article on Dad in a football magazine sometime in the 1960's, and called him the 'Johnny Rae' of football (Johnny Rae was an American singer, who was regarded as the greatest showman of his time, and played up to his fans by kneeling and crying, and pleading to them during his performances).

Dad's great mate at that time, Alan Geddes, played on the other wing. Dad said he was the best winger in the game. Geddes was captain at some stage, and after the toss, would go to his wing on the far side of the ground, walk up to his opponent and say, "*Fair or Foul?*" If his opponent said "*Fair*" Geddes would play him "fair" - but if he said "*foul*" he would belt him all day. Hence, Dad said he always had to mind the best ball players, because they wouldn't play on Geddes.

Dad played at 5 foot 5 ½ inches and 9 stone 9lb. A good mate at Greensborough was a boy named Reg Heather. Reg wanted to play football and Dad wanted to ride horses. Reg, who was the team's mascot, became one of Australia's greatest jockeys, and was one of the first to go to England on contract. During this time he regularly rode for the Queen. Dad's nickname was the 'Tin Hare' - named after the rabbit at the Greyhounds. At that time it was made of tin, and went around the outside fence so fast in was never caught.

Dad's introduction to Richmond wasn't as smooth as it could have been, as Richmond wanted him to go there in 1927, but Northcote refused to clear him. So it wasn't until 1928 that he got his clearance. On arriving, the Coach, Checker Hughes, allocated a big fellow named George Rudolph to be Dad's mentor. Dad was really chuffed as he thought Rudolph was the best big man he had seen, and he carried that thought all his life. He always regarded George as one of the "greats". During the pre-

season, George followed Dad around and was like a shadow - but he never spoke to him. Dad was somewhat puzzled at that, but just went along with it.



Then, along came the big night at the Richmond Town Hall for the "Presentation of Jumpers". Dad was awarded number 6 and got called to stand for acknowledgment. He jumped up, all pumped, very proud & excited, but when he sat down, big George had broken the ice by planting a bunch of grapes on the seat, which swashed nicely into the pants of Dad's new suit! The players all thought that was a great joke, and it seemed like it was expected. George and Dad then had a long lasting friendship until George left unexpectedly to join Oakleigh in the VFA. Together with an ex-Carlton rover, he became part of what became known as "The 20 Pound Ruck".

Dad later had his share of being a mentor. His first pupil was a 17 year old Jack Dyer - who arrived in 1931. Dad was in the drinking team, and on one occasion, during a train trip across the Nullarbor to play an exhibition game in Perth, he introduced Jack to the demon drink. After one or two, Dad, and the legendary property steward, and Dad's best mate at Richmond, Charlie Callander, had to assist young Dyer back to his sleeper and tuck him in for the night.

The early 1930's Richmond centreline of Stan Judkins, Eric Zschech and Alan Geddes was regarded as the best in the business. They played together in four successive Grand Finals, winning in 1932 and 1934. The Richmond team was always up in the top four from 1927 until 1935. Collingwood were always the team to beat, but Richmond was not far behind. Dad played 133 games in 10 seasons during that era, and always said that the emphasis on a stable team, with players of great character and mateship, was the reason they were so strong.

After leaving Richmond, at the end of an injury riddled 1936 season, Dad took the coaching job at Albury, where he had a great team, including some ex VFL players. He won a Premiership, but unfortunately the business, where he had a job in the town, closed down. As jobs were difficult to get in those Depression years, he accepted a coaching position at Drouin, because it came with a job. Drouin had been a basket case in their competition, but in one season he took them from last place to runners up. Unfortunately though, the Drouin job also disappeared, and this time he had to head to Hamilton, where he got work in a grocery store. At Hamilton he took them to an immediate premiership.

After the season at Hamilton, he then joined the AIF and became a drill sergeant, stationed on the Atherton Tablelands, where they were training soldiers for jungle warfare against the Japanese. During this time he persuaded the hierarchy to conduct an Aussie rules "Challenge Competition" between the various units. They cut a ground out of the rainforest and had a game, the first of many. Dad coached and played in the centre, and could not believe the quality standard of the games, which featured players from all over the country. He said during most of these games he just stood there and watched what were great exhibitions of Australian football. He came out after 5 years in the Army, some of it spent in Borneo as a pretty sick man - probably from malnutrition of a sort. He was coaching

Sandringham 2nds when the Senior Coach was enticed to Melbourne Football Club mid-season. Consequently, Dad took over the Senior 18 in 1946, but he just wasn't fit enough to continue in 1947. He eventually recovered somewhat, and in 1949, he and a mate started up what was to become the VFA Under 19's or "Thirds". After this, he went on to coach younger kids and had good success with East Sandringham Under 18's - a Club that has since produced dozens of VFL/AFL players, such as Chris Judd. At that time, one of Stan's young players was Jeff Crouch, later to become the top VFL umpire of his day.

Stan then took a couple of years off, but was asked to take on an Amateur team desperate for success. Despite never playing in the finals before, under Stan they made it to fourth place and were ecstatic. However, on the Tuesday night before the First Semi Final, as Dad was jogging in the centre of the ground directing training, his knee cap "snapped". They say it was so loud it was like the sound of a "303" being fired. When they opened the knee up for surgery, the bone had become like "powder" which meant he spent the rest of his life with no kneecap. His final game as a coach was from his hospital bed at the Alfred, and his team was beaten by one solitary point to be eliminated.

He then took up lawn bowls, and with his great mate Jack Anderson, won the Victorian B Grade Pairs title. He had many other tournament wins over the next 30 years.

Stan lived a great life. He enjoyed everyone he met, and had a great sense of humour. He used to take my wife (Gail) to the Brownlow Medal Night each year, as Mum would not go. The first year he took her, he just introduced her as "Mrs Judkins" and left it at that. His old mates, and the other winners at the table, just looked at each other as if to say "*silly old bugger - he sure is batting out of his league there!*" But after an hour or so they had worked out the truth, and all had a good laugh.

A peculiar thing about Dad's make up was that he was totally ambidextrous. He kicked right foot and bowled left arm spinners - but right arm off breaks. He batted right hand but played golf left hand. He wrote right handed but played lawn bowls left handed - and when playing tennis he never hit a back hand, because he was a switch hitter able to always hit forehands by simply changing hands!

All I can say about Stan is that he was "*a great Dad - and a great Friend to all!*"

Photograph (next page)

Greensborough Football Club
Premiers 1925
Diamond Valley Football Association

This photograph was donated to Greensborough Historical Society by Society member Brian Poulter, whose father William Poulter is in this team, with Bruce McDowell's grandfather, Bill McDowell and great uncle Reg. Stan Judkins is in the front row, far right.



Back Row(L-R): A Roy, H Silk, M Monaghan (President), D Monaghan (Vice Pres.), M B George (Treas.), W H Nicholls (Hon. Sec.), G Barnett (Vice Pres.), Mr Judkins (Timekeeper), C Webber (Vice Pres.), H Collard. Row 2: J Mitchell, D McDowell, S Creese, R Maurer, A Purcell, R McDowell, W Poulter, C Lamond, J Davey, J Stock, T Iredale. Row 3: E Lines, S Poulter, C Oakley, W Godwill, A Lines (Capt.), C Godwill (V Capt), O Ely, S Clough, W Stock. Front Row: H Collard, W Santon, C Lovell, L Collard, S Judkins.

A reminder that our first **Social Morning Tea** will be held on Tuesday July 11th at 10.00am. Venue: Groove Train, Greensborough Plaza (Level 3 in the food court near Hoyts Cinemas)

This is purely a social event to get to know each other over a warm cuppa and a chat (coffee prices 3.50 upwards depending on what you like).

All members welcome to bring a friend and we look forward to seeing you there.

Morning tea will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at this venue.

Printing of this Newsletter supplied courtesy of Colin Brooks MP.