

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

# Newsletter

Edition 33, March 2019

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



## President's Report

Well we are almost back to normal at our History Resource Centre after the works that Banyule City Council organised over the Christmas and New Year period and so our Thursday team are back into action after a cuppa and cake of course (cake thanks to Rosie).

Now with a new kitchen and a secure ceiling (thank you Banyule City Council) it is good to see that more members and the occasional visitor are taking advantage of this great facility which we are fortunate to have as some other societies do not have a home of their own.

However at times it gets a bit congested and finding a table top to work on can be a challenge so in looking to the future we would like Council to consider enclosing the Centre's veranda which would allow us to relocate our storage facilities there and thus provide more space for researchers, but this is pie in the sky at present.

In the interim we intend to install three drop down table tops that can be used when members or visitors come with their laptops but can't find table space to work on and we don't want anyone heading off because of that do we.

It was with pleasure we heard that our Committee member Anne Paul recently received a Jaga Jaga Australia Day Award for "Services to the Community" so congratulations Anne and thank you for all the great work you do for us and others.

We have a full programme this year so check out the meeting schedule below as well as our website and see what is on and join us at one or all of our gatherings, whether it be a morning tea, Thursday gathering, open day or monthly meeting you will be most welcome.

Best Wishes to all and keep warm

Noel

**Committee 2018-2019**

**President** Noel Withers 94354513

**Vice President** Peter Van Eeken  
[pve101@yahoo.com.au](mailto:pve101@yahoo.com.au)

**Secretary** Norm Colvin 94352903

**Treasurer** John Gibson 94350097

**Committee Members:** Sue Brenkovich Anne Paul Marilyn Smith Sue Ballantyne

**Contact the Greensborough Historical Society**

Website: [www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au](http://www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au)  
 Email: [info@greensboroughhistorical.org.au](mailto: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

**Meeting dates and times for 2019**

*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 selected weekends for research into your family or the local area.

| Date            | Day             | Start Time     | Meeting                                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| 29/03/19        | Friday          | 1.15 pm        | SGM  |
| <b>09/04/19</b> | <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>10.00</b>   | <b>Morning Tea - See website for details</b> |
| <b>14/04/19</b> | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>1.00 pm</b> | <b>Open day &amp; BBQ HRC</b>                |
| 27/04/19        | Saturday        | 1.15 pm        | ANZAC Meeting – GHNH                         |
| 24/05/19        | Friday          | 1.15 pm        | SGM – GHNH                                   |
| <b>08/06/19</b> | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>1.00 pm</b> | <b>Open day HRC</b>                          |
| <b>11/06/19</b> | <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>10.00</b>   | <b>Morning Tea - See website for details</b> |
| 29/06/19        | Saturday        | 1.15 pm        | Forum GHNH                                   |
| 26/07/19        | Friday          | 1.15 pm        | SGM – GHNH                                   |
| <b>11/08/19</b> | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>1.00 pm</b> | <b>Open day HRC</b>                          |
| <b>13/08/19</b> | <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>10.00</b>   | <b>Morning Tea - See website for details</b> |
| 31/08/19        | Saturday        | 1.15 pm        | Forum GHNH                                   |
| 20/09/19        | Friday          | 1.15 pm        | AGM - GHNH                                   |
| <b>08/10/19</b> | <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>10.00</b>   | <b>Morning Tea - See website for details</b> |
| <b>12/10/19</b> | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>1.00 pm</b> | <b>Open day HRC</b>                          |
| 26/10/19        | Saturday        | 1.15 pm        | Heritage meeting TBA                         |
| 29/11/19        | Friday          | 1.15 pm        | SGM Christmas Meeting – GHNH                 |
| <b>10/12/19</b> | <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>10.00</b>   | <b>Morning Tea - See website for details</b> |

## Feature Article

*Thanks to Dawn Bennetts and Marilyn Mullavey for this story.*

*The gathering of Oral History stories such as this is an important part of our research work at Greensborough Historical Society.*

*If you or anyone you know would like to share their story, please contact the Society or speak to one of our Committee members.*

## Interview with Val Mallett

by Dawn Bennetts and Marilyn Mullavey

On the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, Marilyn Mullavey (nee Lewis) and I (Dawn Bennetts – nee Petts), had the opportunity of conducting an interview with Val Mallett at her residence in Leith Park, St Helena.



*Val and Mailey on their wedding day*

During the 1950's, Val and her husband Mailey lived in South Yarra, and Val's parents (Mr & Mrs George Tuer), were living in a house close by.

Around 1956, Mr & Mrs Tuer moved to Hurstbridge because George – being a train driver – was stationed at Hurstbridge for a few years. They lived in a railway house on the creek side of the railway line.

Early in 1957, Val & family also moved from South Yarra to Hurstbridge & lived with Mr & Mrs Tuer until June of that year when they moved to Donald Street, Greensborough.

Around 1958, when George retired from the railways, Mr & Mrs Tuer moved from Hurstbridge to live in a flat downstairs at Val & Mailey's house.

Val has wonderful memories of those early years in Greensborough. Like so many other people, the recollection of going rabbiting with ferrets in the paddocks nearby, brought a smile to her face.

Val remembers:

- There were no footpaths along Para Road, Greensborough and pushing the pram was certainly 'interesting.'
- Mr David Low, the local Taxi driver, who also lived in Donald Street – provided the transport at many local young ones' weddings. Some of those that David knew quite well received the transport as a wedding present, as did Julie and Linda – Val's daughters.
- The 'crying room' that was provided at the local Greensborough Pictures for mothers to take their babies to when necessary.
- The many, many, progressive dinners at Val & Mailey's, the Corder's, and many other homes, as well as the bottle drives etc - to raise funds for the construction of the Greensborough swimming pool.

All these memories showed the pride and enjoyment Val shares with lots of early Greensborough residents in building and living in the township of Greensborough at that time.

The Mallett children (Linda & Julie) attended Greensborough State School, then later Watsonia High School. Val was Secretary of the Mothers' Club at the State School, and held gym / pre-natal classes for the kinder mums at the kinder, near where Woolworths is now in

Greensborough. The classes began with around 6 mums, and ended with around 40 mums 2 years later.



The Mallett family home in Donald Street

Val loved to play tennis, and several of the local women would play at the tennis court at the top of the cutting in Greensborough each week. Val also remembers many families that lived in the area at that time, one of which was Merilyn's parents – Bill and Val Lewis, who were 'Gillespie and Lewis' – the furniture shop in Greensborough for many years.

In 1953, Mailey's brother George was working for 'Central Aircraft' in the city. This was a shop that sold model aircraft. The owner of the shop wanted to sell the business, so George, Mailey and Ken (also Mailey's brother) decided to purchase the shop in Princes Walk. They continued to run the business together from 1953 until around 1963. After that, Val and Mailey began 'The Melbourne Hobby Centre' in Port Phillip Arcade in the city, selling Scalextric slot cars until around 1968, when the business ceased.

Mailey had been a stereotyper by trade – he previously worked for Southdown Press, who produced the New Idea. Mailey did artwork for the comic strip covers.

Around 1968, Val went to work for Commonwealth Industrial Gases (CIG) and

remained working there until 1984. Every year, CIG would hold a big dinner at the MCG for the '25 Year Club' of approximately 140 employees who had worked at CIG for more than 25 years. As Val ran the 25 Year Club, it was up to her to organize the taxis for every person to be collected from, and returned to their home, in order for them to attend the dinner. Val continued to do this until around 2009, when CIG was sold to LINDE/BOC.

In 1989, Val and Mailey decided to subdivide their property in Donald Street. They built a new house and created Julinda Court which they named after their daughters – Julie and Linda. They remained living in Donald Street until 1990.



Greensborough Bowling Club (from Google 2018)

In 1992, the Greensborough Bowling Club was formed, but unfortunately, they had no club rooms of their own, so they would use other bowling clubs' facilities. In 1994, the Greensborough Bowling Club (GBC) was allotted land and title of the former Watsonia High School library as their club rooms, and that is where the club is presently located. Val and Mailey were not only regular bowlers, but Val was Secretary of the GBC for 14 years from 1996, and still attends the club nearly every day.

Merilyn and I had a most enjoyable time with Val, and we left with an invitation to call in again for a chat.

*Dawn Bennetts and Merilyn Mullavey*



## What's been happening at GHS?

### The Thursday Crew



*Supporting the ceiling*

*Termite damage*

During the October closure when the roof structure was being repaired, we decided to take an excursion to Mernda,



with lunch at Turner's Bakery and a tour of 'old Mernda' led by Norm.

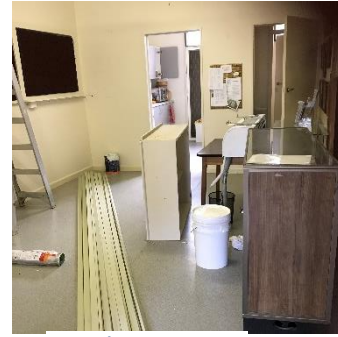


We enjoyed Turner's so much we went back for a pre-Christmas celebration while the kitchen was being renovated!

### 2019

The start to 2019 was different to other years. Normally we would arrive on a Thursday in mid-January, full of stories about our Christmas and summer break and discuss what the coming year might bring.

With the new kitchen and other repair work to the building completed, we gathered on a Tuesday to 'tidy up'. There was a thick layer of dust over the display cabinets and nearly every piece of furniture had been moved.



*Mid renovation*

As Noel reported in the December Newsletter, we also had several hundred water-damaged books to assess and re-house.



*Water-damaged books being dried out*



*Noel and Gary preparing to move a display cabinet*

It has taken us several weeks to bring the Resource Centre back to 'normal' and we are now working on catching up on our research work which was disrupted by the closure of the building while repairs to the roof structure, then the kitchen refurbishment took place.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the 'clean-up'.

*by Sue Ballantyne, Archivist*

## Greensborough's Pharmacies

Little pieces of Greensborough history turn up in unexpected places.

### Tom Lane

Last year, Marilyn Smith was looking on eBay for anything relating to our local area when she came upon this painting for sale – of the original Tom Lane Chemist at 96 Main Street, painted by Alan Sartori, very similar to this photograph given to us from the collection of Irma Sartori.



After Tom's retirement, the pharmacy moved next door to 100 Main Street and was branded Tom Lane's Amcal Pharmacy.



In May 2018, Tom Lane's moved to Flintoff Street, and returned to its original branding of Tom Lane Pharmacy.



So good to see Tom's legacy remaining with his name.

### Tom Vickers

Move up Main Street a little and we find the site of the Tom Vickers Pharmacy at 74 Main Street. Of course, the shop is gone, now the walkway to the WaterMarc complex. Tom and his wife Beryl moved to Greensborough in 1942.

We don't have a photo of Tom Vickers' shop (if anyone does, we'd be pleased to see it!) but a few years ago, Marilyn was given access to Mrs Vickers' photo album and found this early photo of Tom at work.

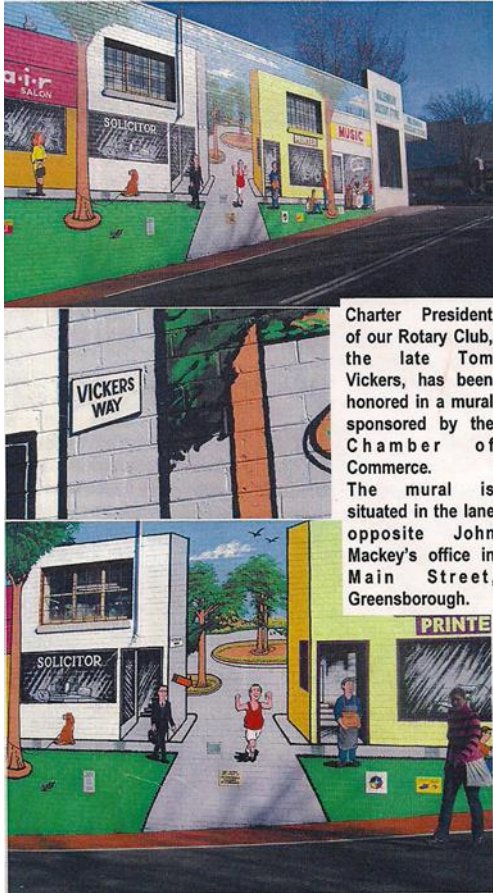


Another piece of Tom's shop turned up a few weeks ago when Gary Partington brought in this scale, given to him by Tom. I wonder how many of you were weighed on this scale at the shop?





When the shop was demolished, we also lost the artwork on Vickers Way. Here is a reminder.



Charter President of our Rotary Club, the late Tom Vickers, has been honored in a mural sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The mural is situated in the lane opposite John Mackey's office in Main Street, Greensborough.

This photo of Tom Vickers was taken at the Pioneer Children's Cemetery on the Plenty River. A keen Rotarian, Tom was involved in the planning of the original plaque (seen in this photo) to commemorate the children who died in the early days of settlement in Greensborough.



Tom and Beryl were members of the Living Faith Church (formerly Greensborough Methodist) and involved in many community activities in Greensborough.

Marilyn Smith interviewed Beryl several years ago and the following is an excerpt from 'The Vickers Family':

*Tom was a member of the Rotary Club of Heidelberg 1960-1968 and in 1968 he was Charter President of the Rotary Club of Victoria and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for his service to Rotary and the community.*

*Beryl says that she and Tom were always involved with local choirs, their long involvement with music included being founding members of the family carols committee which organised the community carols each Christmas. They both sang with the carols choir for 60 years. Tom was also a foundation member of the Probus Club of Diamond Valley (third President), foundation member of the Nillumbik Historical Society and involved in establishing the Batman Walking Trail through the area. From 1981-1985 Tom was a "Justice of the Peace" and was recognised for his service to the community with several awards, a Commonwealth Government Award for Senior Australians in the year 2000 and a Jaga Jaga Australia Day award for service to the community in 2003.*



*Beryl and Tom Vickers*

**The "Toms" were well thought of in Greensborough, for personal, professional service in their respective pharmacies. They are remembered with respect and gratitude.**

**We also remember Mrs Vickers who passed away in 2018.**

## Just add Water

I attended the launch of this absorbing and informative book on Friday 29 March at Toorourrong Reservoir. The launch was preceded by the inaugural 'Table of Plenty' long table lunch, where delicious local produce was shared, along with great stories from guests.

The event was presented by the Friends of Toorourrong, the City of Whittlesea, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water.

The book is a collective history of the people involved in the construction and maintenance of the Wallaby Creek, Toorourrong and Yan Yean reservoirs. It covers the pre-European and early history of the Plenty Valley, then focuses on this amazing water harvesting system of 'bluestone, granite and gravity'.

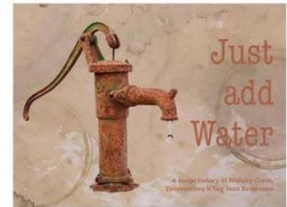
My father worked as the Fire Watcher on the Strath Creek Tower for many years, so I came to know the area well while growing up in Pheasant Creek. I contributed my recollection of his work, which complimented the stories of other workers and their families.

This social history is interwoven with themes and events, including the devastation of large parts of the closed catchment by the 2009 fires. Indeed, recovery from the fires and challenging moves by Melbourne Water to demolish Toorourrong's bluestones walls and structures was the genesis of the Friends group. They now work together to protect the heritage and maintain Toorourrong Park, under the guidance of Parks Victoria.

The book features an array of wonderful photos and memorabilia. It is an important record and

a credit to the dedication of the Friends of Toorourrong.

Copies are available at \$40 via [fotoorourrong@gmail.com](mailto:fotoorourrong@gmail.com)



A copy is available at the Resource Centre.

The Friends of Toorourrong plan to make the Table of Plenty Lunch an annual event, so keep an eye out for next year's lunch.

**Anne Paul**

**29 March 2019**

[Editor's note: Congratulations to Anne on her Jaga Jaga Australia Day Award 2019 for her community work including her work on the GHS Committee]

## Biggest Morning Tea

All GHS members and friends are invited to join the Thursday Crew at 10.00am on Thursday May 23 2019 at the History Resource Centre for the Cancer Council Fundraiser "Biggest Morning Tea". A \$5.00 donation will go to the Cancer Council, bring some change as we will have various activities as well as a delicious morning tea.

Donations can also be made via the secure Cancer Council website at <http://vic.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/GreensboroughHistoricalSociety>

We hope to see you there.

Sue Ballantyne for the GHS Committee



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courtesy of Colin Brooks MP.**