

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Edition 18, June 2015

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



President's Report

Here we are half way through the year with the winter chill taking its toll with coughs and sneezes everywhere but are we down hearted? NEVER!

There has been lots of activity of course over the past 3 months especially with commemoration of WW1 and notably Gallipoli (just in case you hadn't noticed). Greensborough Historical Society had a display for two weeks at the Greensborough Shopping Complex and six weeks at the Hatch Contemporary Art Space in Ivanhoe. Terry Philips from Montmorency RSL provided memorabilia and a continuous very graphic slide show, whilst Dennis Ward was in attendance for much of the time helping visitors with researching their family connection with the war; both are to be congratulated for their effort.

Seventeen members and friends attended our tour of State Parliament in March as well as members enjoying a trip down memory lane at the Greenhill's Neighbourhood Centre for those not on the tour. At the April meeting our guest speakers were sisters Elizabeth Bell and Margaret Bull who gave a most entertaining history of Roland Hardley who besides fighting in WW1 led an active life in Australia on his return. Elizabeth & Margaret showed Roland's diary, which they have deciphered and typed up, and memorabilia brought back from the front. We were rugged up for our May meeting at St Helena Cemetery and St Katherine's Chapel, fortunately it didn't rain which was a blessing. Our venture into the life of the Beale Family and catching up with some well known pioneering names in the cemetery was followed by afternoon tea.

Committee members met with a plaque manufacturer on Tuesday 16th June to discuss what the Society requires and to get a quotation for up to 8 plaques to be installed in Main Street which we expect to be completed in the next few months.

Our open days have been well attended due to Dawn getting ads in the local paper so we have been able to help people with family research and show visitors around our Resource Centre.

Member of Eltham and Greensborough Historical Societies, Maureen Jones has just been notified that she was successful in gaining a grant to publish a history of Montmorency titled "Montmorency – the Farm on the Plenty" and we wish her every success in her project and look forward to seeing the finished work.

Best Wishes

Noel 9435 4513

Committee 2014

President Noel Withers 9435 4513 **Vice President** Sue Ballantyne 9439 5454

Secretary Norm Colvin 9435 2903 **Treasurer** John Gibson 9435 0097

Committee Members

June Hall Anne Paul Marilyn Smith Dennis Ward

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

<h2>UPCOMING EVENTS</h2>

Saturday 27th June at Diamond Valley Learning Centre

Guest Speaker: Mick Woiwod. Topic: His new book "The Hill" and the Kangaroo Ground Tower

Friday 31st July at Greenhills Neighbourhood Centre – Guest speaker Dr Mark Eccleston, Manager, Heritage Operations, Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. Topic: Understanding Victoria's rich Aboriginal cultural heritage

Saturday 29th August at Diamond Valley Learning Centre

Guest Speaker: Liz Pidgeon. Topic: Tracing your family tree

Friday 25th September at Greenhills Neighbourhood Centre

AGM and Committee elections. Guest speaker to follow.

Saturday 24th October at Diamond Valley Learning Centre
Heritage meeting

Meeting dates and times for 2015

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

**Committee meetings are generally held at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month.
Venue: Resource Centre.**

Date	Day	Start Time	Meeting
27/06/15	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum DVLC
31/07/15	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM - GHNC
08/08/15	Saturday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
29/08/15	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum DVLC
25/09/15	Friday	1.15 pm	AGM - GHNC
24/10/15	Saturday	1.15 pm	Heritage Meeting - DVLC
27/11/15	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM, Christmas Meeting - GHNC

**The Resource Centre corner Glenauburn Road and Para Road, Lower Plenty
is open on Thursdays from 10.00am to 3.00pm.**

Next Weekend Open Day for 2015 is Saturday 8th August from 1.00 to 3.00pm

Research your family tree, find out more about Greensborough and surrounding areas
or just drop in for a chat and a cup of coffee.

Members and visitors always welcome.

For more information contact Noel 9435 4513

News from Mornington

Congratulations to GHS foundation member
and past resident of Greensborough

Val WILSON

On her Queens Birthday Honour
Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the General
Division for service to the community of
Mornington as an historian.

Val is Vice President, Mornington and District
Historical Society.

Mornington Peninsula

For those interested in the history of the
built environment of the Mornington
Peninsula, a comprehensive 198 page
Mornington Peninsula Thematic History is
available to download on the Mornington
Peninsula Shire website at
www.mornpen.vic.gov.au – you'll find it if
you open the site, type 'heritage study
review' in the search area at the top right of
the page, then scroll down the heritage
review page that will open.

John Gibson



Watsonia Primary School No.4838 Part 2

Over the past year, GHS members Rosie Bray, Marilyn Smith and Sam Chesser have worked together to compile a history of Watsonia Primary School through oral history interviews with people involved with the school over the years. Here are more stories from Watsonia.

A Parent: Nancy Fyfe Remembers



Nancy originally came from Echuca and came to live in Nell Street West Watsonia in 1959. She remembers the conditions, especially unmade streets, and

laughs when she remembers the Watsonia Methodist Sunday School using the 'tin shed' which is now the Watsonia RSL on Sundays.

When Nancy's eldest daughter Cheryl was old enough to begin school in 1960, she was to attend Macleod Primary School in Greensborough Road. Having four younger children, Nancy did not fancy walking there twice a day (with the little ones in tow), so she was delighted when Watsonia Primary School opened its doors in February 1960.

Cheryl Fyfe was a foundation student at the school and the four other Fyfe children followed her. Nancy remembers all the activities of setting up the new school and the pride of the school community as it grew. She participated in street stalls, fetes and raffles as fundraisers, and said that she enjoyed accompanying the students on their excursions. The one outing that stands out is the trip to the

Zoo when everyone had a wonderful time. Nancy well remembers the excitement in 1968, when the new Library and Canteen was opened. She also said that the children had an environmental lesson, when they planted trees around the perimeter of the school. Each tree had a child's name on it. This exercise not only provided shade but taught the children the value of trees in the world. Nancy's daughter Cheryl's three children have followed suit and attended Watsonia Primary School, which makes the school very dear to the Fyfe family.

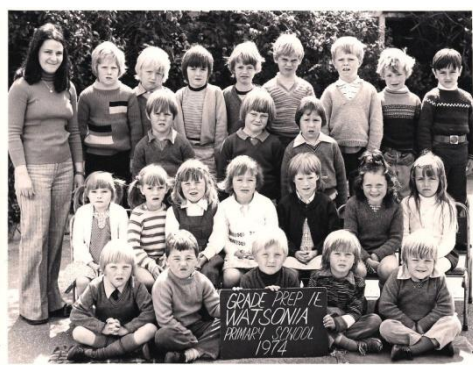
Watsonia Primary School Canteen 1970

It was during the seventies that I became a 'Canteen Mum' at Watsonia Primary School. This became a regular and important help to the running of the canteen. There were quite a lot of us mothers as the school was becoming increasingly larger with more children and the need for a canteen was of real importance for both the children and their parents. The canteen was managed by Mrs Doreen Simondson who ran it with the likes of a production line. Doreen had wonderful systems. We would all arrive at 9am with our own pretty aprons. It was then heads down and all ready for action. The coloured washing baskets would all start to arrive with their classroom monitors. The baskets would contain the brown paper bags with each child's name and their lunch order, money enclosed in it. The mothers would then have a basket to check. Lists were made of the food required, money was checked, and bags put back in baskets ready to be filled with their orders. We would then start to prepare the fillings for the sandwiches.

Eggs were boiled and then mashed with the potato masher. Nobody would want that job. Tomato was sliced, lettuce shredded, Kraft Cheese blocks were grated, butter was beaten to make it easier for spreading and so on we went. The pies and sausage rolls were put in the pie oven. We then went about the task of making up the sandwiches required for the

brown paper lunch orders in each of the allocated baskets that were given. Then it was time for the hot food to be added to the lunch orders. Plenty of tomato sauce was squirted into the pies and sausage rolls.

The monitors would soon come and collect baskets brimming with food. It was a very happy and fun time. We did it all without a coffee break or tea break and if we were lucky we would be rewarded with a lovely fresh crust filled with any leftovers. Lots of friendships were made and I still have a dear friend Jan who I met all those years ago. We still have a laugh when we remember our days as a 'Canteen Mum'. Sadly Doreen passed away some years ago. Doreen lived in Briar Hill before she married. Her maiden name was Sloan.



When I finished my canteen duties after some years, the canteen was well and truly established. My children had gone onto Watsonia High school, and I had returned to work. The recollection of my time at the Watsonia canteen and the school are all very pleasant. The children back then were allowed to have frozen drinks alongside icy-poles and lollies as well, when the canteen was open to them at lunch times.

These are my happy recollections of my time being a Canteen Mum at Watsonia Primary School.

Lesley Hooper

Teacher: John Murphy 1978-1983

A Continuing Association:



John Murphy with his class in 1978



Former teacher John Murphy, now part of the Grandparents Program

Thanks to Marilyn's photography and scanning, GHS now has a small collection of photographs from Watsonia Primary. Here is a sample.

From the past:



Grade 1E 1972



District Premiers: Cricket 1974



A tribute to our war veterans.



Netball Premiers 1981

Thanks to Rosie, Marilyn and Sam for their work on this Project



Official opening of Watsonia Primary School 1961

The Past 3 Months

March 27: Noel led a group on a tour of State Parliament, while Norm and Marilyn ran the monthly meeting at Greenhills with a photographic trip 'down memory lane'

April 18: The annual "ANZAC" meeting paid tribute to Roland Hardley, a World War I veteran and first President of the Greensborough RSL. We were fortunate to have Roland's descendants Elizabeth Bell and Margaret Bull who shared their family photos and memorabilia, including Roland's Gallipoli diary.

John Gibson also spoke about his great grandfather William John Jones who was at Gallipoli.

May 29: A tour of St Katherine's Church St Helena, including a look at the cemetery, Thanks to Bev Ward for sharing her knowledge of this beautiful old Church.

And finally Watsonia Primary school today:



The welcoming entrance



Thanks to Marilyn Smith (top) and John Gibson for these photos of our St Katherine's visit

Behind the scenes

New website

Preparation of the new GHS website continues with the launch expected later this year.

Main Street Plaques

At a recent meeting, GHS Committee members, Banyule Council Officer Aldona Stopa, Noella Jacobs from Greensborough Chamber of Commerce and Jim Caffrey from Bartlett Industries took a walk down Main Street to confirm the locations of the Plaques. Jim is now preparing a formal quote for the work.

World War I Project

The number of servicemen and women associated with Greensborough and surrounding areas seems to grow each week. Norm Colvin and Marilyn Smith continue to identify our ANZACs and gather information on their lives before and after the Great War. The information

researched in this project will be included in the new GHS website. In the September Newsletter we will bring you the story of Nurse Bessie Gallagher who worked at Mont Park during her pre-War career.

Anzac Exhibition 8th – 30th May 2015
Banyule City Council, Hatch Arts Building *(The HATCH was an Eisteddfod Hall built in the 1930's - BCC now have the building for sale!)*

The Show: The major photographic exhibition was by Charles Snodgrass Ryan a 60 year old Chief Medical Officer at Gallipoli whose sepia toned prints are exceptional.



There was an exhibition of 14 cabinets of memorabilia from local residents and a picture show of the whole of WW1. Dennis Ward and Terry Phillips volunteered to be available as **Historians-In-Residence**. Ivanhoe Primary School sent 60 grade 6 students who were a fantastic audience. Terry Phillips had the children's attention and is a great performer. The older groups and individuals were mine. I love the look on people's faces when they find out they have a Lost Hero. The people we spoke to really appreciated finding out about their soldiers. Dennis helped research about 40-45 Soldiers. **Total Attendance.** There were about 1000 attendees. This was up there with the most popular Exhibitions BCC has held.

Dennis Ward

Plenty Gorge Park Archaeological Dig, May 2015

On 23 May Heritage Victoria had an open day at their archaeological dig on the site of the Thomas Mill on the Plenty River, constructed by prominent figure Moses Thomas in 1855. We were shown around the site by senior Heritage Victoria archaeologist Jeremy Smith.



The three storey flour mill was built from locally quarried stone and only operated for eight years. It was closed in 1863 after a flood destroyed the weir he had built to try and keep the mill operating after most of the water flow of the Plenty River had been diverted into the new Yan Yean Reservoir to guarantee Melbourne's water supply.

Near the mill building was the site of what appeared to be the single storey miller's cottage. It was so tiny that Jeremy speculated that if the miller's family lived there they probably slept in hammocks as there was no floor space for beds.



Over 1000 finds have been recovered during the dig. A great many of the largest items came from the wheel

house pit of the mill, where it seems broken household and other items were discarded. Many similar fragments were found in the cottage.



It was clear that after the mill closed the stone blocks of its walls were over time removed for use in other local structures. The cottage however had continued to be occupied, as some of the items found dated from much later in the 1880s and the cottage appears in the background of an 1878 photograph.

Moses Thomas was a busy man. Among his many other projects were two wives who between them bore him 18 children!

John Gibson

Greensborough Historical Society Newsletter

Next edition of the Newsletter is due in September 2015. Articles for inclusion can be sent to sueballantyne2010@hotmail.com

***Printing of this Newsletter
supplied courtesy of Colin
Brooks MP.***