

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Edition 34, June 2019

Incorporation No. **A0054430X**

ABN **64 318 435 402**



President's Report from Noel Withers

Here we are in June already and so much has been happening. We finalists for a Victorian Collections cataloguing award. Congratulations to the Thursday Crew for their work.

Our June "Open Day" was most successful with a good attendance of visitors as well as members thanks to a bit of publicity generated by Dawn who keeps looking for opportunities to promote the Society. That same day 8 GHS members joined "Friends of Plenty Gorge" led by Andrew Buultjens in the morning for a walk through Janefield Bundoora looking at the remains of the WW2 RAAF campsite, the 2nd Ivanhoe Scout hut and then Coulstock's mill. A most interesting walk and talk. Thank you, Andrew, for the invite.

We have recently received a "Volunteers Grant" from the Federal Government to upgrade computer facilities at our History Resource Centre thanks to the support of outgoing member for Jaga Jaga, Jenny Macklin who has handed over the reins to Kate Thwaites after 22 years in Parliament. We wish Jenny and her family a happy and healthy time ahead.

If you attend our Resource Centre you will be aware that we are getting a bit crowded these days so we have asked the owner, Banyule City Council to consider enclosing the veranda to give us more storage space and additional room for our research. Funding for a feasibility study of how best to develop the building for the future is being considered by Council along with requests from other voluntary organisations of course, so wish us luck. Councillor Alison Champion has shown an interest in the proposal.

Book sales have slowed down since the Greensborough Newsagent went out of business however they are still being sold at Briar Hill Newsagent and Montmorency balloon shop as well as at our weekly and monthly meetings.

Greensborough Chamber of Commerce has produced a nice looking brochure featuring our 13 plaques in Main & Grimshaw Streets including a map and additional information which it hopes to launch soon and will be available to all sections of the community.

Thanks to Rex Smith and Bruce McDowell for their presentation on the history of Greensborough Football Club at our May meeting. The photos listing many names synonymous with Greensborough. Attendance at our Coffee mornings fluctuates but have been most successful so why not join us next time - they are fun especially if Gary and Eric are in good form.

Membership is currently at 95 and growing which is encouraging and with the cost of membership remaining the same for the past 9 years we are hopeful it will continue, so don't forget us in the new financial year.

Cheers, Noel

Committee 2018-2019

President	Noel Withers 94354513	Vice President	Peter Van Eeken 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

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 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

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.

Date	Day	Start Time	Meeting
29/06/2019	Saturday	1.15pm	Forum - GHNH
26/07/19	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM – GHNH
11/08/19	Sunday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
13/08/19	Tuesday	10.00	Morning Tea – See website for details
31/08/19	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum GHNH
20/09/19	Friday	1.15 pm	AGM – GHNH
08/10/19	Tuesday	10.00	Morning Tea – See website for details
12/10/19	Saturday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
26/10/19	Saturday	1.15 pm	Heritage meeting TBA
29/11/19	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM Christmas Meeting – GHNH
10/12/19	Tuesday	10.00	Morning Tea – See website for details

GHNH – Greenhills Neighbourhood House HRC – History Resource Centre

Greensborough War Memorial Park by Sue Ballantyne

"This park includes a cenotaph honouring 15 men from Greensborough who were killed in the First World War, which gives this park its name. The cenotaph was originally located in Main Street, Greensborough, and after being moved to another park in the late 1920s, moved to its present location in the 1950s.

The park, with its landscaped paths, sporting field, playground and picnic facilities is popular with the community and hosts Anzac and Remembrance Day ceremonies each year." Banyule City Council website 2019

To Greensborough locals, War Memorial Park is much more than this. It is the home of the Greensborough Football Club, the Greensborough Cricket Club and the community's reverent memorials to those who served this country in times of conflict. The Park is situated on the corner of Henry and Ester Streets Greensborough.

Fallen Soldier's Memorial

A public meeting convened by the Greensborough sub-branch of the Returned Servicemen's Association first discussed the possibility of a "Fallen Soldier's Memorial" in May 1920. The format of the memorial was debated – a public hall was considered, but it was felt that it might be irreverent.



Main Street 1920s

The Greensborough Fallen Soldiers' Memorial was erected in the 1920s as a tribute to the 15 men of the district who lost their lives in the Great War (1914-1918). It is designed as a drinking fountain. Originally located in Main Street, the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial was moved in 1927 to Greensborough Lower Park, near the tea-rooms (now Diamond Valley Learning Centre and was moved to Greensborough War Memorial Park in Henry Street possibly in the 1950s.



*Lobb Children sitting on Memorial 1940s
Photo: W.Baxter*

Early in the 2000s, the large cypress pines surrounding the park were deemed unhealthy and were removed. Chainsaw artist Leigh Conkie was commissioned to turn the "in situ stumps into figurative and decorative public art works". (*Greensborough War Memorial Sculptures: Leigh Conkie* (2004) Banyule City Council)

With assistance from the Greensborough RSL and the local community, Leigh produced 12 statues that became well-loved by the Greensborough community. Leigh was able to incorporate his personal experience by creating one sculpture as a memorial to his father Charlie Conkie who served in WW2, and another to his grandfather Billy Turner who served in WW1.



Unfortunately, time was not kind to the sculptures, and in 2013, a local boy expressed his concern over the state of some of the carvings. Council's response was that "inspection and maintenance were ongoing." (*Diamond Valley News* 11/09/2013)

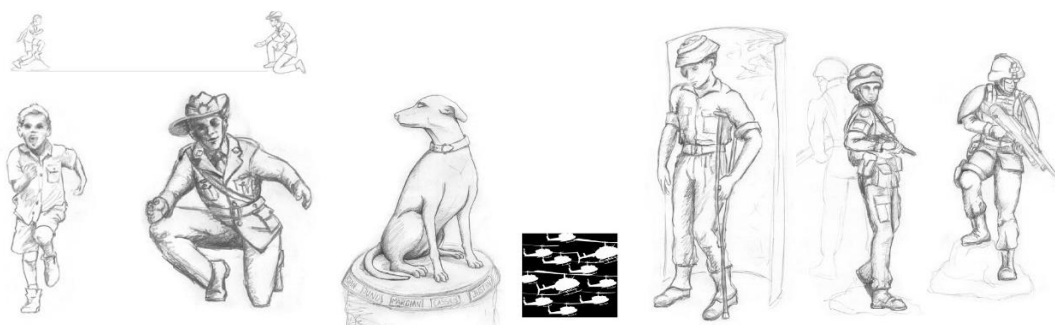
A new thought had been kindled somewhere, and planning began for the new "Homefront" sculptures. Colin James of Banyule Council was the project initiator, Amanda Gibson the designer. Support came from Lee Webb of Greensborough RSL and Robert Winther, Veteran Liaison at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Veterans were invited to share their stories through a series of writing workshops facilitated by Neil Grant. The whole process was filmed and is now a documentary produced by Michael Wilkins. Chainsaw artist Leigh Conkie was once more involved, with Hikaru Kodama the primary artist. Chainsaw artist John Brady and blacksmith Roland Dannenhauer added some special touches to the artworks.



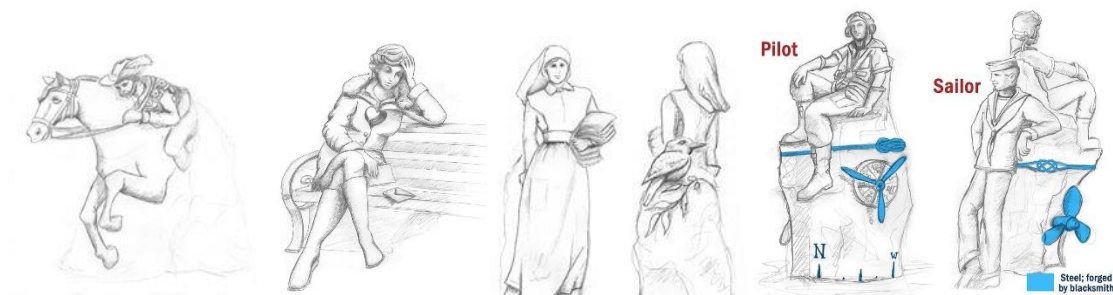
In September 2017, the local community farewelled the original statues. Amanda Gibson stated that "it felt disrespectful to let them rot" and more fitting to say "farewell through the symbolism of fire" (from the documentary film *Homefront: a new kind of war memorial*)

Designer Amanda had spoken with veterans and read the stories they wrote in the writing workshops. She referenced uniforms at the Shrine of Remembrance and worked with chainsaw artists Leigh and Hikaru to finalise the designs. Each sculpture represents an individual experience of war.

By 2018, as we commemorated the centenary of the end of World War I, the first sculptures were ready for installation at the McDowell Street end of the Park. The ceremony took place on 22/04/2018. The first four designs were: Reunion, Justin the Tracker Dog, Vietnam and Modern Combat. *These design drawings are from the Homefront Sculptures Facebook page.*



The final four designs were unveiled on the centenary of Armistice Day 11/11/2018. They are: The Light Horse, The Letter, Nurse, Pilot and Sailor. *These design drawings are from the Homefront Sculptures Facebook page.*



While it is a pleasure to walk around and observe the sculptures, and enjoy them as pieces of art, there is much underlying symbolism within each piece.

Reunion



Photo: S.Ballantyne

Reunion represents the joy of reunion and what has been happening on the 'Homefront' while soldiers are serving overseas.

The two sculptures are placed apart, facing each other. The excitement on the young boy's face as he runs to his father is a joy to see. Dad waits patiently, taking in the sight of his boy.

Justin the Tracker Dog




Justin represents the 11 tracker dogs in the Vietnam War. The names of all dogs are on the base of the statue. All dogs were black Labradors rescued from Sydney pounds and named after Roman emperors.




Justin was carved by Leigh Conkie. Stainless steel collar forged by Roland Dannenhauer.

Justin the Tracker Dog



Photo: S.Ballantyne

<p>Vietnam</p>  <p><i>Photo: S.Ballantyne</i></p>	<p>Vietnam</p> <p>The soldier is based on veteran Bill Cantwell's experience in the Vietnam War. The young soldier wears an eye patch – Bill's legacy of his wartime injury. The base of the statue represents being held down – you can see the hands reaching up the soldier's legs. Carved by Hikaru.</p> <p>The laser-cut steel shield has a pattern of Huey helicopters flying over rubber trees, Bill's memory of being evacuated after being shot in the eye.</p>
<p>Modern Combat</p> <p>These soldiers are a symbol of strength and the ability to focus.</p> <p>And a reminder that Australian soldiers are currently deployed overseas.</p> <p>Women have been on the front line since 2016. She wears the uniform worn in East Timor.</p> <p>The male wears the uniform from Afghanistan.</p>	<p>Modern Combat</p>  <p><i>Photo: S.Ballantyne</i></p>
<p>Light Horse</p>  <p><i>Photo: S.Ballantyne</i></p>	<p>Light Horse</p> <p>This is the largest of the Homefront sculptures, symbolising the role of horses in all wars, but particularly in the Boer War and WWI. The rider is an indigenous soldier. Men lied about their 'aboriginality' to enlist at a time when indigenous Australians were banned from serving in the army.</p> <p>Permission was given by local elders to use this image and the Dreamtime story: Bunjil the great eagle gave his protective power to Waa, the black crow (who sits on the soldier's shoulder). The eagle feathers below the horse represent the power of Bunjil to keep both rider and horse safe.</p> <p>The timber was prepared by John Brady who also carved the black crow as a gift to the project. Carving by</p>

	Hikaru and over 70 hours of forge-work by Roland to complete the bridle, reins and horseshoe.
<p>The Letter</p> <p>This lady has a letter in her hand and a heart-shaped hole in her chest.</p> <p>It represents loss and the sadness of women on the Homefront.</p> <p>Carving by Hikaru. Park bench made by Roland, based on the benches in the Botanic Gardens, with a 1940s look.</p>	<p>The Letter</p>  <p><i>Photo: Banyule Council website</i></p>
<p>The Nurse</p>  <p><i>Photo: Banyule Council website</i></p>	<p>The Nurse</p> <p>This WWI nurse is a symbol of women's contribution to previous wars in a supporting role.</p> <p>The kookaburra is the logo of the War Widow's Guild and the eucalyptus leaf represents Australia.</p>
<p>Pilot and Sailor</p> <p>The sailor is looking towards Station Pier, where they would board their ships. The sailor's face is based on designer Amanda's grandfather. The ship's propeller represents the navy.</p> <p>The plane's propeller is a replica of the Australian Wirraway. The compass points are important navigation aids to both sailors and airmen. The steel rope around the base of the sculpture includes the Carrick bend knot used by the merchant navy, representing the merchant navy's contribution during wartime.</p> <p>Props forged in steel by Roland.</p>	<p>Pilot and Sailor</p>  <p><i>Photo: S.Ballantyne</i></p>

If you haven't recently been to War Memorial Park, you should. It's worth the visit.

Heritage Day 2019

AN INVITATION: On Saturday 26 October 2019 at 10.30am, we will be starting our Heritage Day at War Memorial Park, with a tour and talk, firstly on the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial and the men remembered in its inscription; next we will walk across the park to the Homefront Sculptures. Then join us for a BBQ lunch near the rotunda. We will then move to Greenhills Neighbourhood House for a talk on the history of Greensborough.

You are most welcome to join us for all, or any part, of the day's events. This will also be our Seniors' Month activity, so friends and family are welcome too.

The Nepean Street Mystery – Can you help?

A few months ago, one of my neighbours said that the house of one of their neighbours, 216 Nepean Street (formerly Arthur Street) Greensborough, was the oldest in the street, and had been owned by someone who had farmed the land. I thought this was worth investigating, and started to identify past owners by checking Certificates of Title.

I knew that the land was part of Grace Park, owned by Frederick Augustus Nell, who had bought the land in 1877 from John Brown, the original Crown Grantee. (see *Grace Park and the Nell Family* in the GHS Collection)

Working back from the current owners (since 1997), I found that part of the large (81 x 200 ft.) block had originally been purchased from Nell's Estate by Thomas Moylan on 15/6/1916, part to Arthur Marshall on 17/12/1919, and another part by Peter Grunden on 17/2/1926. Marshall had subdivided and sold a part to Frank Howard, who had sold some to Annie Veness on 17/3/1944 (she had been a landholder in the area since 1929).

Now it gets more complicated. Moylan, Grunden and Veness all sold land to Harold and Mavis Waldron, a block each in 1954 and a further three blocks in 1961 (each described as part of Lot 1, LP 50685 reg. 9/10/1959). The latter blocks were consolidated on 1/5/1961 into C/T Vol. 8322 Fol. 237), on which the Waldrons were registered as joint proprietors. The block was resold to Clarence & Margaret Roberts in 1966, to Stephen & Sharon Goodes in 1983, to Stephen & Katrina FitzPatrick in 1992 and to the current owner in 1997.

The occupations of the earlier purchasers were Clerk, Electrician, Property Salesman, Traveller, Spinster and Carpenter - not a farmer among them!

So, was my neighbour being imaginative? He had lived there for nearly 50 years, and seemed to know the history of the street and its residents pretty well. Given the location of the house (photograph attached), which is very probably built prior to World War 2, before the consolidation of titles, and its apparent extension to the east, it may well have been built on the central (Grunden's) section of the current block and the surrounding land used either as a small domestic farm or as part of a larger, leased group of properties before my friend came to live there.

Does anyone out there know?

Peter Simmenauer, September 2018



216 Nepean Street

Open Day June 8 2019

Our recent Saturday Open Day was very well attended. About 6 groups of new faces visited the Resource Centre and we answered quite a lot of different enquiries. Thanks to everyone who helped out on the day.

Seating was at a premium!
Rosie and Dawn



Gary and visitor
Ted Budge

Thanks to Rosie for the photos

Did you miss the Biggest Morning Tea? We raised over \$160 for the Cancer Council. Thanks to everyone who came along, prepared food and joined in the fun!



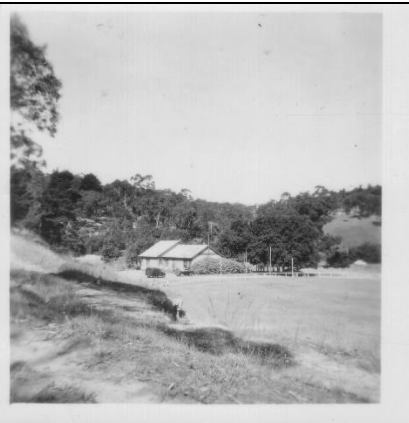
Thanks to Rosie Bray and Marilyn Smith for the photos

Archives at GHS

One of the best things about volunteering in the Archives at GHS is the variety of historical items that come through each year. Here are a few from over 1,000 new items donated in the past 12 months.



Greensborough Cricket Team 1940s-1950s? If you recognise anyone or know the year, please let us know



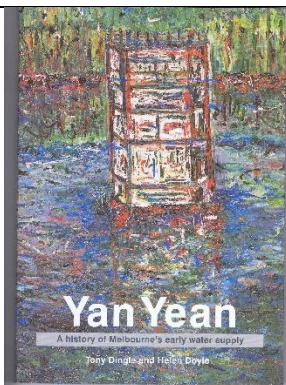
Greensborough Football Ground and kiosk



We probably all remember these from our childhood!



A pretty cup with a surprise inside – a moustache cup



A new book on Yan Yean water supply



Traffic jam in Grimshaw Street/ Kerr St area in the mid 70's

Just 2 of over 1,200 slides scanned from the Greensborough Primary School Archives



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