

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Edition 35, September 2019

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



President's Report (from the AGM 20th September 2019)

Well it has been quite an exciting 12 months with mainly highs and the occasional low. Much to our surprise just after last year's AGM we learnt from Banyule City Council that we were getting a new kitchen at our History Resource Centre as part of its maintenance programme including hot water being provided to the sink adjacent to the toilets. Work occurred over the Christmas/New Year period at the same time a sagging ceiling was to be repaired but it was found that timbers in the ceiling had been eaten away by termites and if they were there they must have destroyed the ones in the wall as well so the roof and walls had to be repaired even before the kitchen was started.

Unfortunately, due to some of the building works we got flooded and almost 200 of our book publications were damaged. Book sales are down, however this should pick up as Christmas approaches but we are still getting our presence felt with talks and walks to schools and community groups as well as input into the local paper and Council's Banner.

Thanks to a grant from Federal Government we have been able to purchase two new laptops to replace two of the aging desktop computers and we thank our Federal member's office for its support.

The Society for the second time recently won an award from Museum Victoria for our input into its Victorian Collection and cataloguing excellence by a voluntary organisation for which our Thursday contributors can be most proud, particularly Sue Ballantyne, Meryllyn Mullavey and Peter Simmenauer for their cataloguing.

Peter Van Eeken is progressing well with the history of this area and though we were expecting one volume he has enough material for three.

Membership is continually growing and monthly meetings well attended as well as our coffee mornings and open days thanks to Sue Brenkovich and Dawn Bennetts for their promotion and organisation.

If you have attended the History Resource Centre you will have noticed we are running out of room and Banyule City Council has allocated funds this year to investigate how best to extend and modify the building to facilitate additional space for our Thursday crew.

The NBN is now available to the Resource Centre so we are comparing deals - speed versus price, fortunately the annual heritage grant Nillumbik Shire Council has been allocating to us goes a long way towards having access to the internet without which we couldn't function.

We couldn't survive without support from various authorities and our thanks go to Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Greensborough RSL, Greensborough Chamber of Commerce, Greenhill's Neighbourhood House and State and Federal Governments and Yarra Plenty Library Service all of whom have played an important part in making us a successful Historical Society.

Closer to home you have a hard-working team of Committee and lay people, each contributing their precious time and I am most grateful for their support over the past 12 months.

Noel Withers

Congratulations to our ongoing Committee of Management who will continue into 2020 following the AGM.

A warm welcome to Dianne Fox who joins the Committee this year. We look forward to Di's input into Greensborough Historical Society. Di has been a member of the Thursday Crew for the past few years and brings a wealth of knowledge in the areas of research and genealogy.

Committee 2019-2020

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 Dianne Fox

Contact the Greensborough Historical Society

Website: 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

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
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 see page 8
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

AGM – Annual General Meeting

SGM – Special General Meeting

NOTE: Dates for 2020 will be attached to the December Newsletter.

Feature Article

Thanks to GHS Committee Member **Anne Paul**

Resident Ladies on the Plenty River

– 1842 Petition

A petition is the most basic of means for citizens to request action by a higher authority, often government. The right to petition the Federal Parliament has been one of the rights of citizens since Federation, and it is the only way an individual can directly place their grievances before Parliament.

While we live in an age of instant on-line petitions for many causes, petitions have traditionally been a collection of signatures on paper or fabric, with the request stated at the beginning.

1891 Women's Suffrage Petition

Victorian women can proudly claim an early milestone with the 1891 Women's Suffrage Petition. Tabled in Parliament in September 1891, the petition requested that 'Women should Vote on Equal terms with Men' and collected nearly 30,000 signatures. It reflected the dedicated work of a handful of women who travelled across Victoria, going door to door to collect signatures, pasted the pages onto fabric and wound them onto a large spool.

Its tremendous length earned it the name of the 'Monster Petition'. It played an important role in the women's suffrage movement, with Australia being the first nation to give women the right to vote and to stand for parliament, with Federation in 1901.



*Image courtesy
Parliament of Victoria*

The Monster Petition is housed in the Public Records Office of Victoria as one of the State's archival treasures.

In 2006, through the work of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the Public Record

Office Victoria and the Parliament of Victoria, the Petition was transcribed and developed into a database which can be searched by name and

location at:

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/the-history-of-parliament/womens-suffrage-petition/womens-petition>

While there are no signatures for Greensborough and only a few for Diamond Creek and Heidelberg, it is well worth checking if any of your female ancestors were signatories.

1842 Petition from the Resident Ladies on the Plenty River

Several years ago, I was intrigued to see the 1842 Petition from the 'Resident Ladies on the Plenty River' which came to my attention courtesy of the Essendon Historical Society. It's a unique document and a special window into our early local history.

Dated 5 May 1842 it is addressed to his Honour CJ La Trobe Esquire and requests protection and support for settlers, from bushrangers as follows:

Sir,

We the resident ladies on the Plenty River and the surrounding neighbourhood having received such a shock by the late brutal attack of the bush rangers on our lives and property feel no longer sufficiently safe to remain so far from Town, unless some urgent means are adopted to prosecute and put down these constant outrages.

We most respectfully solicit your Honour to support the Settlers, aided by those who so gallantly risked their lives for our protection from the late emergency, to unite in carrying out the spirit of these Petitioners.

Signatories are:

Anne Bears, C Atkins, KR Beale, Mary Bond, Sarah Bunbury, Jane Cooper, Frances Lewis Coulstock, Mary Coulstock, Jessie Fleming, HA Flintoff, P Flintoff, Jane Haley, Jane Harrison, Eliza Lecky, Julia MacLean, M Maunsell, Catherine McDonald, Miss McKillop, Catherine McLean, Eliza Ronald, EM Shaw, Elizabeth Sherwin, Mary Sherwin, Ellen Smith, C Webb

This is a rare and unique petition – collected just a few years after European settlement in Port Phillip District, with ‘ladies only’ signatories. A copy of the original petition and signatures can be accessed through the PROV webpage:

<http://access.prov.vic.gov.au/public/component/daPublicBaseContainer?component=daViewRecord&entityId=090fe27381c5b775> then clicking the pdf icon in bottom right of text box.

The handwritten petition and matching signature show that Anne Bear wrote the petition and was the first signatory. The original letter is difficult to read but the signatures are much clearer.

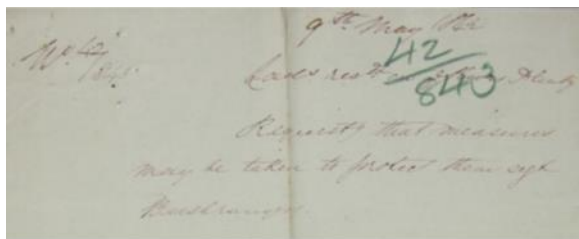


Illustration – copy of original petition PROV

Many of the other signatories are familiar pioneer settler names in the region – Beale, Coulstock and Flintoff, with some roads bearing their names - Bond, Cooper, Haley, McLean and of course Bears Castle at, and the Sherwin Ranges beyond Yan Yean Reservoir.



Katherine Rose Beale

The petition was indexed by historian Lenore Frost, with a synopsis of the circumstances leading to the petition.

http://members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/plenty_ladies.html

Young Men on Fast Horses

The petition was collected shortly after the capture of the Plenty Valley Bushrangers, amid fears for settler’s safety and property. Indeed, Anne Bear and her teenage daughter Ellen were raided at their farm in Yan Yean by these bushrangers on 29 April 1842, stealing money and food, while her husband John worked in town. They went on to raid more properties in the Upper Plenty Region before being cornered in a hut near Whittlesea on 30 April, by a posse of ‘gentlemen’ from Melbourne.

During the ensuing gunfight, the gang leader, 27-year-old John Williams was killed and one of the posse was seriously injured. The others, Martin Fogarty aged 18, Charles Ellis, 19, and Daniel Jepps 27, were captured and brought to trial before Judge John Willis. They were found guilty and hanged on 28 June 1842.

In the petition the pleas of the Plenty River Ladies are strong and earnest. One can only imagine the hardship and isolation they endured, then the additional burden of fear of violence and assault against them and their children, especially their daughters.

I think it amazing that the women have organised this petition - perhaps they signed it at church or a community event, or maybe someone took it to the various homesteads on horseback. The signatures are nearly all in their individual handwriting.

It’s not surprising that the petition has a strong law and order agenda and indeed the women’s voices were presented to Superintendent La Trobe, as part of a wider campaign to form the Port Phillip Volunteer Militia, to protect outlying settlers. However, La Trobe and Governor Gipps in NSW were not convinced of the wisdom of this, fearing a difficult to control

'vigilante' force and the potential for attacks on Indigenous people and it was never formed.... and Anne Bear's husband employed a mason to build Bear's Castle for protection.

For readers interested in more details about these hapless bushrangers the Yallambie Wordpress March 2016 article *Plenty River Underbelly* is most informative.
<https://yallambie.wordpress.com/2016/03/01/plenty-river-underbelly/>

Lindsay Mann from Whittlesea Historical Society has also written a book on them titled *The Plenty Bushrangers of 1842*.

However, I am drawn back to the petition and the lives of these 'Ladies'.

The Plenty River Ladies

I have no doubt there are many stories in the names of these petitioners and believe it would be great to research and give recognition to the lives of these pioneer women. Indeed, we will have information on some of the women, such as Flintoff's in our archives, while others will be harder to track down. The research can then be collated and uploaded to our web page.

This has been done with some of the signatories of the Women's Suffrage Petition, with a wiki format enabling people to add information, often to the delight of descendants. And I note four of the Diamond Creek Suffrage Petition signatories were Haley's - Ann J, Ada and R. & A. Haley - perhaps the children and grandchildren of our Plenty River petitioner Jane Haley?

So, if you are interested or perhaps know some details, please speak to one of the Committee so we can keep track of who is being researched and how you are going.

Please use a simple format of:

- Name:
- Parents:
- Born - date & location
- Death - date & location
- Arrived:
- Marriage:
- Children:
- Residence:
- Occupation:
- Any further details

With thanks in anticipation.

**Anne Paul
August 2019**

*Acknowledgements:
Essendon Historical Society and Lenore Frost
Yallambie Wordpress

New Addition to our Resource Centre

Earlier this month, Gary Partington unveiled the running shirt he had donated to the Society. This shirt was worn by his brother Trevor at many athletics meets around Victoria, including the Greensborough Gift in the 1960s. Thanks Gary!





CONGRATULATIONS to the latest Life Members of Greensborough Historical Society, awarded at the September AGM.

When the Society's Rules were originally prepared, the decision was deliberately made to leave out a specific clause on Life Membership of the Society, so that instead the Committee of the day could consider such awards and propose them to the general membership at an Annual General Meeting.

This is not an annual event, but rather a special event considered from time to time as required.

At this time the Committee has decided that this Annual General Meeting is the appropriate occasion for the award of Life Membership to two more key people who greatly assist the function of the Society on a regular basis.

Gary Partington joined us on 30th October 2011 and has since that day, continued to amaze us with a seemingly never-ending supply of artefacts from the Partington farming era and a supply of documents relating to his family's long presence in Greensborough.



Gary is a regular member of the Thursday group and attends most Open Days and is most helpful in explaining Greensborough's history to visitors.

The second award goes to a less visible member, but one of those who continue to assist and support us quietly in the background to make our efforts successful, namely, **Rosie Bray O.A.M.**

Rosie recently received a Medal of the Order of Australia for her support and membership of many community groups. We are fortunate to one of those groups.

Rosie is a Foundation Member of the Society and prepares our morning teas on Thursdays, usually involving her own home-made cakes. Rosie can be relied upon to attend most Open Days and other functions. Until recently, Rosie had an integral role in the archiving procedures of our collection.



Rosie continues to conduct interviews, take photos and regularly contributes written articles for our Newsletters, Archives and both of our printed books.

Both Rosie and Gary are active members that contribute each in their own way and have assisted the success of our Society to date.

I therefore congratulate both awardees.

Norm Colvin
GHS Secretary

Upcoming Events

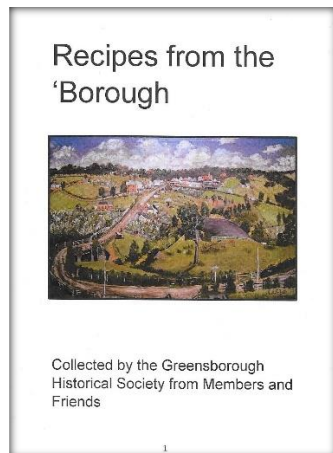
Greensborough Historical Society has a very busy month in **October**:

- Sunday 20th – **Leith Park** will celebrate its 150th anniversary and we have been invited to produce a display on the history of Greensborough
- Monday 21st to Sunday 3rd November – our annual display at Diamond Valley Community Support window, Greensborough Plaza
- Saturday 26th **Heritage Day** – see page 8 for details. NOTE: the October meeting at Greenhills Neighbourhood House will commence at 2.00 pm, due to the walk and BBQ at War Memorial Park, commencing at 12 noon.

- In December, Yarra Plenty Heritage Group (a combined group of historical societies in Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea) will mount a display of photographs and paintings at Eltham Library display space. The theme is 'Summer – fun in the sun'. **GHS has contributed 3 photographs** to this display which runs through to early January 2020, so have a look if you get the chance.

Recipe Book

The GHS Recipe book was launched at our September meeting. **Recipes from the 'Borough'** is a collection of favourites from members and friends of GHS, collected over the past year.



Thanks to:

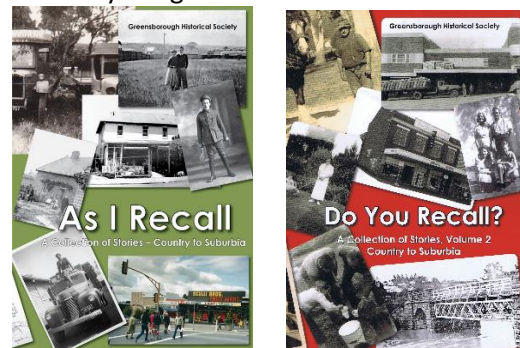
- our contributors for sharing their family favourites with us
- Merilyn Mullavey for typing the recipes
- Sue Ballantyne for editing

The booklet contains photographs from the collection of Greensborough Historical Society.

Copies available at our meetings or from the Resource Centre at \$5.00 each.

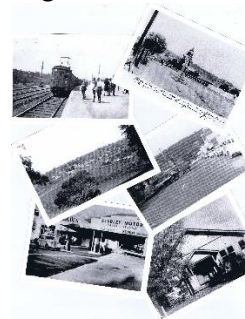
Other Publications:

We still have copies of our two books *As I Recall* and *Do You Recall?* as well as postcards, pens and Society badges for sale.



Any of these would make good 'stocking fillers' with Christmas just around the corner. Prices as follows:

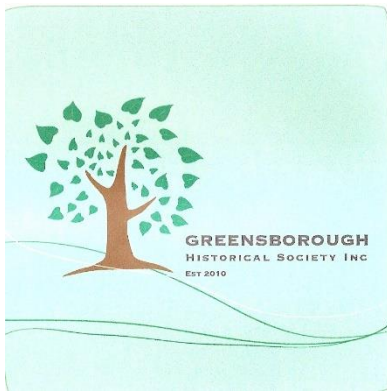
- *As I Recall* (retail \$20) \$15 for members
- *Do You Recall?* (retail \$25) \$20 for members
- Postcards (Series 1-3 available) a set of 6 postcards in each set for \$5
- GHS Pens \$3 each or 2 for \$5
- GHS Badges \$7



Series 2 postcards. Each series has different views of Greensborough from the past

If you would like to purchase any of the above, please contact Noel 9435 4513 or email info@greensboroughhistorical.org.au

There is a charge for postage, but items may be collected from the Resource Centre or at monthly meetings. We will also have items available at our Heritage Day on Saturday 26th October.



Heritage Day

our next meeting

Saturday 26th October 2019

As part of Seniors Month and our annual Heritage Day we have planned some special activities beginning at 12noon at War Memorial Park Greensborough.

This activity is advertised in the Banyule Seniors Month booklet

12 noon: There will be a talk by GHS Secretary Norm Colvin on the Fallen Soldiers memorial and some of the WWI soldiers named on it.



12.20pm: Walk to the Homefront sculptures adjacent where GHS Committee member Sue Ballantyne will talk about some of the symbolism of these memorials to those who served in other conflicts.



12.45 approx.: A BBQ will follow at the rotunda.

2.00pm: The day will conclude with a move to Greenhills Neighbourhood House, for a short talk by GHS President Noel Withers on the history of Greensborough, followed by afternoon tea.

You are welcome to join us for any or all of these activities.

Printing of this Newsletter supplied courtesy of Colin Brooks MP.