

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Edition 36, December 2019

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



Heritage Day 2019 in Pictures



A good crowd of members and visitors arrived to share the BBQ and join the talks



Thanks to Adrian for cooking the BBQ



Norm regaled us with his knowledge of the material used to make the memorial and of the 'fallen soldiers' whose names appear on it.



... And Melbourne weather struck once more, as bitterly cold turned to bitterly cold and wet! We sheltered in the Rotunda for a while then decided to abandon the day's activities.

If you would like to complete the walk around the **Homefront Statues**, we will try again on Tuesday January 14th 2020, beginning at 12 noon. No BBQ this time, but you can bring a picnic, or simply come along for the 'walk and talk'. Meet at the McDowell Street end of War Memorial Park.

You might also like to join us for a Social Morning Tea prior to this at Greensborough Plaza, Level 3 near Muffin Break at 10am (Tuesday January 14th)

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: Dianne Fox, Sue Brenkovich, Anne Paul, Marilyn Smith, Sue Ballantyne

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 2020 are attached to his Newsletter

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. You can contact any of the above Committee members with suggestions or comments.

The Resource Centre will be open on selected weekends for research into your family or the local area.

Please check our webpage for updates on meetings and activities, and for new articles and photographs.

A special activity for 2020 will be a celebration of Greensborough Historical Society's 10th Anniversary.

In March 2010, Noel Withers and a group of interested locals held a meeting to test the viability of a 'new' historical society for Greensborough.

10 years later, we have much to be proud of, and will celebrate with a BBQ and Open Day at the Resource Centre in Glenauburn Road Lower Plenty on Friday 27th March, starting at 12.00 noon.

All members and friends are welcome to join us.

President's Report December 2019

It is pleasing to note that our membership is currently at 98 plus one Honorary member and is rising so that is encouraging for our future.

Our AGM in September resulted in a full complement of 9 committee members after running with 8 for a number of years and we welcome Dianne Fox to join us and I'm sure she will be a great asset to the Society.

We are now running training sessions on the 1st Thursday of each month at our History Resource Centre and so far, have covered getting the best out of DIGGER (Births, Deaths & Marriages), using and managing Victorian Collections and using our inhouse Digital Library. Future sessions will include accessing Ancestry, land title searches, Trove and accessing PROV and State Library archives.



Members of the Thursday Crew share a laugh during a workshop session on the Digger database

Our Heritage Day at Greensborough War Memorial Park as part of Seniors' month started well with a BBQ followed by a talk about the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, however the weather prevented us viewing the new chainsaw statues depicting aspects of war featured in the film "Homefront" recently shown on SBS. For those interested we intend to do the walk on

January 14th after our 10am social tea/coffee morning at Greensborough Plaza followed by Homefront statues at 12noon.

We helped celebrate the Old Colonists' Association 150th Anniversary by attending Leith Park which is one of its facilities, there was a good turnout and a few people



GHS members and visitors inspect the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial

stopped by for a chat.

Peter Van Eeken is leading our next publication - a concise history of Greensborough district - and appears to have enough material for 3 volumes and is probably looking forward to a rest over the Christmas period.

You will be pleased to know that our History Resource Centre now has 4G internet connection due to the Lower Plenty Kindergarten already having NBN connection and NBN will not provide two connections to the one property that we share with the Kinder. I believe this will work out best for the future.

The 4G instructions said that installation was easy. Peter Van Eeken and I both said "Oh Yeah!" **but it was** and we almost fell over.

A cookbook "Recipes from the 'Borough" has been produced with recipes and anecdotes from yesteryear handed down by

our members. So well done to those who provided input. Copies are still available at \$5 each.

Recipes from the 'Borough



Collected by the Greensborough Historical Society from Members and Friends



Crowd at opening of Looking Back Looking Forward, Eltham Library

We had a stall at Latrobe market on Sunday morning 24th November to advertise ourselves as well as sell our two publications, postcards and other products and though our turnover for the day was \$100, we met a lot of people who were interested in our photos and took membership forms so we are hopeful some will join us.

If you have time over the December - January period, drop into the Eltham Library Community Gallery where you will be able to view the "Looking Back, Looking Forward – Summer Fun in Yarra Plenty" which contains photographs and original artworks of Summer activities in the local area. Greensborough Historical Society has 3 photographs displayed among those from other historical societies and artwork from the Nillumbik U3A Drawing and Painting Group. I joined Sue and Dianne at the opening and recommend a visit. The display runs from 5/12/19 to 6/1/20.



One of our contributions to the display

I'm pleased to advise that two of our founding members Rosie Bray OAM and Gary Partington received "Life Membership" for their contribution to the Society and a plaque has been created to record present and future recipients.

May you all have a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year.

Noel Withers
President



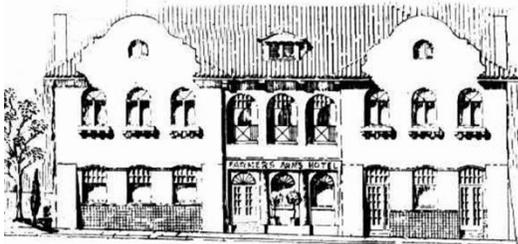
Feature article: *How things have changed over the past 100 years!*
Photographs from the GHS collection.
This article has been edited from the original.

GREENSBOROUGH BEAUTIFUL HILLS & VALLEYS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Herald 2 July 1924

Garden Suburb of Plenty River Quick Transit to the City

A new Hotel is planned for Greensborough - When this hotel is built Greensborough will have a hostelry of very distinctive design. The building is to be of brick, with a fine stucco front elevation, carried out in "Mission" style. The architects, Messrs. Sydney Smith, Ogg and Serpell, have adopted this style as being suitable to the rural surroundings.



Note the name on the drawing - Farmer's Arms Hotel

Nestling among gum-capped hills at Melbourne's back door, Greensborough, once a thriving agricultural district, is fast becoming a residential suburb with limitless possibilities.

To the vast majority of the residents of Melbourne, its name conjures up memories of many a pleasant trip, by motor or rail, into the quiet rural peace of the Plenty river and the surrounding hills. It is in the wattle district, where picnickers go to gather the golden blooms.

Its activities are described as dairying, mining and fruit-growing. These belong to the romantic past and it is as a peaceful home

area Greensborough beckons to the vast public that wearies of the metropolis. Home-makers in increasing numbers are realising the attractions of Greensborough. Neat bungalows, of every conceivable design, of both brick and hardwood, are springing up everywhere. Each turn in its winding roads, flanked with native trees, brings a fresh view of houses either occupied or under construction. What is it that draws the city-workers to raise their hearths at Greensborough?

HEALTHY SURROUNDINGS. It is 13 ½ miles from the city, or 36 minutes from Prince's Bridge station. It has a frequent electric train service, the weekly workman's ticket costing 4/8.



The view from Greensborough Station

The water supply is drawn from the Yan Yean, and larger mains are being laid by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to cope with the demand due to increasing population. The Electricity Commissioners have the work in hand to supply the surrounding district with electric current, both for industrial and private uses.

From a health point of view Greensborough is everything that can be desired. Numbers of returned soldiers feeling the effects of war service, have been medically advised to take up residence in the district because it's pure, fresh air puts new life into them. Not far away, at Macleod, is the home established by the Government for the care of returned soldiers afflicted with tubercular diseases. What better testimony could be given to the health-giving propensities of Greensborough?

LAND £1 TO £2 A FOOT.

Land can be purchased in the township at from £1 to £2 a foot. The original owners of the land in the district are reaping small fortunes by letting their land go out for subdivision.

Land Sale Poster 1923

The municipal rating is 2/ in the £1 on the improved value. This is a recently fixed rate. A short time ago it was 1/6 in the £1, and the residents of the district themselves requested the Heidelberg Shire Council to raise the rate to 2/ to enable various municipal works, such as road-making and improvements to be proceeded with. There is a live progress association at Greensborough, keeps a keen and watchful eye on the development of what all believe will ultimately become Melbourne's premier rural suburb. Progress spells increasing land values, and the purchase of land at present values can be regarded as a safe investment with the added attraction of a wise speculation. Land can be purchased for a nominal deposit and paid for at £1 a

month. The blocks are thus within the reach of all.

THE OLD AND THE NEW

Greensborough has a romantic history, and many old buildings in the district still stand as relics of the early days when Diamond Creek, its near-by neighbour, was the scene of feverish mining activity. Rapidly, however, the place is being modernised. The old is giving place to the new, and on the site of the old land marks are being erected up-to-date shops and buildings of all kinds. Ample shopping and public facilities are available. The State school itself has just been remodelled to provide for the increasing attendance of scholars. Their rosy faces and sturdy limbs are further evidence of healthy surroundings.



Greensborough State School 1907

SPORTSMEN CATERED FOR.

Within a stone's throw of the railway station runs the Plenty River. Just over the bridge and at the foot of a wooded hill, three minutes' walk from the station, fourteen acres of land has been set apart for a great recreation ground. Workmen are busily engaged in transforming it into an arena of athletics. It was purchased and paid for by local effort. When the work is completed there will be cricket and football grounds, tennis courts a Bowling Green and children's playground. It is an ideal spot for picnicking. The councillors of the riding have promised to subsidise local efforts in securing a handy home pavilion and caretaker's residence.

Anglers will find plenty of sport in the Plenty River. There blackfish, trout, cod, and eels abound.



Fishing in the Plenty River

Around the hill where the sports ground is being, constructed is another beautiful park. This is one of the most charming resorts within 13 miles of Melbourne. In the vicinity of this, about a quarter of an hour's walk from the station, a few local enthusiasts have mapped out a nine-hole golf-course. They have secured an option over another section of land, which in time will be transformed into an 18-hole course. Thus, all departments of sport will be catered for at Greensborough.

There are two churches in Greensborough Methodist and Church of England, and soon there will be a resident Church of England clergy-man in the township.



Methodist Church Main Street



*All Saint's Church of England.
Photo courtesy Jean Luxford*

Among the many attractive walks round Greensborough is that to what is known as St. Helena Church. This has a romantic history, one of the earliest settlers in the district was a Major Beale. He was the



St Katherine's Church St Helena

officer in charge of the guard over the great Napoleon during his exile at St. Helena. As early as 1840 he selected land in the district. He was a deeply religious man and on the death of his wife erected a church, near where she died, with the traditional "God's acre". Some of the grave stones in this old churchyard date back to 1860. The church itself is a quaint little structure and services are conducted there every Sunday by a Church of England clergyman. It is only 1 mile from the township.

NEW STATIONS AND SCHOOLS

Such has been the growth of population along the railway line in the vicinity of Greensborough that two new stations have been erected, one at Watsonia, on the Melbourne side, and the other at Montmorency, on the Eltham side. In common with Greensborough, these districts are drawing settlers, but much land remains to be opened up. Two big sales of allotments were recently held at Watsonia. As many as 110 lots were sold very quickly, the prices ranging, from 25/ to 40/ a foot. Those who are guiding the development of Greensborough have not forgotten the importance of providing facilities for entertainment. To this end a new hall is to be erected at an estimated cost of nearly £3000. Here all manner of entertainments will be held. With its varied attractions, Greensborough bids fair to become a popular residential area amid beautiful surroundings.

Thanks to Marilyn Smith for finding this article

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

2020 Meeting Schedule

Date	Day	Start Time	Meeting
14/01/20	Morning Tea Homefront Statues	10.00 am 12 noon	See Website for details War Memorial Park. McDowell Street end
08/02/20	Saturday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
11/02/20	Morning Tea	10.00 am	See Website for details
29/02/20	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum GHNH
27/03/20	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM - GHNH
14/04/20	Morning Tea	10.00 am	See Website for details
18/04/20*	Saturday	1.15 pm	ANZAC Meeting - GHNH
29/05/20	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM - GHNH
09/06/20	Morning Tea	10.00 am	See Website for details
13/06/20	Saturday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
27/06/20	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum GHNH
31/07/20	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM - GHNH
09/08/20	Sunday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
11/08/20	Morning Tea	10.00 am	See Website for details
29/08/20	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum GHNH
18/09/20*	Friday	1.15 pm	AGM - GHNH
10/10/20	Saturday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
13/10/20	Morning Tea	10.00 am	See Website for details
31/10/20	Saturday	1.15 pm	Heritage meeting TBA
27/11/20	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM Christmas Meeting – GHNH
08/12/20	Morning Tea	10.00 am	See Website for details

HRC – Historical Resource Centre (34A Glenauburn Rd, Lower Plenty.)

GHNH – Greenhills Neighbourhood House. (Community Drive, off St Helena Rd)

SGM – Special General Meeting, AGM – Annual General Meeting.

Notes:

* April meeting on 18th April, Open Day cancelled due to Easter and ANZAC day.

*September AGM brought forward to avoid AFL Grand Final Eve holiday.

Printing of this Newsletter supplied courtesy of Colin Brooks MP.

Greensborough Historical Society thanks Colin for his continued support