

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Edition 38, Part 2, June 2020

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



President's Report

We all know the expression of taking three steps forward and two back, well that's how it seems at present with us all wanting to resume our usual way of life and catch up with fellow members of Greensborough Historical Society, well however frustrating that is we will have to be patient (not my best attribute).

As previously mentioned, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Federal Government to install a computer server at our History Resource Centre and purchase a better projector that we use at our monthly meetings, the server will have the most up to date data on it from which members will be able to extract a file and return it to the server possibly modified ready for the next person who accesses it, so everyone will be on the same page.

The current projector has done a good job over the past few years but is limited in its brightness and resolution compared with more recent models and its connections are different to our new laptop.

Peter Van Eeken and I recently met with Rudy Novak at the Resource Centre to discuss options and we are hoping to have a server installed in the next month or so which will be another chapter in our progression as a forward-thinking Historical Society.

Peter has been working on material for our next publication relating to Greensborough district history and once we have decided in what form it should take, we will be heading to a publisher for the next step.

We have recently received a donation of artefacts, via Dianne Fox, that Sue Ballantyne and Marilyn Smith have been sorting, which is time consuming but exciting, so we march on though at a much more regulated pace.

Best wishes to all and keep safe.

Noel

This Newsletter printed courtesy of Anthony Carbines MP

Committee 2018-2019

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 Marilyn Smith **Sue Ballantyne**

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 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

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
The following are our published dates for the next few months, all are reliant on government restrictions on group gatherings.			
15/07/20	Wednesday	7.00pm	Committee HRC
31/07/20	Friday	Cancelled	SGM HRC
09/08/20	Sunday	1.00pm	Open Day HRC
11/08/20	Tuesday	10.00am	Morning tea
19/08/20	Wednesday	7.00pm	Committee HRC
29/08/20	Saturday	1.15pm	Forum GHNC
16/09/20	Wednesday	7.00pm	Committee HRC
18/09/20	Friday	1.15pm	AGM GHNC
10/10/20	Saturday	1.00pm	Open Day HRC
13/10/20	Tuesday	10.00am	See website for details
21/10/20	Wednesday	7.00pm	Committee HRC
31/10/20	Saturday	1.15pm	Heritage Meeting TBC

A full list of dates was published with the December 2019 Newsletter and is available at the GHS website.

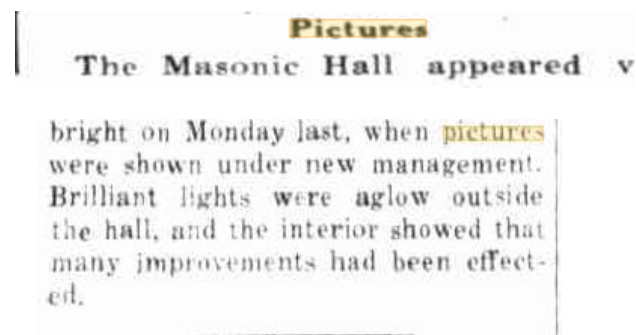
Feature Article

Thanks to Dawn Bennetts (nee Petts) for another interesting article on an aspect of Greensborough history. **Part 1 of 'The Pictures at Greensborough'** was published in the May 2020 Newsletter.

'THE PICTURES' AT GREENSBOROUGH (Part 2)

By Dawn Bennetts (Petts) 2019

Around June 1930, the 'New Greensborough Pictures' began in the hall providing local entertainment as well as supporting the local community. 'The Masonic Hall appeared very bright on Monday last, when pictures were shown under new management. Brilliant lights were aglow outside the hall and the interior showed that many improvements had been effected.'



Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 6 June, 1930 p1

Admission costs - Adults 1s 6d Children 9d.

In an advertisement in July 1930, it was mentioned that the projection plant had been refitted.

New Greensborough Pictures
Advertised for to-morrow (Saturday) night, Lon Chaney in "Laugh Clown, Laugh," is the attraction at the New Greensborough Pictures. The picture is adapted from the famous stage play. Alice White and Arthur Lake are also on the same bill in an up-to-date romance of high school heroes and college flappers who combine in making "Harold Teen," a picture that will have you laughing from start to finish. The above, together with the short comedy, "Do Gentlemen Snore," is a programme that no one should miss. The projection plant has been refitted and very steady and clear pictures are assured. In the near future a special non-synchronous equipment giving new sound effects and also suitable and modern musical scores, will be installed.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 11 July, 1930 p4

It was obvious that the picture theatre and films being shown had improved substantially and were therefore supported well by the local community. The theatre also supported local groups too, such as the Greensborough Cricket Club, The Relief Organisation and Fire Brigade. Admission costs - Adults 1/- Children 4d.

New Greensborough Pictures.
That patrons appreciated the management's change of policy was shown by the crowds that attended at both the matinee and evening performances on Saturday last. Everybody enjoyed the excellent programme presented and as this comment is general the management is to be commended on its choice of programmes, only the best available pictures being presented. As usual there will be a suitable programme presented for the children at the matinee to-morrow (Saturday), but in the evening "The Little Wildcat" will be the star attraction. It is a sparkling comedy drama in which aviation plays an important part, mingling humor freely with romance. Among future attractions are Monte Blue in "From Headquarters" and Milton Sills in "His Captive Woman." Patrons are again reminded of the evening price, which is one shilling for all. Make an appointment at your own show to-morrow night, when you are assured of a tip-top programme.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 3 Oct, 1930 p4

NEW GREENSBOROUGH PICTURES.

The "Tarzan" serial has concluded, and the prizes were presented at the matinee on Saturday. The following are the winners:—Maxwell Spence, fountain pen; Reginald Glenny, torch; William Smith, table tennis set; Evelyn Horne, toilet set; Beatrice Stock, lady's handbag. The winner of the wristlet watch has not yet been finalised. The first episode of the new serial, "The Return of the Riddle Rider," will be shown at the matinee tomorrow, and also at the evening performance. This is an adventure serial in which William Desmond and Lola Todd play the leading roles. Buster Keaton will also be shown in "Spite Marriage," a story full of thrills, laughs and romance. Also "Our Gang" in a side-splitting comedy, "Chicken Feed." On the evening bill "The Terror" is the star attraction. It is based on Edgar Wallace's celebrated stage thriller, and is a mystery film which is claimed to be the creepiest and at the same time the most absorbingly amusing film of its kind ever screened. This picture is a Warner Bros. special and makes excellent entertainment for all movie fans. A 100 per cent. technicolor picture, "The Viking," will be shown on Saturday, November 22.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 14 Oct, 1930 p6

Some of the pictures shown during 1930 were:

Laugh, Clown, Laugh. 1928 Drama... starring Lon Chaney.

Do Gentlemen Snore? 1928 Comedy... starring Max Davidson.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 11 July, 1930 p5

From Headquarters. 1929 Part-Talkie Adventure Drama... starring Monte Blue.

Our Dancing Daughters. 1928 Drama... starring Joan Crawford.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 10 Oct, 1930 p5

The Life of Riley 1927 Silent comedy starring Charles Murray.

Alias Jimmy Valentine. 1928 Crime Drama... starring William Haines.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 24 Oct, 1930 p5

NEW GREENSBOROUGH PICTURES.

If you enjoy action—fast and furious, and if you are one of the many millions of admirers of that popular star, Hoot Gibson, don't miss seeing "The Buckaroo Kid," which will be one of the two star attractions at the New Greensborough Pictures tomorrow night, Saturday. "The Drag," starring Richard Barthelmess is the other attraction; a story of a boy who made a mistake in love! The soul of a genius fighting for a way of expression. He wins, but not before he has taken you through the tensest drama of life. Barthelmess at his greatest! You couldn't ask for more! The comedy is "The Newly Weds Christmas Party." The proceeds for the evening will be devoted to the Greensborough Cricket Club. The new serial, "The Return of the Riddle Riders" starring William Desmond, will commence its season on Saturday next, November 15. By special request this serial will be shown at both the matinee and evening performances. There are ten chapters, one episode to be shown at each performance.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 7 Nov, 1930 p1

Disraeli. 1929 Biography, Drama, History...starring George Arliss.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 31 Oct, 1930 p5

Drag 1929 Drama... starring Richard Barthelmess

The Buckaroo Kid. 1926 Western... starring Hoot Gibson.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 7 Nov, 1930 p5

The Terror 1928 Horror, Mystery, Thriller... starring May McAvoy.

Spite Marriage. 1929 Comedy... starring Buster Keaton

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 14 Nov, 1930 p5

The Viking. 1928 Action, Adventure, History... starring Pauline Starke.

Forgotten Sweeties. 1927 Comedy... starring Charlie Chase.

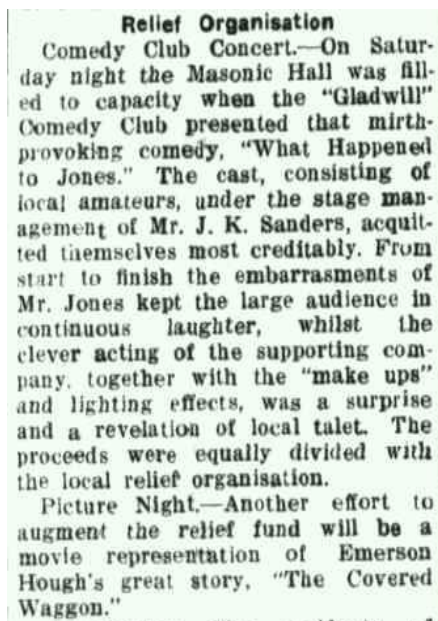
Advertiser (Hurstbridge) 21 Nov, 1930 p5

The Flying Fleet. 1929 Adventure, Drama, Romance... starring Ramon Novarro.

Spanking Age. 1928 Comedy, Family... starring Joe Cobb

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 28 Nov, 1930 p5

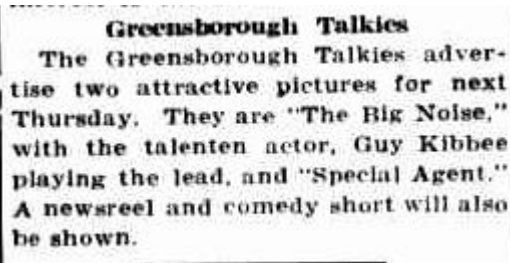
I have not been able to find any mention of the Picture Theatre or regular films being shown between 1931 and 1937. However, many functions were held at the Greensborough Masonic Hall during those years - such as concerts, Euchre nights or film nights that were held purely for fund raising.



Relief Organisation
Comedy Club Concert.—On Saturday night the Masonic Hall was filled to capacity when the "Gladwill" Comedy Club presented that mirth-provoking comedy, "What Happened to Jones." The cast, consisting of local amateurs, under the stage management of Mr. J. K. Sanders, acquitted themselves most creditably. From start to finish the embarrassments of Mr. Jones kept the large audience in continuous laughter, whilst the clever acting of the supporting company, together with the "make ups" and lighting effects, was a surprise and a revelation of local talent. The proceeds were equally divided with the local relief organisation.
Picture Night.—Another effort to augment the relief fund will be a movie representation of Emerson Hough's great story, "The Covered Waggon."

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 18 Dec 1931 p6

In June 1938 – 'Talkies' were playing at Greensborough on a Thursday night. Admission - Adults 1/6 Children 9d.



Greensborough Talkies
The Greensborough Talkies advertise two attractive pictures for next Thursday. They are "The Big Noise," with the talented actor, Guy Kibbee playing the lead, and "Special Agent." A newsreel and comedy short will also be shown.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 17 June, 1938 p2

GREENSBOROUGH TALKIES

Thursday, June 30, at 8 p.m.

Special Attraction:

PAUL MUNI in—

"THE STORY OF LOUIS PASTEUR"

Entertaining Supporting Pictures with
News Reel and Comedy Shorts.

Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 24 June, 1938 p6

Further film sessions were listed until August 1938.

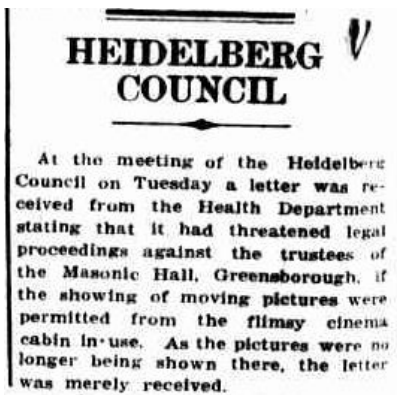
Thursday July 14. 'Earthworm Tractors' and 'Sing Me A Love Song.' *Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri July 8, 1938 p8*

Thursday August 4. Greensborough Hall. 'Magnificent Obsession' and Nobody's Fool. *Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri July 29, 1938 p6*

Thursday, August 11. Greensborough Hall. 'Show Boat' and 'Postal Inspector.' *Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri Aug 5, 1938 p8*

Thursday, August 18. Greensborough Hall. 'Show Boat' and 'Postal Inspector.' *Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri Aug 12, 1938 p8*

On 26th August, 1938 an article in the local paper refers to a letter that Heidelberg Council had received from the Health Department, concerning the showing of moving pictures at the Masonic Hall. At that stage however, pictures had ceased being shown there.



Advertiser (Hurstbridge) Fri 26 Aug, 1938 p4

On 17th August 1940, the Greensborough State School held a picture night at the Masonic Hall to raise money for the Patriotic fund – so perhaps whatever ‘Health Department’ issues there were, had been dealt with by that time.

Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser Fri 16 Aug, 1940 p2

The night was a great success, and provided much needed funds. **Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser Fri 23 August, 1940 p5**

Another picture night was held at the Masonic Hall on Thursday 11 December 1941, to assist in the re-forming of the Greensborough R.S.L. The pictures were shown courtesy of Vacuum Oil Company.

Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser Thur 18 Dec, 1941 p2

Mr Tregonning, manager of the Greensborough Pictures, held a picture night in aid of the R.S.L. Comforts Fund on Wednesday March 4, 1942.

Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser Fri 20 Feb, 1942 p4

Greensborough
Summer Girl Quest

Many Functions have been held to Support Miss A. Brown – Greensborough Red Cross nominee. On March 7th, 1942, Miss Alice Brown sang at the Greensborough Pictures. The manager, Mr Tregonning was thanked for permitting a collection to be made on behalf of the appeal.

Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser Fri 20 Feb, 1942 p4

During the 1930s and 1940s the picture theatre provided a great deal of pleasure to many local

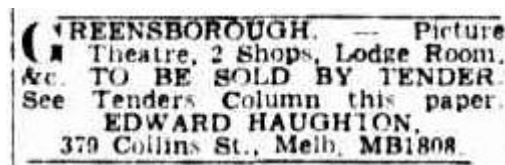
residents. Allan Bishop remembers a group of young Greenhills folk would walk to Greensborough on a Friday/Saturday night during the late 1940s to go to the pictures. Pat Shaw – from the Milk Bar next to Skals’ Garage in Main Street – would sing during interval, accompanied by someone else playing the piano.

In 1949, Lou Riley leased the theatre situated at 25 Main Street, Greensborough, and operated it quite successfully for many years.

In 1951, the theatre known as the Victory, was showing ‘Stage Fright’ with Jane Wyman and Richard Todd – a 1950 British thriller. **The Age 13 July, 1951 p12-13.**

During the 1950s, Drive In movies began to appear, along with the introduction of television. However, despite that, during the 1950s and 1960s the theatre was still well attended.

In 1956, the building (known as Victory Theatre) was advertised to be sold by tender – but ‘no tender necessarily accepted’.



Argus (Melbourne) Wed 14 Nov 1956 p23



Argus (Melbourne) Wed 14 Nov 1956 p24

*** Referred to as Victory Theatre**

On 13 May, 1958, Lou purchased the building from the Masonic Lodge for £10,000, and in 1961, refurbished the theatre to include the new cinema technology of Cinemascope. Lou used seating and some fittings from the Regal Theatre in Hartwell which had closed earlier. Also at this time, the name of the theatre was changed to '**Ashril Cinema.**' (From an article written by Jillian Riley – Lou's daughter)



The Ashril Cinema

CAARP (Cinema and Audience Research Project) lists L.A. Riley as the exhibitor from 1949 to 1967, and lists Pennell & Bouncer as Manager and Exhibitor of Ashril Cinema from 1968 to 1974.

By June 1972, at the request of Mr Peter Pennell – leasee and manager of the Ashril Cinema, a survey was conducted to see if there was sufficient financial support to form a public company to take over the business of the theatre. The lease was due to expire in September 1972, and Mr Pennell had arranged to advertise his equipment for sale in July or August. (*Community News – 26 June, 1972 p1, p15. Edition No. 4/72*)

Unfortunately, the cinema closed.

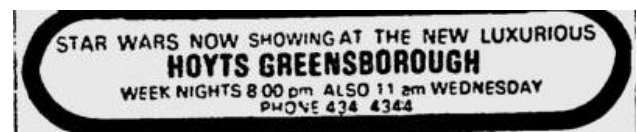
Around October / November 1978, a new 'Twin' Cinema was built in Greensborough. This was quite unusual as both Village and Hoyts Cinemas operated from the same area - having one screen each. At one end of the counter you could purchase **Hoyts** tickets, whilst at the other end you could purchase

Village tickets. The cinemas were located off 'The Circuit' with the entrance via the car park and the newly built Greensborough Plaza adjoining the cinemas. As you walked into the cinema, the counter was directly in front of you, whilst to the left and downstairs were the two luxurious cinemas and toilets.

There was a huge difference between this cinema experience to that of the former Greensborough Theatre. The quite dark, no windows, casual type foyer and counter, was changed to a very light filled, noisy and busy area – with the women attendants even wearing a uniform that consisted of a long length rust coloured skirt and cream coloured top. The entire experience indicated that the little township of Greensborough had certainly modernized as far as a picture theatre!

According to Elaine Greig (who worked at the cinema for approximately 6 years), **Star Wars** and **Superman** were two of the first major films shown at the theatre.

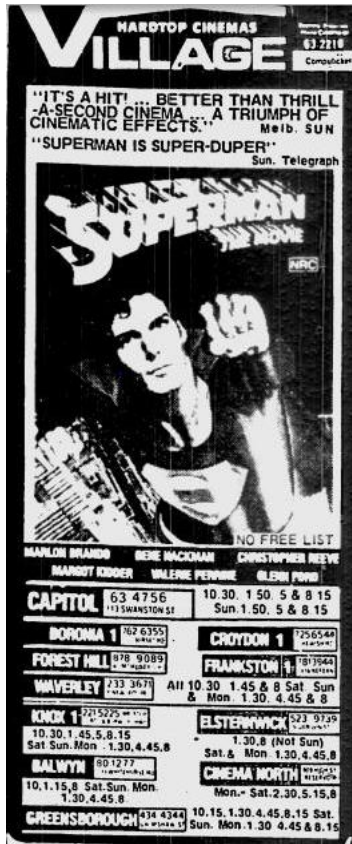
The Age – Nov 16, 1978 p22. Hoyts Greensborough was screening **Star Wars**, whilst Village Greensborough was screening **Blue Fin**.



The Age – Nov 21, 1978 p30 (Advertisement – "Star Wars now showing at the new luxurious Hoyts Greensborough ...")



Superman was first released in December 1978



The Age Jan 1, 1979 p12

CATHS (Cinema and Theatre Historical Society) lists the Village/Hoyts Twin cinemas as operating from 1978 to 1989.

Around **1995**, (7 December 1995 according to CATHS), a new “Hoyts’ Multiplex cinema was built as part of the Greensborough Plaza.

The entrance to the cinemas was then within the shopping complex.

Imagine...

I saw this posted on Facebook a few weeks ago and thought it worth sharing.

Imagine you were born in 1900.

When you are 14, World War I begins. It ends when you are 18. World wide there are over 20 million dead. Soon after, a global pandemic, the Spanish Flu appears, killing 50 million people. You are alive and 20 years old.

When you are 29, the global economic crisis known as the Great Depression causes inflation, unemployment and famine.

When you are 33 years old, the Nazis come to power. When you are 39, World War II begins and ends when you are 45. Over 60 million died including 6 million Jews in the Holocaust.

When you are 52, the Korean War begins. When you are 64, the Vietnam War begins and ends when you are 75.

A child born in 1985 thinks his grandparents have no idea how difficult life is, but they have survived several wars and catastrophes.

Today we have all the comforts in a new world amid a new pandemic. But we complain because we need to isolate in our homes where we have food, electricity, running water, Wi-Fi, TV ... a more comfortable life than in the past.

A small change in our perspective is needed. We should be thankful for our health, and do everything we can to protect and support each other.

Stay safe and well everyone.

We hope to see you back at Greensborough Historical Society as soon as it is safe to do so.

Sue Ballantyne, on behalf of the Committee.

'Heritage Walks for the time of the pandemic'

Kathy Andrewartha from the Mont Park to Springthorpe Heritage Group contacted us recently to tell us about some walks they have devised, and which you can take, self-guided, with help from these resources. (Click on the first link for the guides)

In this time of the pandemic, we cannot do our usual Walking Tours of the Mont Park sites, so we have developed Walking Maps which people can download and follow for themselves around five Walks, or just take the Walk 'virtually' online.

Each Heritage Walk features one of the former asylum/sanatorium/hospital sites, in which some of the Heritage buildings have been preserved or re-purposed.

See <https://www.montparktospringthorpe.com/heritage-walks/>

The Maps comprise points of interest with photographs of the landscape and buildings, short histories and some insight into the lives of the people who lived and worked in the area. Many veterans from WWI and WWII spent time at the hospitals recovering from post-traumatic stress disorder or tuberculosis.

(i) The main **Mont Park to Springthorpe Heritage Trail** investigates the seven former Mont Park Asylum buildings which remain on this site. It is an easy 30 minute stroll, past the white Spanish Mission style Hall and ancient river red gums, cypress, oaks and palm trees.



Photo: Kathy Andrewartha

(ii) Another Walk traces the old railway line (closed in 1964) from '**Macleod Station into the Mont Park**' asylum, and wanders back through the Macleod Estate which honours nine Victoria Cross recipients



Photo: Anne Paul

(iii) The Walk which starts in the Gresswell Forest Wildlife Reserve around '**Gresswell Hill**' is where two TB Sanatoria existed, served by the huge Water Tank designed by Sir John Monash in 1912. See

<https://www.montparktospringthorpe.com/macleod-repatriation-sanatorium-for-returned-ww1-soldiers/>

(iv) Over near the Polaris Shopping Centre on Plenty Road there are another seven buildings which formed part of the **Larundel Hospital** complex. Several of these buildings are being utilised by La Trobe University to extend their campus north of the La Trobe Wildlife Reserve. This Reserve formed part of the original Mont Park Hospital site, being home to the tennis court, cricket pitch and football ground.

(v) in '**Bundoora Homestead**' in Bundoora Park was used as one of the Wards of the Bundoora Rehabilitation Hospital for military veterans, from about 1924 to 1994. The original 50 buildings of the hospital complex extended down to the area of the current Children's Farm, but this



Photo: Kathy Andrewartha

short Walk covers about a quarter of this area, around the only remaining building, the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre

We hope you are able to get out and enjoy these Heritage Walks