

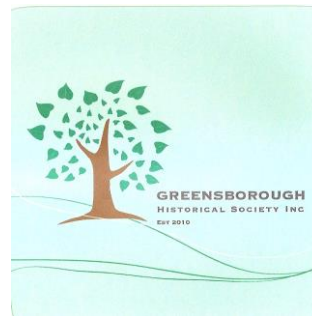
Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Edition 41, March 2021

Incorporation No. **A0054430X**

ABN **64 318 435 402**



President's Report

Well almost back to normal but who knows what the next 12 months will bring, so we just take each day as it comes.

It was great to have a good turnout for our BBQ in February and then our March meeting at the Neighbourhood House where we were allowed 20, plus presenters and got in with one to spare so well done us.

The speakers at that meeting raised our awareness of the changes to the treatment of those with a mental disability and how in some ways we have taken away an important element of their rehabilitation that was available in an institution such as Larundel and replaced it with a well-meaning but inadequate program that needs to be addressed.

Our numbers are down at our Thursday gatherings and now that restrictions have been eased, we would love to see you even if it is just for a cuppa and a chat because it has been lonely without our usual attendees.

Whilst Secretary Norm is in rehab committee members are taking it in turn to fill the role which is putting us to the test as Norm made it look so easy, so we look forward to his return.

In addition to the installation of the computer server at the Resource Centre we have recently purchased with the Federal Government grant we received, a new projector that is compatible with more modern laptops and a screen that will provide a better display than the wall that has been used for the last few years and we hope to have that installed at the Neighbourhood House prior to our April monthly meeting.

Nillumbik Shire Council has acknowledged our application for its annual Heritage Grant of \$600 which covers most of the cost of internet access at our History Resource Centre for which we are most grateful because it is essential for our research.

We would like to hear about any projects you are working on or any suggestions regarding an outing to a historic site that we could include in this year's program to make up for the months of separation we endured last year, so give it some thought and get in touch.

Best Wishes

Noel

Greensborough Historical Society acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and been an integral part of the region's history.

The Moomba Parade and Me *by Rosie Bray*

The public holiday at the beginning of March each year was always called “Eight Hour Day” to celebrate the Victorian Eight Hours Act which was passed in 1916. This Act was part of successful lobbying by the Unions and devised to regulate the length of the working day---8 hours work, 8 hours leisure and 8 hours rest.

The origin of the first Moomba Parade is worth noting. In 1951, Australia celebrated 50 years of Federation with a Parade and staging of a theatre production “An Aboriginal Moomba: Out of the Dark”.

In 1954, Queen Elizabeth II visited for the first time as reigning monarch, and the City Development Association and the Melbourne City Council proposed an autumn carnival to be known as Moomba. A committee was formed in July 1954, to organise and fund the events, successfully allocating £10,000 to its inaugural running. However, before the events were planned, controversy was created when Labor Councillor Frank Williams resigned from the committee branding the whole carnival as a “Bourke Street joke for the benefit of shopkeepers” and the Anglican Church added that it was the “beginning of social decay”. However, many thousands of Melbournians turned out to watch Her Majesty pass by.



Queen Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh in Melbourne 1954. Photo R. Bray

In late 1954 various clubs, schools, and community groups around Melbourne were asked if they could provide and decorate a float for the first Moomba Parade on March 14th 1955. There was a pleasing response, added to this there was to be a crowned King and Queen of Moomba and the first Moomba (Let’s get together and have fun) Festival was on its way. It was launched by the Governor of Victoria Sir Dallas Brooks (12/03/1955) and Melbourne became alive to enjoy the events.

Now what’s this got to do with Rosie Bray? Well may you ask!

I was married to Ted Robinson, who was a truck driver and also a student of Judo from Wally Strauss. (Wally and his then girlfriend Valerie had escaped Vienna in 1939 and arrived in Melbourne via China after WW11. Wally brought the sport of Judo to Melbourne then). During one of the lessons, it was decided that there should be a Judo float in the parade and that Ted would approach the firm with whom he was employed to supply the low loading truck (free if possible and making sure the name of the firm was more than visible). Ted would drive the truck very slowly and the judo exponents would demonstrate their skills while it was moving.



Wally Strauss demonstrates his judo skills on the Judo float 1955. Photo R. Bray

And my claim to fame was that I, with our sons Russell and Stephen, sat in the cabin of the Judo parade float truck and waved to the people.

I must add that the journey along Swanston Street Melbourne was not without some problems. Every year that I was in the front seat, someone had put an advertising banner across the radiator of the truck which always caused the motor to 'boil'. Ted being an experienced driver, knew that this could lead to many mechanical concerns and even a new motor---and a big cost to the Judo Club.



Moomba crowds line the streets 1954. Photo R. Bray

Ted used to be ropeable, as every year, he expressed “NO ADVERTISING OVER THE FRONT OF THE TRUCK” however, someone always managed to know better without Ted noticing it! Ted would just stop the truck in the middle of the parade (no matter where and literally ‘yank’ the offending advertising material off and throw it into the gutter). Another problem was that it’s not easy to drive at 10 miles an hour with a big truck engine running smoothly along the streets with all the starting and stopping. So, travelling in the front seat and waving to the people was not without drama.

After about five years the Moomba Parade Committee decided to go up market and glamorise the floats. The Judo Float was deemed out dated. But it was good for us while it lasted. And it’s still a successful event and has not led to decadence?

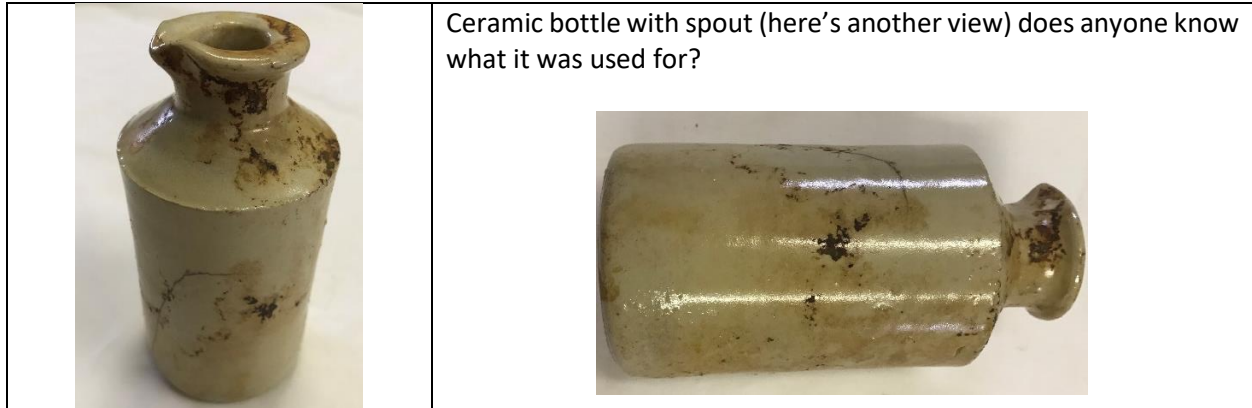
I really had little to do with the first Moomba Parade, but I was there and have happy memories.

Editor’s note: Sadly, no Moomba Parade this year due to COVID restrictions; many thanks to GHS member Rosie Bray for sharing her memories of “Moomba: Let’s get together and have fun”

What’s the Item?

Answers from December 2020 Newsletter. How many did you identify? The first 3 have been identified by our Secretary Norm Colvin, who has a good knowledge of antique glass and ceramics

	<p>Stoneware foot warmer Made by Hoffman Aust c1930. Dark treacle glaze, Bakelite screw stopper (missing)</p>
	<p>Baby’s glass feeding bottle. “PoopCee” brand; “banana” style c1940s</p>
	<p>Green tinted glass inkwell and nib pen. J.Angus Cabin Ink brand with shear top</p>



Eltham Community Market by Dawn Bennetts

The following is an account of the market history as I remember it together with information from minutes of meetings and other documents generated by the market committees over the years.

I have been a stallholder at the Eltham Community Market since October 1985. My stall consists of handmade dolls and teddy clothes of all sizes. I began making these clothes when Cabbage Patch Dolls first came into fashion. I had been making the clothes for the local Montmorency School fete, and it was suggested to me – ‘Why not make them and sell them for yourself?’ This inspired me to have a stall at the Eltham Market.



Dawn's stall at Eltham Community Market

The market began in the late 1970s (around 1978), and was held on the first Sunday of the month from February to October, and the first and third Sundays in November and December. There was no market held in January. The operating time was 9am – 2pm.



Early market logo

The market was started by the Eltham Living and Learning Centre to provide an outlet for those people creating handmade or home-grown products at the centre, to sell their creations. The market started as a very small concern – just several stalls in the driveway of the Living and Learning Centre located in Main Road, Eltham – and was called the

Eltham Community Art and Craft Market. Stall holders had to be residents of the Eltham Shire. The market gradually became more popular and needed more space in which to operate.

In 1985, the market moved location from the Living and Learning Centre, to the council owned car park off Pryor Street, Eltham (near the Safeway store). Stall fees at this time were \$4.00 per stall, and there

were up to 150 stalls at the market. The Eltham Council employed the Market Co-ordinator and the entire market was also covered by the Council insurance. Some funding from stallholder fees was given by the Council to the market committee to operate the market. The market was organised by a voluntary committee of permanent stallholders. The Treasurer and Secretary were reimbursed for any outgoing expenses they incurred on behalf of the market.

In 1992, it was decided that the market would apply to become an Incorporated Organisation. A very well attended meeting was held at the former Shire Office building in Library Place, Eltham. The market was to be non-profit, and money from stallholders' fees was to be donated throughout the year to various community projects. The co-ordinator was employed by the market committee and was the only paid employee. The committee members were permanent stall holders only. Rent would be paid to the Eltham Council for the use of the site. The name 'Eltham Community Art & Craft Market' was applied for, however it was rejected because the Eltham Council had already been granted that business name. The market committee applied for, and on August 6, 1992, was granted the name 'Eltham Community Art & Craft Market Stallholders Association Incorporated'.

Stall fees gradually increased: 1988 - \$10, 1991 - \$12, 1992 - \$15, 1998 - \$20. It was no longer necessary to be a resident of the Shire of Eltham to have a stall at the market.

In 1995, there were ongoing plans, suggestions and rumours that the Safeway store which abutted the market site, was going to extend. This meant that the market site would no longer be available.

In 1998, the committee put a submission to the Nillumbik Council (Eltham Shire Council became Nillumbik Council in 1994) assuming responsibility for the operation of the Eltham Market.

Discussion between Safeway, Council, market committee, and planning departments etc continued until around 1999!

In October 1999, the market contacted the Council again, asking to re-negotiate the lease in order for the market to operate itself at a new site. That site was partially owned by the Body Corporate of the Eltham Mall, (the rooftop area) - as well as a small Council owned car park that adjoined the rooftop car park, and ran through to Dudley Street. The market committee also arranged a contract to enable a co-ordinator to be employed.

In February 2000, an application for a permit was made to and granted by the Nillumbik Council for the market to operate on those two areas. A huge advertising effort was begun to advise prospective customers of the change of location.

In July 2000, the first market was held in the rooftop car park & adjoining Council car park.



Market in rooftop carpark 2000

The market operated very successfully on that site for several years with numbers averaging around 100 stalls, but in 2003, insurance costs increased dramatically. The market committee found it necessary to charge stallholders an extra \$60 on top of that year's stall fees of \$240 per year (for permanent stallholders), to cover the cost of the insurance. Stall numbers declined and the rent for the site was going to increase, so once again another location was looked at. A new logo was introduced to try to modernize the market. The words on the logo were changed to 'Craft & Produce', rather than 'Art & Craft'.

In 2004, many changes took place. A new location was chosen in Panther Place, Eltham. The market and Nillumbik Council signed a lease agreement, allowing the market to operate in the car park near the library, as well as some stalls in Alistair Knox Park. It was decided that the date of the market would change from the first Sunday of the month, to the third Sunday of the month beginning February 2005, and still providing two extra markets in November and December. The operating time changed to 8.30am – 12.30pm. The cost of a casual stall site increased to \$30....permanent sites - \$81 for 3 months, and increased to \$420 per year in 2005. There has not been an increase in stall fees since then. The new location appeared to work well - having 120 stalls at the first markets towards the end of 2004, including 60-70 casual stalls!



Eltham Market final location - Panther Place

In 2007, it was decided that more donations would be given to local community groups or activities.

In 2014, the market committee decided to no longer hold a market on the first Sunday in November, reducing the number of markets for the year from 13 to 12. In November 2015, approval was given by the Council for the market to operate until 1.30pm.

In 2016 the market received the Nillumbik 'Community Group of the Year' award. The total amount that has been donated to the local community is now over \$100,000!

In February 2017, the market committee decided to change the operating hours once again to 8.30am to 1pm.

Unfortunately, with the changes in technology etc, local markets appear to be finding it a little difficult to keep stall holder numbers high, but the one advantage of purchasing from a local market is the fact that you meet the actual maker of the product. Hopefully, local community markets will continue to operate for many years to come.

Editor's note: This much-loved market closed for the final time on Sunday 21st February 2021. Thanks to Dawn, former stallholder and market committee member, for her memories of the market. Greensborough Historical Society is thankful for 3 sizeable donations from the market in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

BBQ at War Memorial Park – delayed 10th birthday celebrations

It was a sad day back in 2020 when GHS had to cancel its 10th birthday celebrations due to the COVID pandemic. Little did we know that it would be nearly a year before we could meet again.

With the easing of restrictions, GHS members gathered at War Memorial Park Greensborough to celebrate the 10th birthday (plus one) on February 27th 2021.

And it was All **Good**. A **good** happy group of members. **Good** Location. **Good** food and **good** weather.

What more can we have asked?

Everyone present tried to make up for the year's absence, exchanging news whilst munching on the well-cooked BBQ and food shared by members.

During his speech President Noel Withers told of the first meeting in March 2010, when it was undecided how to proceed with the plan to gather and preserve local history. Noel threw the question to the enthusiastic meeting and a lone voice called out "We will go it alone". And that was the catalyst which guided the Greensborough Historical Society to expand beyond everyone's expectations. WE went it alone and during that time a host of friendships have been formed.

Noel reminded us of the growth and many successes which have been gained in the past 10 plus 1 years. Steady membership. Two local history books written, edited and published. Many awards and supportive grants, activities such as excursions, a trivia night and Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea. And low points such as a break-in and a flood. And the sad loss of the antique horse drawn plough donated by Gary Partington.

Noel went on to thank all who have participated in any way. Everyone using their own skills, attending meetings, writing memories, attending coffee mornings or just being there. All make up the GHS.

Vice President Peter Van Eeken spoke and supported Noel's speech, and then took us down memory lane with local history about past bushfires. Many of the assembled members added to these dreadful events with stories of their own, agreeing that bushfires are the dread of all Australians.

The general feeling of the members at the celebration was to thank the Committee for keeping members up to date with newsletters and emails. And they were glad that the lone voice said "We will go it alone", because the result is the forming of friendships, as well as preserving local history which is so important for the future.

It was a happy time together with all looking forward to the next 10 years. Rosie Bray Feb 2021.

Committee 2020-2021

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Vice President Peter Van Eeken
pve101@yahoo.com.au

Secretary Norm Colvin 94352903

Treasurer John Gibson 94350097

Committee Members: Sue Brenkovich, Anne Paul, Dianne Fox, Sue Ballantyne, Chris Foster

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

Meeting dates and times for 2021

A full list of dates was published in the December 2020 Newsletter and can be found on the
Society webpage www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au

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
27/02/2021	Saturday	12.00 pm	BBQ War Memorial Park
26/03/2021	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM – GHNH
11/04/2021	Sunday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
13/04/2021	Tuesday	10.00 am	Morning Tea – See website for details
24/04/2021	Saturday	1.15 pm	ANZAC Meeting GHNH
28/05/2021	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM – GHNH
08/06/2021	Tuesday	10.00 am	Morning Tea – See website for details
12/06/2021	Saturday	1.00 pm	Open Day HRC
26/06/2021	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum GHNH
30/07/2021	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM – GHNH

Printing of this Newsletter supplied courtesy of Colin Brooks MP.