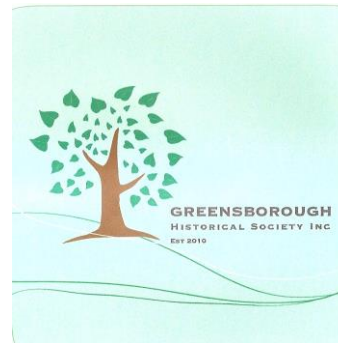


# Newsletter

Edition 52, December 2023

Incorporation No. **A0054430X**  
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## President's Report

At our well attended AGM on 29 September, we welcomed Nick Cree to our Committee. Nick volunteered himself on the day. Since the meeting Dianne Brooker has filled a casual vacancy and is now a member of our Committee. I extend my thanks to both Di and Nick and look forward to their input in GHS matters.

At the meeting following the AGM, Noel received his well earned "Award of Merit" from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV). Noel received this award for his dedication to preserving local history and leading the GHS from its foundation in 2010 to 2022. Elisabeth Jackson, who is an RHSV Councillor and chair of the RHSV Collections Committee attended our meeting, spoke of the work of the RHSV and made the presentation.



*Noel with Elisabeth Jackson,  
29/10/2023*



*Kate Thwaites MP and Anne at the  
book launch 05/10/2023*

On 5 October we launched our latest book "Walking the Kurrum Yallock (Plenty River)" by GHS member Anne Paul. The event was hosted by Yarra Plenty Regional Library as part of their "History Month" activities and the Member for Jagajaga, Kate Thwaites, spoke enthusiastically about the book during the official launch.

Anne has put a lot of work into this book which includes interesting notes on the history of the Lower Plenty River valley area and its confluence with the Yarra River.

The launch was supported by a guided walk in the area on 26 October, led by Anne with a good number of walkers enjoying the day, despite the overcast and drizzly weather. Thanks to Liz Pidgeon, Local and Family History Librarian at YPRL, for hosting both events.

On 14 October I was pleased to officially reopen our Resource Centre and welcome a number of our members curious to see the renovations. My thanks go to Sue Ballantyne and Jeanette Nash for filling our display cases and boards with interesting artefacts and information and to Steve Ballantyne for hanging the many display boards.

On the day Bernie Coulthard re-joined GHS as well. Since then our fence has been replaced and additional concreting in the front yard has neatened up the overall look.



*President Norm Colvin and members at the re-opening of the Resource Centre 14/10/2023*

Our October meeting allowed us to catch up with last years' event plan and conduct our Poulter Precinct walk under the guidance of Peter Van Eeken. As you will remember this time last year there was local flooding and extended wet weather.

On 24 November we held our final meeting for 2023 and had an excellent turnout.

The Resource Centre will close at 12 noon on Thursday 14 December for a well-earned Summer break.

For forward planning we are having a BBQ at War Memorial Park Greensborough on Thursday 18 January 2024 from noon onwards. Then on the following Thursday 25 we will recommence at the HRC.

As we approach Christmas and the Festive Season, on behalf of the Committee of Management and myself, I wish each of our members a safe and pleasant holiday break.

Norm Colvin



***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.***

## 2023 – the year of the Centenary!

Throughout the past year, several local community groups requested information from GHS regarding photos and other memorabilia as they were planning to celebrate their group's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Congratulations to Greensborough Tennis Club, Greensborough Scouts, Montmorency Primary School and Montmorency Post Office on achieving this milestone. Our research tells us that the electrification of the train line also occurred in 1923.

### Electrification of the Heidelberg Train Line

Thanks to **Peter Simmenauer** for this snippet:



*Greensborough Station, 1920s*

Passengers had to change to a light steam train at Heidelberg, for their onward journey to Eltham. Sometimes there was a delay for the connecting train to begin its travel, so patience had to be exercised on these occasions [often this was because of the train losing steam and needing to build steam up again to continue its journey - Editor].

In the Argus of 13 April 1923, the opening of train electrification was

noted: *'Commenting on the scheme yesterday, the commissioner for Electrification (Mr. W. M. Shannon) said that the effect of electrification on the Heidelberg-Eltham line would be to establish through trains between Melbourne and Eltham. Passengers for stations beyond Heidelberg would no longer require to change trains at that station. By electric traction the district around Eltham would be converted into a suburban area. The time of the journey would be reduced to 41 minutes as compared with approximately 60 minutes at present under the combined electric and steam service, which necessitated changing at Heidelberg.'*



*New Greensborough Station under construction, 2023. Photo B. Henderson*

**Thanks to Peter Van Eeken for supplying the following articles on our centenarians!**

### History of Greensborough Tennis Club

In 1889 Arthur Ash Elliott painted the earliest known rendition of Greensborough Village which includes the future 'Greensborough Park'. Pre 1900, members of the community formed a syndicate with the aim of creating a local recreation ground. Arthur Elliott's brother John Elliott leased this land to grow vegetables for sale in his general store on the corner of Hailes Street and Main Road. A third brother, Henry Elliott operated a Family Butcher business, for decades, roughly on the site of the present day RSL.

It was Henry who was very pleased to chair a meeting to form a local Tennis Club on 22 August 1914 (*Heidelberg News and Greensborough and Diamond Creek Chronicle page 2*). Funds were enlisted at the meeting to begin the tennis club. A meeting on 31 October fixed membership subscriptions as follows: Gents 5s and Ladies 2s 6d

per half year. In November that year, Henry organised the asphaltting of the local courts which were formally opened in January 1915, by which time Henry was the club president. Henry was a great supporter of community sports and an admired community man. He was born in Greensborough in 1866 and died in 1920.

On 19 October 1926 the club organised its first annual ball. By this time club stalwarts were Roy Quirk, who organised district Tennis competitions and Andrew St. Clair Yandell who was club president for a couple of decades. The courts were fenced in 1928. In 1930 the club ladies organised events to support the unemployed. Regular social events (card nights, lucky envelopes etc) were held in the homes of members to raise funds. In 1942 the club successfully applied to Heidelberg Shire Council for a reduction in annual rental due to declining memberships as the war had 'taken' members via enlistments and from thereon, the mention of club activities in the newspapers was in decline. However, the club is still in full function in 2023, when on 26 November the club celebrates its official centenary.

[Editor: Very few photos of Greensborough Tennis Club can be found – if you have been a member of the Club and have photos, please contact GHS and we can scan your photos and add to our archive]



*Robert (Bob) Maurer (left) and Barry Keith Taylor, (right).  
Greensborough Tennis Club near Plenty River mid 1960s*

### **Some early history of Montmorency Primary School**

The Montmorency Primary School opened 27 April 1922 with a School Registration Number of 4112. Few records remain of those days due to the school's destruction as recorded in the *Diamond Valley News* 30 June 1992: "Three generations of Montmorency Primary School pupils are rallying together as a \$75,000 fire destroyed the school's original building, set alight by an arsonist in the early hours of Saturday June 20."

Some history is recorded in early newspapers - *Hurstbridge Advertiser* of 11 May 1923: "The boys at Montmorency school had a "bully" time for half-an-hour on Tuesday. Before school went in a Shorthorn bull was careering over the scrub like a steeplechaser. During the lunch hour the boys wanted to see him jump and got him cornered by the fence, but after affording fun for some time he appeared to tire. However, the boys were like Oliver Twist, and wanted more, but one got too close to Shorthorn, who made a rush, caught the boy on his waistcoat and tossed him over the fence, but he was not seriously hurt."

The *Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser* and *Diamond Creek Valley Advocate*, on 9 June 1922, records "The Head Teacher requests Eltham Council to provide sanitary service. The Secretary was instructed to inform him that the school is to make their own arrangements, as the school was outside the service area."

An oral history by Myrtle Barnett (1915- ), records "We lived at Grace Park and could walk straight down the road and over the bridge to the Montmorency State School. The school was in Rattray Road about half way up

*the hill. The King family lived next door to the school. One day the students were all taken on a walk to choose the site of the new school."*

*Times were very different in the Montmorency of 1923!*

[Editor: any photos of Montmorency Primary would be appreciated – due to that 1992 fire, it was difficult for the Centenary organisers to put together an historic display]

### **The earliest history of the Montmorency Post Office**

The *Hurstbridge Advertiser* of 26 October 1923, page 2, proclaims: "The Montmorency station residence will be completed next week. The station will be in charge of a woman, and the assistant will be her daughter. Mrs. Bee has been appointed postmistress of this promising village."

Lucy Mary Ireland was born in Horsham on 18 January 1882 and married John Bee in 1912 in North Melbourne. Their daughter Mary Ireland Bee (1912–1967) was born in Melbourne circa October 1912. Other children included daughters Marjorie Bee (1912–1912 Melbourne), Isabel Lucy Bee (1914–), son John De Courcey Bee (1915–1915 Ballarat), daughters Nellie Eulalie Bee (1915 Ballarat –1916 Eltham) and Marjorie Constance Bee (1916–). It is recorded in the Eltham Road Board Rate Book that Lucy Bee paid £2/3/3d for a Lot and Owners Levy on Rattray Road. John and Lucy Bee are listed on the 1919 Electoral Roll as living in Rattray Road. John's occupation was a Slater. John was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1888 and his death is recorded in Kew in 1923 aged 35.



*Early view of Were Street Montmorency*

According to the *Hurstbridge Advertiser* of 11 January 1924, Mrs. L. M. Bee opened a general store in conjunction with the post office at Montmorency. A week later the newspaper records: "Mrs. Bee, who has been doing business in the grocery line from a private house in Montmorency, has now built a storeroom near the station, and will shortly erect an up-to-date store. She is now stocking groceries, ironmongery, various kinds of seeds, school requisites, horse feed, fruit and vegetables." On 7 Nov. 1924 she asked for assistance: "Mrs. Bee, Montmorency, wants anyone who can to give her information about a heifer which strayed from her paddock." Lucy died aged 46, in January 1928, in Carlton.

It is surmised by the writer that her store still resides at the corner of Binns and Were Street where it functions as a Noodle Shop in 2023.

### **Greensborough Scouts**

It is unfortunate that not much information was found on the early days of 1 / 2 Greensborough Scouts, but we were very pleased to have GHS member Bryan Henderson, himself a former scout, contact the organisers of the Scout Centenary to assist in any way he could.

If anyone else has a story about the scouts to share, please let us know.



## Greensborough Historical Society – Books for sale

We have limited stock of all GHS publications, please contact the Society via the webpage [www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au](http://www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au) to order and arrange pick up or delivery.

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|    |    |   |
| <p>Published 2023, <i>Walking the Kurrum Yallock (Plenty River)</i> contains maps, walk notes and historical background to the area around the Plenty River in Viewbank, Yallambie and Lower Plenty<br/>         \$20 for members and \$25 non members, add \$5 for postage</p> | <p>Published 2023, <i>memories of the Shire of Diamond Valley</i> tells the story of the Shire from its creation in 1964 to its demise in 1994. Stories are written by Councillors, Shire officers and community members.<br/>         \$20 for members and \$25 non members, add \$5 for postage</p> | <p>A history of Land Portions 12 and 14 (St Helena), and 15 and 18 (Greensborough), focusing on the lives of pioneer settlers as reported in newspapers of the day. Includes a chapter on the 1842 Bushrangers of the Plenty and the “Resident Ladies” petition.<br/>         \$20 for members and \$25 non members, add \$5 for postage</p> |
|    |    |   |
| <p>Our first books, published in 2013 and 2017, retelling the stories of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century residents of Greensborough and surrounding suburbs.<br/>         Originally selling for \$20, these are now on sale for \$15 each. Add \$5 postage</p>                     | <p><b>Series 1, 2, 3 postcards</b><br/>         \$5.00 for a set of 6 cards – each set features scenes of Greensborough landmarks in days gone by.</p>  |  |

Merry Christmas to all



*May all your celebrations be filled with family, friends and ice cream - just like these children at the Greenhills Milk Bar (this building is now the Clay Pot in Greenhill Road)*

### **The last word from the Editor**

It has been my great pleasure to edit the GHS Newsletter for the past 10 years. Many thanks to the dozens of contributors to the Newsletter over this time – without your continued input, we would have blank pages! Also to Presidents Noel and Norm for their timely reports and to proof-reader extraordinaire John Gibson for his continued support.

I now hand over the reins to Merilyn Mullavey and members of the Thursday Crew as I pursue other interests, particularly my work in the archives of the Heidelberg Golf Club (Lower Plenty) as they work toward the Club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027-2028.

Of course, I will still be around GHS at meetings and each Thursday working on our GHS archives.

***Sue Ballantyne***

## Committee 2023-2024

**President** Norm Colvin 0409 815 246      **Vice President** Noel Withers 9435 4513  
**Secretary** Peter Van Eeken      **Treasurer** John Gibson 94350097  
[pve101@yahoo.com.au](mailto:pve101@yahoo.com.au)

**Committee Members:** Sue Brenkovich, Dianne Fox, Nick Cree, Dianne Brooker

## Contact the Greensborough Historical Society

Web Site: [www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au](http://www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au)  
Email: [info@greensboroughhistorical.org.au](mailto: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 2024 – a full schedule of meetings is attached on the last page of this Newsletter**

*New members and visitors are most welcome to join us at our meetings.*

**Note: Committee meeting time is now 1.45pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in odd months only, starting January.**

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

### First quarter dates for your diary:

| Date     | Day   | Time   | Event             | Venue               |
|----------|-------|--------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 16-01-24 | Tue   | 1.30pm | Committee Meeting |                     |
| 18-01-24 | Thurs | Noon   | BBQ               | War Memorial Park   |
| 25-01-24 | Thurs | 10am   | Reopen HRC        | HRC                 |
| 10-02-24 | Sat   | 1pm    | Open Day HRC      | HRC                 |
| 13-02-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 24-02-24 | Sat   | 1:15pm | Forum             | GHNH                |
| 12-03-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 19-03-24 | Tue   | 1.30pm | Committee Meeting |                     |
| 22-03-24 | Fri   | 1:15pm | SGM GHNH          | GHNH                |

**Printing of this Newsletter supplied courtesy of Colin Brooks MP.**



**Greensborough Historical Society Inc.  
2024 Meeting Schedule**

| Date     | Day   | Time   | Event             | Venue               |
|----------|-------|--------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 16-01-24 | Tue   | 1.30pm | Committee Meeting |                     |
| 18-01-24 | Thurs | Noon   | BBQ               | War Memorial Park   |
| 25-01-24 | Thurs | 10am   | Reopen            | HRC                 |
| 10-02-24 | Sat   | 1pm    | Open Day          | HRC                 |
| 13-02-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 24-02-24 | Sat   | 1:15pm | Forum             | GHNH                |
| 12-03-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 19-03-24 | Tue   | 1.30pm | Committee Meeting |                     |
| 22-03-24 | Fri   | 1:15pm | SGM               | GHNH                |
| 09-04-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 14-04-24 | Sun   | 1pm    | Open Day          | HRC                 |
| 27-04-24 | Sat   | 1:15pm | Anzac Meeting     | GHNH                |
| 14-05-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 21-05-24 | Tue   | 1.30pm | Committee Meeting |                     |
| 31-05-24 | Fri   | 1:15pm | SGM               | GHNH                |
| 08-06-24 | Sat   | 1pm    | Open Day          | HRC                 |
| 11-06-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 29-06-24 | Sat   | 1:15pm | Forum             | GHNH                |
| 09-07-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 16-07-24 | Tue   | 1.30pm | Committee Meeting |                     |
| 26-07-24 | Fri   | 1:15pm | SGM               | GHNH                |
| 11-08-24 | Sun   | 1pm    | Open Day          | HRC                 |
| 13-08-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       |                     |
| 31-08-24 | Sat   | 1:15pm | Forum             | GHNH                |
| 10-09-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 17-09-24 | Tue   | 1.30pm | Committee Meeting |                     |
| 27-09-24 | Fri   | 1:15pm | AGM/SGM           | GHNH                |
| 08-10-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 12-10-24 | Sat   | 1pm    | Open Day          | HRC                 |
| 26-10-24 | Sat   | 1:15pm | Forum             | GHNH                |
| 12-11-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |
| 19-11-24 | Tue   | 1.30pm | Committee Meeting |                     |
| 29-11-24 | Fri   | 1:15pm | Christmas Meeting | GHNH                |
| 10-12-24 | Tue   | 10am   | Morning Tea       | Greensborough Plaza |

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

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

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

**\*March SGM planned for 4<sup>th</sup> Friday to avoid Easter**