

Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Edition 30, June 2018

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



President's Report

Presidents Report

Firstly I'd like to welcome our new members Matthew & Sharon Sadler formerly of Canberra and Dianne Fox who spent some time growing up in Briar Hill and comes with a wealth of knowledge in genealogy so naturally we are delighted she is joining us.

On the 17th May we had the company of Federal Member for Jaga Jaga Jenny Macklin when she turned on the new aircon/heating units at our History Resource Centre and joined us for morning tea which was a most enjoyable occasion. Beside her Canberra duties Jenny is committed to her local community and her support of our application for part funding for the Resource Centre improvement and her making time to visit us is much appreciated.

The installation of our historic plaques in Grimshaw and Main Streets Greensborough has occurred with 10 out of 13 so far and they are still intact after a month and we are hopeful that they will remain so though members of the committee check them every time they travel through the town, such trusting people!

Though the Thursday group manages to fit in time for a cuppa and a chat it is heads down and bums up most of the time working on several projects and it is great to see the enthusiasm and commitment which will help to further the knowledge of the community when completed. We are considering a third publication involving a comprehensive history of Greensborough at different times of its development which will be coordinated by Peter Van Eeken but involving others in its research so busy times ahead.

As many of you know it is Greensborough State School's 140th Anniversary this year and we are involved in its celebrations with a reunion day as well as talks and walks with the current students which we are looking forward to. Please see your invitation at the end of this Newsletter.

Last but not least, I hope you all saw "Who Do You Think You Are?" recently when former Greensborough Gal and member Val Wilson helped Patti Newton with her family history, it was probably the bit she didn't want to hear but that's life.

Best Wishes

Noel

Committee 2017-18

President Noel Withers 94354513

Vice President Peter Van Eeken
94358715

Secretary Norm Colvin 94352903

Treasurer John Gibson 94350097

Committee Members

Sue Brenkovich

Anne Paul

Marilyn Smith

Sue Ballantyne

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
Visitors welcome

Meeting dates and times for 2018

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.

Date	Day	Start Time	Meeting
30/06/18	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum GHNH
27/07/18	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM - GHNH
12/08/18	Sunday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
25/08/18	Saturday	1.15 pm	Forum GHNH
21/09/18	Friday	1.15 pm	AGM - GHNH
13/10/18	Saturday	1.00 pm	Open day HRC
27/10/18	Saturday	1.15 pm	Heritage meeting TBA
30/11/18	Friday	1.15 pm	SGM Christmas Meeting – GHNH

If you would like to contribute to future Newsletters, contact the Editor, Sue Ballantyne at sueballantyne2010@hotmail.com

Congratulations Rosie!

In January, we were all delighted to hear that GHS stalwart Rosie Bray was awarded an **Order of Australia Medal** for her services to the community. Rosie received her award at a Government House reception on April 16, 2018, accompanied by her family.

This is the official transcript for Rosie's award:

MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Mrs Ann Rosalie BRAY, Greensborough. For service to the community of north east Melbourne. Service includes:

Diamond Valley Community Support Inc. (formerly Diamond Valley Citizens Advice Bureau): Committee Member, since 2006. Active Volunteer, since 2000.

Foundation Member, Yarra Valley FM Radio, 1995.

Supporter, Diamond Valley Foodshare, since the 1990s.

Founding Member, Greensborough Historical Society, since 2010.

Associated Member, Port Melbourne Historical Society.

Committee Member, Greensborough Community Consultative Committee, since 2015.

Committee Member, Banyule Community Consultative Committee, 2001.

Member, Diamond Valley Learning Centre.

Member, Uniting Church Archives, since 2000.

Presbytery Yarra Valley (Regional Council of the Uniting Church): Member, ongoing. Community Member,

Development and Training of Lay Preachers.

Member, Inter-Church Council, St Mary's Christmas Carols.

Co-ordinator, Banyule's Festival of Carols.

Parishioner, Watsonia-MacLeod Uniting Church, for many years.

Writer, 'Whats On in Watsonia', ongoing for over 30 years.

Author, 'Tom Thrupp's War: July 1940-June 1941'.

Author, 'The History of Diamond Valley/Eltham Citizens Advice Bureau', 2012.

Author, '32 Gellibrand Road 3207 - Life and Times, 1941-1971'.



*Rosie at Government House with
Colin Brooks MP and Danielle Green
MP*

And for those of us who know Rosie, she is a great supporter of our local politicians, never misses a Banyule Council meeting and is a great friend and neighbour to those in need of a helping hand. At Greensborough Historical Society, Rosie is a valued member of the Thursday Crew, provides us with morning coffee and cake and records new acquisitions as they arrive. She also contributes to the Archives through her writing - recording local events and the lives of local people.

A well-deserved award for a kind and hardworking lady. Well done Rosie!

Jagajaga Community Australia Day Award

In January, GHS Archivist and Committee Member, Sue Ballantyne was awarded a Jagajaga Community Australia Day Award for "her work with Greensborough Historical Society in exploring and recording our important local history."

Thanks to Rosie for nominating me!



Sue and Jenny Macklin

Another member of our Thursday Crew is **Dawn Bennetts** (nee Petts). Dawn grew up in Greenhills and has never moved far from the area. Dawn has interviewed many local residents and researched and recorded stories about the Greenhills area. Several are published in the Society's book "*Do You Recall?*" Dawn's latest stories are included in this Newsletter. We are sure you will enjoy this trip down memory lane.

THE SHOP at 19 Greenhill Road, Greensborough.

Information in this article was supplied in September, 2017, by Mrs Margaret O'Connor, resident at 17 Greenhill Road, Greensborough.

By Dawn Bennetts (nee Petts).

Mr and Mrs Don and Winifred Dobell from Preston, began building the shop in the late 1950's, and it operated for many years as a general store and grocery shop. The building was extended twice over the years to also include a dwelling in the rear section. The opening of the shop was of major importance to the local people of Greenhills, to save the trip to Greensborough for supplies – as not all people had access to a car in those days.

The first Christmas that the shop was open, there was a huge raffle drawn and local children enjoyed ice creams and a get together with parents.

The names of some of those in the photos have been provided by Mrs Margaret O'Connor of 17 Greenhill Road.



Children and parents at Dobell's Christmas Party

If anyone else is able to provide names of others in the photos, the Greensborough Historical Society would be most grateful.

Over the years the shop has been used for various businesses such as a butcher, grocers, a hairdresser and plumbing supplies. There are still visible signs of the windows that were installed in the side wall and later 'bricked in' after the hairdresser ceased operation.



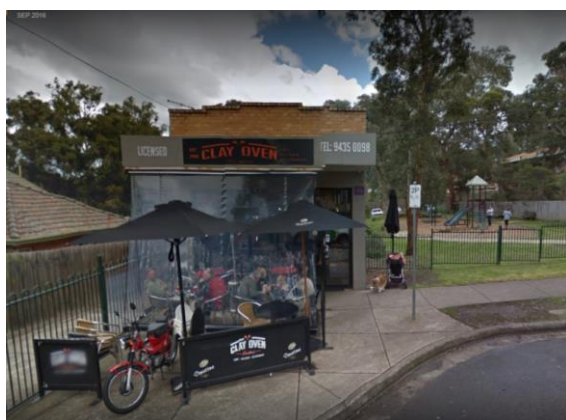
Side of shop showing bricked-in windows

In more recent years the shop once again opened under the original name of Dobell's and operated as a cafe / restaurant until around mid-2014.

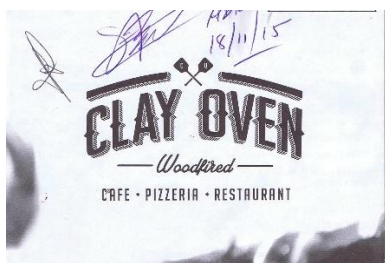


Dobell's Cafe Restaurant

The business once again changed hands in 2014 and became the Clay Oven Cafe Restaurant, which is still operating today.



Clay Oven Café



Interview with Mrs Margaret O'Connor – 17 Greenhill Road, Greensborough

By Dawn Bennetts (nee Petts), September 2017.

The following is an account of how Margaret (Mrs 'O') remembers early Greenhills.

Margaret and Jim O'Connor purchased their 1/3 acre block of land at 17 Greenhill Road, Greensborough around 1953. They began building their home in 1954. Some construction materials were not easy to purchase at that time, so whilst waiting for plaster to become available for the house, Margaret and Jim lived for a few months with neighbours Mr and Mrs Turner of 11 Greenhill Road.

An interesting fact is that there is no number 13 Greenhill Road.



17 Greenhill Road

Mrs O remembers the neighbours that were living on the same side of Greenhill Road - beginning at St Helena Road were: a vacant block of land, then Ian and Lois Robertson with two children, then Bill and Sylvie Birrell

who won a prize in Tatts which enabled them to purchase more land and build a new house to replace their very old house – they had four children. Next to that were Fred and Dot Turner with four children, then Les and June Thorp with two children, followed by Jim and Margaret's home with eight children. No wonder Mrs O told me that she was always busy having children!

Next to O'Connor's property were originally three further house blocks for sale. These were divided into ten shop sites but failed to sell. The land was then divided into a laneway, a shop, a park, offices, three shops with dwellings at the rear and another laneway. The next house was Don and Joan Rogers with four children, followed by the house on the corner of Bruce Street, being Jack and Edith Sutherland with five children.

Adjoining the rear of the O'Connor's property – and located in Willis Street, were Malcolm and Daphne Blair.

Opposite the shops in Greenhill Road around the late 1950s to early 1960s was Mrs Meade who owned a small farmlet. That site is around where Baranbali Grove is now. Mrs Meade sold eggs and cream etc before she retired and moved to Preston.

Greenhills was a very treed, bushy area in the 1950s and '60s and Mrs O can remember the procedure for when a bushfire was approaching. The alarm would be sounded from the Milk Bar which was just a few doors up. The local women would take knapsacks from their homes to a more bushy area down nearer to Carnon

Street or Hebden Street where the men would arrive to collect the knapsacks and go to fight the fire.

Not everyone had cars in the early days, or even if the family had a car, the husband might have taken it to get to work.

When Mrs O needed to visit the local doctor – which they chose to go to Dr Keith Alexander in Montmorency – she would push the pram with children, all the way to the doctor's surgery in Mountainview Road, Montmorency. It was just part of what you did in those days.

Mrs O remembers a house fire in Greenhill Road – possibly during the late 1950s. The house was very old and situated just down from Carnon Street. Sadly, one of the boys who unfortunately was disabled, died in that fire.

Another memory was one day when an old house was being transported from Thornbury to Montmorency – and it got stuck in the cutting in St Helena Road!

Greenhills was a very different area in those days. They were all large blocks of land, several poultry farms in the vicinity, unmade roads and the dust!! Oh, the dust!!

Mrs O still lives at number 17 Greenhill Road and it was obvious that she has enjoyed and still enjoys life and living in Greenhills.

LATOOF AND CALLIL PTY LTD. Greensborough

Researched by Dawn Bennetts (nee Petts)

Latoof and Callil were makers of ladies' and children's clothes and pyjamas. The factory at Greensborough was established in Main Street, Greensborough in June, 1946.

Another factory was opened at Watsonia in 1954/5.

Latoof and Callil Pty Ltd was established in 1864 and is now stated to be the largest dressmaking firm in Australia, with headquarters at East Brunswick, branches at Benalla, Werribee and Greensborough and 25 auxiliary production units in the Melbourne area. a third branch went into operation in Greensborough in June 1946. The Argus. 5 September, 1946, page 9



Female employees sitting outside the factory in Greensborough during the late 1940's.

Names and information regarding the photo above were supplied by Maureen O'Connell

(nee Polkinghorn) who worked at the Greensborough factory in the late 1940s.

On the left hand side of the photo was Homes' house, which later was Cavill's house. On the right hand side of the photo is the brick wall of the Latoof and Callil factory....which was next door to the Post Office at the time. The lady on the left was an English lady (name unknown), the next lady (name unknown), then Audrey Blackburn from Lower Plenty is 3rd from the left. The name of the next lady (at the back) is also unknown, but she lived in Hurstbridge. The lady on the right-hand side is Billy Hollibone from Wattle Glen.

Advertising for machinists.

M	A	C	H	I	N	I	S	T	S	M	A	C	H	I	N	I	S	T	S
Not Necessarily Experienced.																			
SENIOR										and									
JUNIOR.										Conditions.									
Excellent Working																			
Specially Heated Workroom, Cafe-																			
teria, Medical Service, Auxiliary																			
Power Plant Assures You or Con-																			
tinuous Employment with Australia's																			
Largest Makers of																			
LADIES' and CHILDREN'S																			
FROCKS.																			
Phone. Call or Write																			
LATOOF & CALLIL PTY. LTD.,																			
207-217 Brunswick-rd.,																			
East Brunswick.																			
Near Lygon-st Trans. on E. Bruns-																			
wick Bus.																			
Phone FW4111.																			
Annexes at Greensborough, Werribee																			
and Benalla.																			

The Age. 23 May 1951, page 16 (retrieved from Trove 2017)

**Advertisement on the occasion of the visit
of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.**



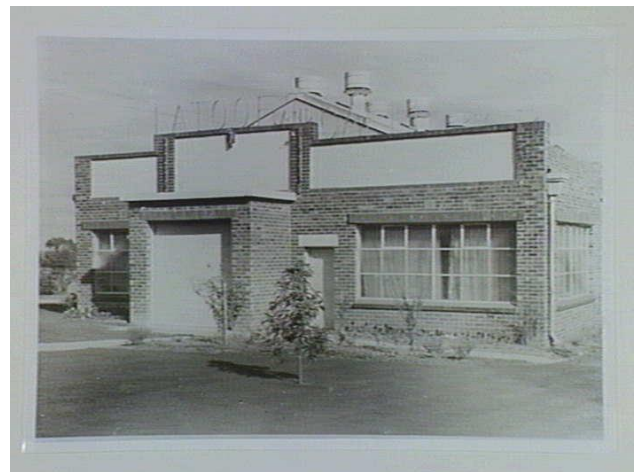
*Benalla Ensign. 4 March 1954, page 14
(retrieved from Trove 2017)*

Dress Factory for Watsonia.

Eighty girls will be employed as dress makers at the new Watsonia factory, to be opened by Latoof and Callil Pty Ltd.

The Premier (Mr Cain) announced yesterday that this company had purchased a factory at Watsonia to add to its chain of factories at Benalla, Werribee, Greensborough, Euroa and Mooroopna. These units were now employing 1000 persons. The firm, owned by three brothers, Messrs. George, Alec and Phillip Callil, was the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere. *The Age.*

*Saturday 18 December, 1954. Page 9
(retrieved from Trove 2017)*



The Watsonia factory 1950s

*Photograph printed by State Library of Victoria in
1988 from print made 1950s. Accession No:
H92.250/943. Image No: b34315.*

Printing of this Newsletter supplied courtesy of Colin Brooks MP.

*Greensborough Primary School
invites you to our*

Reunion and Community Open Day

Celebrating



Y E A R S

1878 – 2018

Saturday 18th August

2 pm – 4 pm

View photos from the past 140 years

Catch up with old friends for a chat and a cuppa

Visit the school Art Show

Can you help?

As part of the 140th Anniversary celebrations at Greensborough Primary School, students will be investigating the changes that occurred in the Greensborough area in the past 140 years.

Would any of you who were past pupils of GPS 2062 be willing to be interviewed by current students? The dates are below and you would be given the prepared questions before your visit.

If you are able to help, please contact Sue Ballantyne sueballantyne2010@hotmail.com or 9439 5454

The staff have met and come up with some possible dates and times to come and visit all seven classes.

Grade 5/6 Classes: One visitor required

Possible dates:

Monday 23 July 2:30

Tuesday 24 July 2:30

Monday 30 July 2:30

Tuesday 31 July 2:30

Grade prep - two classes: Three visitors required

Possible dates:

Wednesday 29 August anytime

Thursday 30 August anytime (this is our preferred day)

Grade 3/4 classes: Two visitors required

Any day or time during the week of 3 September to 6 September