

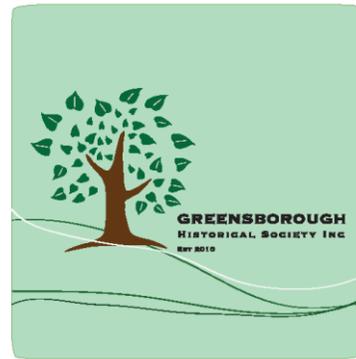
Greensborough Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Edition 39, September 2020

Incorporation No. **A0054430X**

ABN **64 318 435 402**



## **President's Report**

It would be easy to write off 2020 as a disaster due to the hermit existence we have endured since March this year because of COVID-19 however much had been achieved prior to that which we should not forget.

For the past 10 years the Society's History Resource Centre has been a great place for socialising as well as researching our diverse and interesting local history but due to a greater enthusiasm by members to attend (hurray!) we are running out of room to accommodate everyone. Banyule City Council was approached and allocated funding to investigate the viability to fill in the existing veranda and removal of an internal wall to accommodate another table of 4 members and provide additional display and storage space. Plans have been drawn up based on the Society's needs and though funding for the building alterations hasn't been allocated in Council's current budget we are hopeful it will look favourably at our needs next year.

We have moved to 4G at the Resource Centre giving faster access to the internet for our research team who are anxious to get back there.

Your Committee is always looking to provide better facilities for members and so it applied for and received a Federal Government Grant for a computer server which will contain the Society's constantly updated collection accessible by those at the Centre.

With our input Greensborough Chamber of Commerce has produced a brochure as a guide to our plaques in Main & Grimshaw Streets including a map and additional information to that already on the plaques which was to be launched at a business breakfast earlier this year. We are fortunate to have this great working relationship with the Chamber and when life gets back to something like normal the launch will occur and the brochure will be distributed to schools, walking groups etc.

Our latest publication is slowly coming to fruition and it is hoped that we can approach a publisher shortly.

Over our ten years of existence we have been fortunate to have had the support of numerous authorities and local organisations which has been paramount in our success, they include Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Greensborough RSL, Federal and State Government and Greensborough Chamber of Commerce. We thank them for their encouragement and financial support without which we couldn't survive.

Our Membership reached 101 this year which is very encouraging and we are hopeful that this will continue.

I would like to thank fellow Committee Members and Research Crew for their support over the past rather difficult 12 months and look forward to a more settled and proactive year ahead.

Noel

**Committee 2020-2021**

**Congratulations to the following Committee members  
returned at the online AGM on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**President** Noel Withers 94354513      **Vice President** Peter Van Eeken  
[pve101@yahoo.com.au](mailto:pve101@yahoo.com.au)

**Secretary** Norm Colvin 94352903      **Treasurer** John Gibson 94350097

**Committee Members:** Dianne Fox   Sue Brenkovich   Anne Paul   Sue Ballantyne

**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 2020**

**Unfortunately, all activities are cancelled for the remainder of 2020, however your Committee continues to meet monthly, via email, to keep on top of Society business as usual.**

**What a year 2020 has been. We have missed your company during these difficult times.**

**We hope to be back in 2021, better than ever.  
Please check the website for updates.**

**The calendar for 2021 has been prepared and will be distributed with the December Newsletter as usual.**

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

Join us on Thursdays, 10am to 3pm at the Resource Centre. We love a cuppa and a chat; we can help with your family or local history research. It's also work time for our volunteers, researching the area's past through people, places and events. We would also love to hear your stories about life in the area, and see your family photos. If you agree, we can scan them and add to our archives.

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.

## Feature Article

*Thanks to Rosie Bray for sharing her memories of Victory in the Pacific Day 1945 with us*

# I REMEMBER IT WELL

Rosie Bray (nee Thrupp) 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

*Dedicated to my mum and dad and to Pat Grainger (Port Melbourne Historical Society) who has always encouraged me to write of 'life and times'.*

Yes, August 15<sup>th</sup> 1945 was Victory in the Pacific Day, and I remember it well. It meant Peace at last, and we all let out a sigh of relief when we heard Prime Minister Ben Chifley officially announce that Japan had at last surrendered.

The news was not unexpected as Victory in Europe occurred May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945 and we all hoped that it was only a matter of time before the Allied Forces would concentrate on the war in the Pacific. When the surrender was announced on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1945, the ordinary Australian had already heard that there were two 'big bombs' dropped on Hiroshima on August 6<sup>th</sup> 1945 and Nagasaki on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1945. These helped to hasten war's end. The majority of Australians who had had enough war and killing, thought, well at least it helped to end the war. Nobody had any idea these events would have such dreadful repercussions with so many innocent victims either killed or maimed for life. To be honest mum and I did not care much at the time. We



lived at 32 Gellibrand Road Garden City and felt that we were 'sitting ducks', and my dad had already been killed fighting in the Middle East in June 1941. Our housing location was one street from the Commonwealth Oil Refinery, one street from the Port Melbourne Docks, not far from the ammunition factories in Salmon Street and the same distance from the Yarra River where the cargo ships berthed to load food etc for Britain. So when the news came through, mum and I were just so relieved that it was peace at last.

On the actual day which the official announcement was made I went to school at J.H.Boyd College City Road South Melbourne as usual. During the morning classes the students were herded into the Gymnasium/Assembly Hall. We found that many of the teachers were laughing and crying at the same time, so instantly we knew something really important had happened. The Principal Miss Llewellyn told us that the Second World War was over and we were dismissed from school and to make our way home.



Great news for a student...My dear friend (still is) Margaret Halfpenny could walk home, but I had to catch a bus to Garden City. So, over to the bus stop I went and found quite a crowd waiting already. After some time it was evident that there was no transport running ... What to do? I was a long way from home and did not fancy the long walk home. So to wait seemed a good idea.

Then, along the road came "Paddy the Woodman" with his light draft horse and low wagon. Paddy was as Irish as 'paddy's pigs' and used to deliver wood to our house. I called out "Hey Paddy can you give us a lift", "Sure lassie jump on board and I'll take you to Graham Street," came the reply...Many others who were waiting

for a bus also jumped on the wagon. We all sat with our legs trailing over the side of the wagon, waving to the passers-by. Plod, plod, plod went the old horse, and as we approached the bus stop nearest to the South Melbourne Market, Mrs Miller from 18 Gellibrand Road was waiting for a bus. I called to Paddy, "Could we give Mrs Miller a ride too". Paddy pulled his old horse up to a halt and we hauled Mrs Miller on board and off we went again. At Graham Street, Port Melbourne, Paddy called "End of the penny section, far as I go". We all thanked Paddy very much for his kindness and I still remember his generous spirit the day World War II ended. **Thank you Paddy the woodman.** When I arrived home, mum was sitting with Mrs Smith from next door. Both had been crying. Mum just said "Well it's all over Rosalie," and that's all that could be said.



Crowds in Bourke Street, Melbourne, after the end of World War Two

That night most of the people from Gellibrand joined the festivities in Melbourne to celebrate the momentous occasion. Mum and I shared our relief with others that it was all over and accompanied Aunty Sis Peat (Number 48) and Mrs Smith (Number 34). We also went back the second night. The crowds were enormous both nights, so much so that you did not walk, you just got carried along. (see picture at left shows). We all had to be careful and keep together, transport on these occasions left from Flinders Street extension. Mum and I had sad hearts, we were glad that some of their men and women were coming home, but we were sad that our dad was buried overseas and away from us.

Did I expect to still be alive to celebrate this day 75 years ago?  
The answer would be: "No".

I am very thankful to be able to tell my little story and adventure of August 15<sup>th</sup> 1945.

***I would like to pay a tribute to all those who served and sacrificed their lives to keep Australia free. R.B.***

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**More Walking around Macleod in your pandemic isolation** *with thanks to Kathy Andrewartha of the Springthorpe Heritage Group*

The Mont Park to Springthorpe Heritage Group have developed a sixth Walk. This one is around the Victoria Cross Estate which is west of the Macleod station see <https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/4589>

It is near the old Mont Park asylum/hospital/sanitorium precinct.

This is a unique opportunity to wander around streets which commemorate 10 veterans from WWI and WWII. Captain Albert Jacka VC (1893 – 1932) is probably the most famous of the Victorian and Tasmanian veterans remembered here. You can read his story and those of the other men at the Information Boards near the 'Lone Pine'.

In this Estate the age of the homes varies from the 1926 shop and residence at the corner of Cherry Street and McNamara Street, to million-dollar homes and new blocks of units. Behind most blocks there are laneways which were used for the 'night soil' collection before Macleod (then called 'North Heidelberg') was sewered in the 1960s. See if you can spot the remaining laneways which led to backyard 'thunder boxes'! There are two small

Reserves in the Estate, one named after the veteran Bruce Kingsbury VC, the only Australian VC from the Kokoda campaign of WWII.

It is probably easiest to park in Macleod Parade, which is named after Malcolm and Edith Macleod who owned this land from 1903 to 1910, and lived at Strathalan House which is still evident in the Strathalan Road Aged Care Complex.

We hope you enjoy this 40-minute Macleod Heritage Walk soon. Don't forget our other five Walks which are close by, see <https://www.montparktospringthorpe.com/heritage-walks/>

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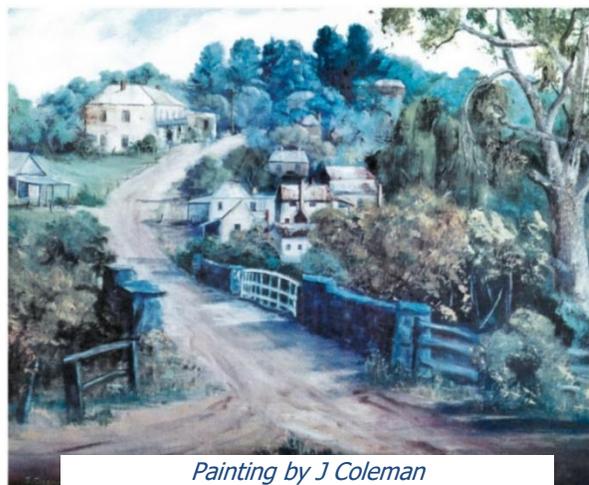
**Earlier this year, our Thursday Crew volunteers worked on a project co-ordinated by Vice President Peter van Eeken, to collect information and write short articles about various aspects of life in Greensborough and surrounding areas, focusing on people, places and events.**

**Over the next few Newsletters we will share some of these stories with you.**

### The Greensborough Bluestone Bridge by Norm Colvin

The township of Greensborough was settled in the 1840s near the ford crossing at the bottom of what is now known as Main Street. This was a major road leading to the Caledonian goldfields and outlying towns such as Diamond Creek. Even to reach the road to Eltham from Greensborough you had to cross the ford.

However, the problem was every time the Plenty River flooded the road became impassable, so a bridge was needed.



*Painting by J Coleman*

**Roads and Bridges Office, Melbourne,  
November 29, 1858.**  
**TENDERS** will be received until 12 o'clock on  
Friday, the 10th December next, for the CON-  
STRUCTION of a BRIDGE over the River Plenty at  
GREENSBOROUGH, in the district of North Mel-  
bourne.  
Full particulars at this office on and after Tuesday  
next, November 29.  
The Board will not necessarily accept the lowest of  
any tender. (Signed)  
**G. GAVAN DUFFY,**  
President of the Board of Land and Works.

By the late 1850s pressure was being put on the Board of Land and Works to build a substantial bridge. The following advert was placed:

A stone mason called James Neave McKenzie was engaged to build a substantial bluestone bridge. The cost was believed to be £1,200. This bridge served our community for a century until 1966 when it was

replaced by a concrete bridge when Main Road was widened and realigned.

*The Argus, 29/08/1858, page 7*



*The Greensborough bluestone bridge looking from about Pioneer Reserve up the hill to Greensborough*

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### **Lobb's Tea Rooms** by Sue Brenkovich

Lobb's tea rooms were built in the 1920s by the Heidelberg Council and was a wooden building providing a kiosk and two other rooms.



*Lobb's Kiosk 1950s*

The two rooms were used for changing rooms by the Greensborough Football Club until 1938 and the building was then known as The Greensborough Park Tea Rooms.

The Tea Rooms were popular because people used to come from the city on day trips or picnics often travelling by train from the city to Greensborough.

Greensborough was known for clean air and a good day in the country and a change from inner city living. How things have changed!

The Tea Rooms were first leased to a Mrs. H. Roy then the Leed family who lived there until 1936, when they returned to Bendigo.

William and Olive Lobb took over the lease in the late 1930s and changed the name to Lobb's Kiosk. Mrs Lobb continued to run the kiosk after William's death in 1949 and lived there until the mid-1970s. Olive Lobb died in 1981.



*One of the Lobb children outside the Kiosk 1940s*



*Diamond Valley Learning Centre 2014*

In 1974 it became the Diamond Valley Living and Learning Centre as we know it today. The building has been renovated and extended a number of times and each room is named after different women who played a role in the development of the Living and Learning Centre. In our early years, Greensborough Historical Society met here.

## Greensborough - a venue for picnics from the GHS Archives

Greensborough was a popular destination for picnics – a train line from the city made it easy to enjoy the fresh air and country lifestyle. Having several hotels and tearooms made the destination as pleasant as the journey.



**1909** The staff of Love and Lewis celebrate the inauguration of a Saturday half-holiday with a trip to Greensborough, seen here gathered outside the original Greensborough Hotel.

Gentlemen on a horse-drawn cart, again outside the Greensborough Hotel.



The Rank Family and friends would often drive a horse and carriage from Heidelberg to Greensborough for a picnic or gathering. William Rank rear right, holding child. Early 1900s.

*Photograph from Elaine Rank*

**1908** North Melbourne Metro Ice Works Picnic in Greensborough, including the Alexander Family



A picnic in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was a reason to don your finest outfit, gather friends and family, and head 'out of town'.

And the good folk of Greensborough? They organised their own picnics to destinations such as Mordialloc, Hampton and St Kilda. The State School picnics were held closer to home, with Wattle Glen and Heidelberg reported as venues.

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Prior to the AGM, **Marilyn Smith** advised that she would not be standing for re-election to the Committee. Marilyn has been a member of the GHS Committee for the past 7 years, which has been much appreciated by her Colleagues on the Committee, and is a valued member of the Thursday Crew.

We take this opportunity to thank Marilyn for her valuable work as photographer, interviewer, researcher and collector of all things historic.

Marilyn will continue her work with the Thursday Crew, and we look forward to her next batch of photographs of Greensborough district in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Printed courtesy of Anthony Carbines MP.**