



The Nepean

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 3

SEPT 2013

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Check Out Our NEW Website!

Last month our new website was fired up. Have a look at it at: www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au

(Yes, this is the old address!)



I recommend you go and have a look around as the site has many exciting new features.

While the site continues to be 'under construction', it has the capacity to expand into an informative resource for local and international history buffs all over the web.

Content is a bit limited at present, but will grow organically into a much fuller package as time (and volunteer submissions!) permits.

You might notice a separate section for 'Schools', the exact use of which is yet to be developed, but however this transpires, it is vital that we encourage our local and other schools to feel part of our history.

I hope you enjoy the experience and look forward to your feedback at thenepean@ozemail.com.au
Clive



COMING EVENTS

Sept 6th**Monthly Meeting at the Sorrento Museum**

Speaker: Bill Sylvester

Topic: 'What really happened to Prime Minister Holt: Cheviot Beach and Diving History'

Copies of Bill's latest book 'Down Under Magic' will be available for purchase.

Oct 4th**Special General Meeting 8pm at the Sorrento Museum**

Proposed revised NHS Constitution/Rules

(See President's Report on **p4**, and enclosed Notice of Special General Meeting (**p11**) & Appointment of Proxy Form (**p10**))**followed by:****Monthly Meeting**

Speaker: John Grinpukel, Heritage Planner, Parks Victoria

Topic: 'Heritage & Planning at Point Nepean National Park'

Sun Oct 20th, Sat 26th & Sun 27th 10:00am-3:00pm**RHSV History Week at the Sorrento Museum**History Fun and Games - Enjoy old fashioned activities for the family - croquet, craft activities including weaving, spinning, games, treasure hunt, Museum mystery objects. . . **See p 7** for more information.

\$10.00 for a family includes entry to the Museum and Watts' Cottage.

Nov 1st**AGM at 8pm at the Sorrento Museum****followed by:****Monthly Meeting**

Guest Speaker: Penny Carnaby, (National Trust, Morn. Pen.)

Topic: 'Historic Sites across Nth Africa and the Sahara'

Dec 6th 5:30pm**Members' 'End of Year' function.**

Join us for dinner at Buckley's Chance at 6.15pm prior to the meetings.

Book on 5984 2888 and ask to join the NHS table.

PROMOTION STALLS

Sep 14th

Sorrento

Sep 26th

Blairgowrie

Oct 19th

Blairgowrie

Oct 26th

Sorrento

Nov 2nd

Sorrento

Nov 23rd

Blairgowrie

DID YOU KNOW?

‘Did You Know?’ is a new segment devoted to the smaller stories about our local history. Kicked off this edition by Peter Munro, we are asking **you** for little bits of colourful local history. Just send any ideas you might have to me at thenepean@ozemail.com.au Clive

SULLIVAN BAY

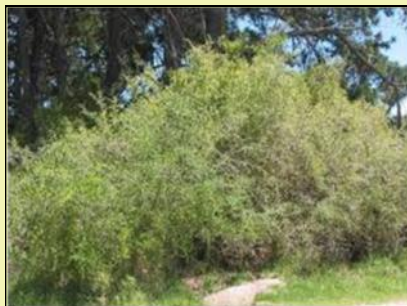
Sullivan Bay, the site of the short lived Sorrento settlement was named in 1803 by Lieutenant David Collins after the Under Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, John Sullivan. Sullivan held that position in the United Kingdom for three years.



BOXTHORN AT SORRENTO

John Boswell Clark is credited with being the first person to plant boxthorn in the Sorrento-Portsea area. Clark's friend Baron von Mueller who was director of Melbourne's Botanical Gardens suggested this thorny bush would stop his cows breaking through fences.

In later years, a man known as "Prickly Oscar" was the local clearer of Boxthorn. (Janet South, note)



EUREKA UPRISING BALLARAT 1854

James McGill, an American who was appointed as second in command to Peter Lalor at the Eureka uprising of December 1854 was not involved in the ferocious and bloody 20 minute battle. In Peter FitzSimons latest book, "Eureka,"



The Unfinished Revolution (2012), McGill somehow made his way to the Mornington Peninsula where, in order to elude the authorities, he sought refuge for a short time at the Quarantine Station at Portsea.

Peter Munro



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Revised Constitution

This issue of the Nepean includes a notice of Special Meeting to adopt a revised Constitution.

Legal changes affecting the Nepean Historical Society came into effect in November 2012 as a result of the the new Associations Incorporation Reform Act . This Act contains new items that an Association's Rules must address and Consumer Affairs Victoria has produced new Model Rules.

The Committee has reviewed the current NHS Constitution against the new Model Rules and developed a new document. It is proposed to adopt this new Constitution at a Special General Meeting to be held at 8PM on Friday 4th October (prior to our usual monthly meeting).

The proposed new NHS Constitution differs from the current Constitution because either,

(i) a clause from the Model Rules has been adopted which is not in the current NHS Constitution (e.g. the requirement that applicants for membership state in writing that they support the purposes of the Association), or

(ii) there is a similar clause in the current NHS Constitution but no provision for this in the Model Rules (e.g. provision for Honorary Members)

In some cases a decision has been made not to adopt a provision of the Model Rules where this does not appear to be in the interests of the NHS. (e.g. the requirement that new members be 'sponsored' by existing members).

In some cases a clause from the existing Constitution has been modified to update it or to change it to what appears more appropriate under current conditions (e.g. the proposed reduction in the number of 'officers' on the Committee)

Differences between the current Constitution and the proposed new Constitution include the following:

Purpose (New Constitution Rule 2) The purpose has been updated to reflect the current situation

Membership (New Rule 9) Applicants for membership must state in writing that they support the purposes of the Association

Annual Subscription (New Rule 12(1)) The AGM (not a General Meeting) sets the annual subscription which becomes payable once a notice is sent out and is set until the next AGM

Associate Members (New Rule 14) A new non-voting category for children and any other category considered applicable

Honorary Life Membership (New Rule 15) Included but provision for Honorary Annual Membership dropped

CONT.

Role of Committee (New Rule 20) Defines responsibilities of Committee

Monthly meetings (New Rule 32) included but with dropping of reference to minutes

Technology (New Rule 36) Provision for members to 'attend' meetings electronically

Composition of Committee (New Rule 44) modified to remove 2nd Vice President and Assistant Secretary (as in Model Rules) but to include Archivist and Collections and Display Coordinator

Conflict of Interest (New Rule 66) Included with reference to Committee as in Model Rules

Notice requirements (New Rule 75) Allows for notices to be sent by email where authorised by the member

Financial Matters (New Part 6) Includes more detail which is taken from Model rules

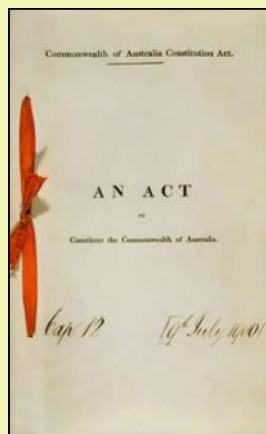
The wording of the Resolution to be put to the Special meeting is included in the notice of meeting. A Proxy form is also included in this issue of the Nepean for those unable to attend the meeting in person.

Copies of the current and new Constitutions will be available at the Special Meeting.

If you would like to obtain copies prior to the meeting please ring 5984 0255 or email nepeanhs@satlink.com.au

Thank you to Ian Cox for a considerable amount of free advice on this issue and to Val Stieglbauer for formatting the final document.

Doreen Parker
President



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Rodney North

Matilda Bowra & Family

P & K McKee

Kathleen Low & Graham Hall

Melbourne

Hawthorn

Sorrento

Scarborough WA

We look forward to making them welcome at our functions.

REMINDER – some renewals for 2013/14 are still outstanding.

Judy Walsh

Membership Coordinator

SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS

Another Time, Another Life - History Competition for local schools.

This is now in full swing with Sorrento Primary School and St Joseph's actively involved. Brochures with entry forms have been distributed to strategic venues so that students from other local schools can participate individually if they so desire. Professor Weston Bate has agreed to judge the finalists and we are planning a Festive Prizegiving Event on Saturday 23rd November at 11am in the Sorrento Museum.

The Peninsula Limestone Story.

The Limestone film with John Alexander was edited by Klaus Stieglbauer and has been playing on the DVD screen in Room 1. Mohan Nugawela and Margaret Reid have given us permission to market this abridged version which is now on sale in the NHS shop.

Tours.

Over the past financial year the Society has hosted 26 group tours, thus introducing 554 persons of all ages to our museum and the history of the area. This involved 68 attendances of NHS members who clocked up 180 volunteer hours and raised \$2629. Following are a few points of interest.

- The Peninsula Specialist College visit was most rewarding and resulted in a batch of appreciative letters from students and staff. Click [HERE](#) for full story and pictures on the website.



Peninsula Specialist College
enjoy their day at Watts' Cottage

- We are pleased to have re-established the connection with Defence International Training College this year. Following the completion of major works and with good transport in the Point Nepean National Park, Des Young and Richard Cotter guided a group of young international cadets on their historic briefing of the Nepean Peninsula. Thanks to Des and Richard.
- Natasha has stream-lined her bus tour of the historic precinct and some walking tours were also conducted, notably a partnership with Parks Victoria at the Back Beach.
- It was good to host several enthusiasts from Beachside Tourism who are now better informed about what we have to offer.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS cont.

- It has been a continued delight to have Watts' Cottage enlivened by the Carlyon Family who engage in housekeeping, crafts and musical entertainment from time to time.

Our thanks to all the other members who participated cheerfully in hosting groups – Trish Ball, Maggie Broadhead, Jane Byrne, Jo Davie, Rhonda Fitzjohn, Joy Kitch, Elaine & Barrie Nicholls, Doreen Parker, Janet South and Val Stieglbauer.

RHSV History Week

Our plans are underway for the event based around children and Watts' Cottage for Sunday 20th and the weekend of 26th and 27th October.



Natasha Wicks has secured the services of the Sorrento Croquet Club for all three days and we plan to give children an experience of the daily domestic life of ordinary working families in the 1800s. We visualise involving visitors in simple craft activities, hands-on experience of old-time Wash Day and a variety of indoor games based on museum artefacts. This is not a 'baby sitting' service for visitors to Sorrento and/or the Museum to have a child-free coffee in the main street. Adults, not teenagers, will need to accompany the children and will be encouraged to join in while their children participate in the activities. The museum and Watts' Cottage will be open from 10am for this event and the daily entrance fee for the programme will be \$10 per family.

Bergliot Dallas and Natasha Wicks.

Special Offer of Maps

Through the generosity of one of our members, we have a number of 1:100 000 Topographical Survey Maps to be given away to Nepean Historical Society Members.

VICTORIA: Albury, Charlton, Dookie, Dunolly, Edenhope, Euroa, Hopetoun, Kerang, Kosciusko, Lalbert, Mallacoota, Moe, Otway/Colac, Portland, Swan Hill, Warragul, Warnambool, Whitfield, Whitfield, Wilsons Promontory

NEW SOUTH WALES: Cobargo, Condobolin, Eden, Jacobs River, Newcastle, Singleton, Sydney, Wollongong

QUEENSLAND: Bogie, Torres Strait, Warwick

TASMANIA: Circular Head, Conical Rocks, Sandy Cape, Three Hummock Island, Welcome

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Adelaide, Blyth, Hawker, Jervis, Mt. Gambier, Naracoorte, Pinnaroo, Wakefield

They can be viewed during Museum Opening Hours, or contact Barbara Stephenson, Map Co-ordinator, on 5984.0255 or email archive1.nepeanh@vic.chariot.net.au

THE WRECK OF THE SEA

160th Commemoration of the Wreck of Sea June 1st, 2013

For 120 years, a wooden stylized bird figurehead lay behind a Rosebud foreshore cottage, until the Mitchell family gave her to our museum in 1973.

On June 1st, more than 65 people crowded the Heritage Gallery to view the figurehead and hear about Sea's wreck on May 31st, 1853 at Point Nepean, heading for Callao, Peru. Bob McKenzie, descendant of passengers arriving on Sea, and Janet South, our Research Officer, described how they have almost certainly solved the mystery of the figurehead's origin.



Bob told of his family research starting mid 1970s with a Sydney cousin's visit, bringing details of a great-uncle, Alexander SEA McKenzie, born on the ship. After years of research, Bob found our website this year and our article on the figurehead. Checking Sea's 1847 Registration Certificate, he found "bird figurehead" mentioned and contacted us. A sharing of information followed, serving to support Janet's long-held theory about the figurehead's origin, (based mainly on dates and the ship's local nickname, "The Peruvian Barque").

Fortunate timing allowed us to plan a commemoration of the wreck of Sea for the 160th anniversary.

Those attending, and visitors later, could peruse research material, background information re shipbuilding in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, where Sea was built. Heritage Victoria funded studies, re significance and conservation, were outlined for the audience by Joy Kitch, Co-ordinator of Collection and Displays. Descendants of passengers, mainly McKenzie relatives, enjoyed their reunion and shared stories. Among them was the great-grandson of ship's surgeon, Dr. Sandie.

Don Love, diver and author of books on shipwrecks, brought Point Nepean maps showing Sea's last resting place and spoke of his experiences. Armed with a permit already obtained by Bob for this purpose, he hopes to retrieve some identifying timber.

Since the Commemoration, publicity in press and radio has attracted contact from other interested people including members of the family who donated the figurehead, and a researcher who has given us the life story of the Captain's wife!

What happens next? Funds need to be raised for more professional conservation assessment and advice, and then more funds to carry this out. Once preserved from further deterioration, Sea's figurehead can go on permanent display. There are less than twenty figureheads in Victoria, and ours has been declared of State significance.



Don Love

**Joy Kitch
Janet South**

HERITAGE WATCH

Police Point Shire Park

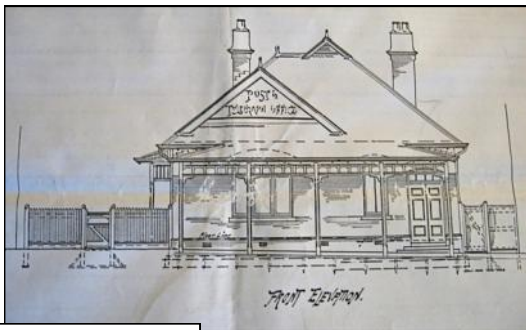
NHS is represented on advisory groups monitoring the development of Police Point Shire Park at the entrance to Point Nepean. We are hopeful that the heritage Calling Ground concept developed by John Dyke will be built at an early stage of the project.

Shire 4-year Strategic Plan

NHS was represented at the Council hearings on this plan. In its submissions NHS emphasised the need to give funding priority to projects that have already passed the adoption stage at Council, such as at Police Point.

Sorrento Post Office

This heritage building has now been sold. We await details of any development proposals which may be put forward by the new private owner.



The Post Office

Collins Settlement

NHS continues to pursue the need for coordinated management at this important heritage site.

New Residential Zoning

Shire planners are working over the next twelve months to classify residential streets in Nepean and other wards according to the new State system. Residential 1 would be the prime residential zone to which, for example, neighbourhood character would apply.

Portsea Beach

Further technical investigations are to be undertaken to establish how to effect permanent remedy to the erosion that has wreaked havoc at this iconic local beach.

Frank Hindley

Convener Heritage and Planning

APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

The Museum's shop carries a range of wonderful home-made preserves and hand-made and crafted items, thanks to our volunteers' great efforts. We are looking to expand this range, and would love to hear from anyone who has spare time and is willing to contribute by sewing, knitting or preserving. Please contact Jane Eldred Byrne on 0401 091 273

PROXY FORM

Nepean Historical Society Incorporated (the Association)
(Registered Number A0021260M)

Form of Appointment of Proxy for a General Meeting of the Association Convened under Rules 32 and 33

I

of

(Address)

being a member of the Association and entitled to vote

Hereby appoint

of

(Address)

being a member of the Association and entitled to vote, as my proxy to vote for me and on my behalf at the Annual General/Special General* meeting of the Association to be held on **FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER 2013** and at any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote on my behalf at his/her* discretion in favour of/ against* the following resolution(s):

.....
.....
.....
.....

Signed.....Dated.....

(*Delete whichever is inappropriate)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Nepean Historical Society Incorporated (Registered Number A0021260M)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER 2013 at 8PM

Notice is hereby given that at a Special General Meeting of the Nepean Historical Society Incorporated (Regd. No. A0021260M) to be held on Friday 4th October at 8 PM at the Sorrento Mechanics' Institute / Museum, 827 Melbourne Road, Sorrento the following resolutions, which shall be proposed as special resolutions, shall be considered, and if thought fit, passed:

"That the Rules contained in the document submitted to the meeting and signed and dated by the President for the purpose of identification be approved and adopted as the Rules of the Society in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Constitution of the Society which is repealed in its entirety by this resolution.

That the Committee of the Society be authorised to make such amendments to the proposed new Rules as shall be required by the Registrar of Incorporated Associations, Consumer Affairs, Victoria, to enable the proposed new Rules to be approved, provided such further amendments:

- (a) are authorised or required by or under any Act or Law; or
- (b) will not prejudice the right of the members of the Society; or
- (c) are to correct a patent error or errors in the proposed new Rules."

NOTE: Appointing a Proxy

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint another member or proxy for the meeting. The form of proxy prescribed by the Rules is enclosed with this notice.

The Rules state -

Rule 35 (5) Subject to sub clause (6) a form appointing a proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the meeting. and

Rule 35 (6) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Association no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

Secretary

NEPEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Nepean Historical Society
Sorrento

OFFICE-BEARERS 2012—2013

PRESIDENT: Doreen Parker

VICE-PRESIDENTS : Natasha Wicks, Joy Kitch

SECRETARY: Bev Baker

ASSISTANT SECRETARY : Vacant

TREASURER: Yvonne Watson

ARCHIVIST: Doreen Parker

RESEARCH OFFICER: Janet South

DISPLAYS AND COLLECTION COORDINATOR: Joy Kitch

COMMITTEE: Bergliot Dallas, Jenny Nixon, Val Stieglbauer, Jane Eldred Byrne,
Marie Clark, Glenn Whipp

FROM THE EDITOR

Sorry this edition of *The Nepean* is a bit dry, but apparently these administrative matters are important. I'm looking forward to your future contributions for **'Did You Know?'**. Many members of the Society, unbeknown to yourselves, have interesting stories to tell and fascinating artefacts to show the rest of us.

Please feel free to send me any idea for a story even if you think no one else may be interested. Also, don't forget to check out the new website!!

The Ed. Contact me at thenepean@ozemail.com.au

NOTE: Could contributors please send their Dec articles to Janet South, Sub-Editor, by Nov 1st at nepeanhs@satlink.com.au

The Nepean Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of -



COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA

