



The Nepean

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1

MARCH 2012

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A Mystery Jacket with a Famous Connection

Some questions regarding the jacket held in The Museum are being answered. According to the Curator at Fort Queenscliff, Sgt Helen Janner, the uniform with the patrol style collar shows it is not from an Officer but a Non-commissioned officer or Other Rank's. The sleeve insignia denotes the rank of a Warrant Officer class 2, of Heavy Artillery (Coastal Artillery). And due to the brass buttons insignia, 'Royal Australian Artillery' it is of pre world war 1 circa. She thinks perhaps around 1908. It is either The Garrison Artillery 1, (NSW) or The Garrison Artillery 2 (Victoria, Fort Queenscliff). Given its current home the latter seems more likely. Given the battery at Pt Nepean was part of the Garrison Artillery 2 the owner may well have been posted there.



The uniform is similar to that worn by John Monash who was a member of the Metropolitan Brigade of the Garrison Artillery who often trained at Queenscliff, pictured here in 1888. The artillery was later reconstructed and from July 1903, Captain Monash's battery became No.3 Victorian Company, Australian Garrison Artillery.



John Monash c 1888

Our thanks to Sgt Janner for her assistance. We will now focus on who the WO2 owner of the jacket might have been. Ed

COMING EVENTS

Mar 2nd**General Meeting 8pm at the Museum**

Speaker: Mr. Cal Johnston

Topic: 'Lt. Col George Johnston the leader of the NSW Corps'

6:45 Volunteer Training Session (See page 7)**Mar 30th****General Meeting 8pm at the Museum**

Speaker: Mr. Jarrod Ruch and his

Topic: 'The Briars'

++ Note earlier date, due to Easter ++

Apr 28th**Sausage Sizzle, Bunnings Rosebud**

See details opposite

May 4th**General Meeting 8pm at the Museum**

Speaker: TBA

Sat 19th and Sun 20th May

National Trust Heritage Festival 21 April - 20 May 2012.

The museum will be open this weekend

for a gold coin donation. See details p. 7

Jun 1st**General Meeting 8pm at the Museum**

Speaker: TBA

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

Mar 10th

Blairgowrie

Mar 17th

Sorrento

Apr 7th

Blairgowrie

Apr 14th

Sorrento

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are again appealing for a volunteer to take on the responsibility of managing the Shop which generates quite a lot of income for the Society mainly through street stalls and special events and from sales to visitors at the museum. If you are at all interested come along and help at a street stall and learn more about what is required.

We are also seeking volunteer assistance in the office to help with general administrative tasks. If you are interested in volunteering in these areas please contact the Assistant Secretary Bev Baker on 5984 0255 or by email to nepeanhs@satlink.com.au

SPECIAL EVENTS

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our raffle in December 2011 resulted in \$339.70 being raised for the Society. The winners were;

1st Prize:	Hamper	Mrs. Anne Whelan
2nd Prize:	Decorated Christmas Cake	Mr. David Burnet
3rd Prize:	Buckley's Chance Meal Voucher	Mrs. Gwynne Cox

Congratulations to the winners.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Rosebud on Saturday 28th April

Bernie Poll will be co-ordinating the Society's important fundraiser this year.

Please put the date in your diary and be prepared to support him with a couple of hours of your time. **Phone 5985 8241** The greater the number of volunteers, the lighter the load.

Really a case of "The more the merrier" too!

VALE JEAN CLOUGH



Jean joined the Society shortly before I did in 1992 and worked on cataloguing the museum collection, later taking on responsibility for the displays. She and her helpers brought about a big improvement in the exhibition and interpretation of our artefacts, paving the way for those who followed.

The wonderful display of beautifully restored lingerie in Room One was always known as 'Jean's Undies' in recognition of her work! Her artistic eye and talent for needlework came in useful, and her story-telling ability and sometimes wicked sense of humour gave her fellow-workers a great deal of pleasure.

Thank you Jean, and our sympathy goes to Nerida and the rest of the family.
Janet South

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Grant

In December 2011 the Society received a grant from the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council towards the purchase of a TV/DVD unit that will be used for presenting the postcard series and other stories about the history of Sorrento. The funds were provided under the Shire's Community Grants Program.

Quarantine

A number of meetings have been held with Parks Victoria in recent years about the future of a Quarantine Museum at Point Nepean. At the January meeting the Committee of Management of the Society reluctantly resolved that the Friends of Quarantine Museum group will be disbanded from 1st March 2012. Current members will be encouraged to join the Parks Friends of Point Nepean Group.



Quarantine Station

OHS

There have been reports in recent weeks in the media about proposed changes to the OHS laws that caused concern to some volunteer community groups. We have received advice that these laws which involve greater health and safety protection for volunteers have not yet been introduced in Victoria and the existing OHS laws will remain in place for some months. The Committee of Management is responsible to ensure volunteers have a safe workplace when working at the museum.

Tax

The Commonwealth is also planning to introduce an Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission that will register and regulate charities by 1st July 2013. Currently charities are registered under existing laws by the Australian Tax Office. The Society has been granted status of a charity by the Tax Office. We will continue to monitor these changes as they are introduced.

Royal Historical Society

Our President Dr Robert Barnes has accepted appointment to the RHSV Council for another term. Robert was a member of the council from 1984 to 1989 and again between 1999 and 2003. He was Vice President in 2002 /3.

Don Ewart - Honorary Secretary

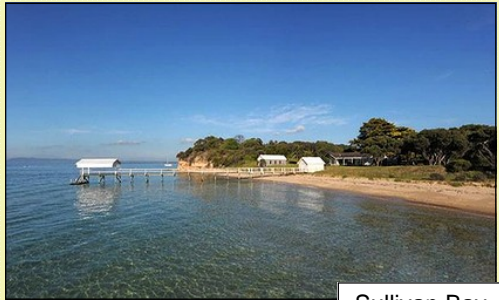


HERITAGE WATCH

Collins Settlement

Representations have been made to the Shire concerning planning for the proposed new seawall, paths and improved visitor viewing at the Eastern Sister, now that subdivision of the former Rand Estate has occurred and settlement made with the Shire under the public space contribution rules.

The Shire has been asked by a joint community group in which NHS participates to give a suitable name to the public reserve next to but not part of the private property called Tideways. The reserve has never been named, but is part of a precinct containing Sullivan Bay and Sullivan Bay beach.



Sullivan Bay

Pioneer Memorial Gardens

The Shire has taken action to require the builder of the new house under construction next to the Sorrento Museum and the Pioneer Memorial Gardens to comply with the access arrangements specified in his permit. Access to the site is to be from the front or the rear, and not through the Gardens and the side fence as recently occurred.



Police Point

Point Nepean

The draft Conservation Management Plan for the Shire Park at Police Point has been received and was due to be discussed during February at a

Reference Group meeting attended by NHS representatives.

A feature of the discussions so far has been acknowledgement that Police Point is primarily a heritage site, and an integral part of the old Quarantine Station.

Nepean Ward

The Heritage and Planning working group has noted the decision of the Victorian Electoral Commission to move to a system of multi-councillor wards in the Mornington Peninsula Shire. From the time of the next local elections in October, Nepean Ward will double in size, with approx. 24,000 ratepayers/residents. Rye is being added to the existing areas of Portsea, Sorrento and Blairgowrie. NHS has developed very good and useful working relations with the local Ward Councillor in recent years, and it is to be hoped that similar arrangements can be continued under the new system.

Frank Hindley, Convener

Heritage and Planning Group

FROM THE COLLECTION

HETTY'S PURSE

This touching little leather, coin purse worn so thin from use, with a corner mended with black cotton was recently re-discovered in a drawer in our Watts Cottage, *Ilfracombe*.

Volunteer Bergliot Dallas found it when she was spring cleaning. When she brought it in to show us we all gently stroked the soft leather – it is that sort of object.

We know from its catalogue number that this purse was owned by the third youngest daughter and sixth child born to John Francis and Jane Watts in November 1878. Christened Harriet Maria she was always called Hetty (sometimes she spelt it Hettie.)

Hetty never married and we believe her sweetheart died in WWI. Bergliot had earlier written an interpretation of Hetty's life based around her precious notebook safely stored in our fire proof filing cabinet. You can read Bergliot's moving piece in the Museum – it is one of our Treasures of the Museum booklets written by volunteers in 2010.

After her mother's death in 1935 Hetty lived on at *Ilfracombe* until 1958. She died in 1962 aged 84 and is buried in Sorrento Cemetery. Her little purse is on display now.

Joy Kitch
Collection Co-ordinator



Hetty Watts

The Nepean ONLINE

You may have noticed a deliberate attempt to include more photos and other pictures in *The Nepean*. These are quite marvellous when they are viewed in the form of a PDF (via email or on the website). If you do have access to email or the internet either directly or through a child or indeed grandchild, I would heartily recommend you opt to receive *The Nepean* in this way. Please let us know if you are able to be sent *The Nepean* at : thenepean@ozemail.com.au The Ed.

VOLUNTEERS & MORE EVENTS

Thank you to all the volunteers who generously gave their time during January. We were able to welcome visitors on every day of the school holidays. Twenty attended one afternoon, thirteen on another and varying numbers who all appreciated your efforts. Well Done!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION FRIDAY 2nd MARCH

All recent volunteers are invited to a training meeting to help you with information as to how best present our interesting museum to visitors. This meeting will be a general overview of opening and setting up procedures, displays, DVD programs, requests for research, closing etc. Any experienced helpers who wish to refresh their ideas, are most welcome. Our meeting will start at 6.45pm. on Friday 2nd of March, and will finish in time for members to attend our general meeting. This is a good opportunity to meet other volunteers and we hope many will attend.

Thank you

Rhonda Fitzjohn (Roster Co-ordinator)



Wrecks, Rockets and Rescue

During the era of Sail and Steam the dangerous entry to Port Phillip caused many a ship to founder. Between 1840 and 1949 there were over 70 shipwrecks in the area. This is the Society's focus in the National Trust Heritage Festival 2012.

The Rocket Life-saving Apparatus, developed in the early 1800s, is part of the Museum's Maritime Display. Immerse yourself in the atmosphere of shipwrecks, rescue and relics. See the Breeches Buoy and the Hanging Hammock. Watch the graphic DVD display.



On **Saturday 19th** and **Sunday 20th May** from 1.30 to 4.30pm the museum will be open to the public for a gold coin donation for the Festival Weekend.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Eunice Watson	Blairgowrie
Sandra James	Rye
Jenny Wadelton	Kyabram
Robin Koster Carlyon	Fingal

We look forward to making them welcome at our functions.

Judy Walsh, Membership Co-ordinator

TOURS

Early in December we hosted a group of senior officers from the Defence International Training Centre who were ably escorted as usual by Des Young and Richard Cotter around historic sites in Sorrento and at Point Nepean before visiting the Museum and Watts' Cottage. Grade 6 from Sorrento Primary School also came to discover the treasures of local history before moving on to high school.

But the most exciting event In December was when the Nepean Historical Society was asked by an arts based organisation, Aphids, who were working in partnership with Parks Victoria for assistance in providing background information on Point Nepean and the Quarantine Station. The project is ongoing and when complete in September 2012, the use of innovative technology such as iphone apps, cinematic chapters and original sound scores will all assist to interpret the area in a very new and exciting way.

Natasha Wicks embraced the challenge of organising a program at short notice and did a great job. She was ably assisted by the team she established and to whom she has expressed her thanks for their time and enthusiasm when they spoke to Aphids at the Quarantine Station on Monday 12th December. She writes as follows:

'Richard Cotter gave a witty account of the bay, with and without the sea, and of the Boon Wurrung people. Jim Barras, from the upper veranda of the hospital, gave us great background information on the reasons why people made that journey on the Ticonderoga. This was followed by an in-depth account from Alison Jones whose descendants were on board the Ticonderoga (See opposite-Ed). A highlight was seeing the brooch worn by her relative.

John Alexander spoke on limestone, how it was formed and the kilns used to manufacture it. Elsie Barras took us to the cemetery and focused on the monument commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Ticonderoga tragedy and the stories associated with those whose names appear on it. Robyn Johnston, the daughter of Bob Johnston spoke of her memories of living at Police Point while her father was in charge of the station. Thanks also to Con Mullen who was unavailable on the day.

On the following day, as requested by the Aphids artists, some of the croquet club members turned into film stars! They spent a few hours dressed in their croquet uniforms, wearing cardboard glasses while

MARGARET McRAE

pretending to be ghosts playing croquet in the hospital building! We are all looking forward to seeing that footage!!!!

Many thanks once again to all.
Natasha Wicks'

Well done Tash!

I am happy to report that tour bookings for February and later in the year are looking as healthy as ever.

Bergliot Dallas
Co-ordinator of Group Tours

Margaret McRae

This is Margaret (Peggy) McRae 1813 to 1869. She was born in the north-west highlands of Scotland and came to Australia on the Ticonderoga in 1851.

The silver brooch she is wearing which is in my possession is engraved "DMc 1721"
Unfortunately I don't know its history.

Alison Jones



FROM THE EDITOR

Great to see contributions from various people in this edition of *The Nepean*. Many members of the Society, unbeknown to themselves, have interesting stories to tell and fascinating artefacts to show the rest of us. Please feel free to send me an idea for a story even if you think no one else may be interested. We can examine it together and then share it with others! The Ed. Contact me at thenepean@ozemail.com.au

Do you have a story to tell?

The NHS Archives are expanding their Oral Histories and looking for people who would be interested in being interviewed about Sorrento's past. So if you, or anyone you know who has something to contribute and wouldn't mind being interviewed, please contact the Archives team at: archive1.nepeanh@vic.chariot.net.au or drop into the museum!

The 'Calcutta' and William Bligh

HMS Calcutta, which brought out David Collins to Sorrento in 1803, was built by Perry and Co at Blackwell and named the 'Warley'. She was launched on 16 October 1788 as an East Indiaman trading vessel of 1176 tons, which was quite a large ship at the time (the 'Endeavour' was 368 tons, the 'Sirius' 540 tons while the 'Victory' weighs 2164 tons.) In early 1795, the Royal Navy purchased the 'Warley' and had her re-fitted as a 56 gun 4th rate and re-named the 'Calcutta'. Her role was to escort convoys.

Captain William Bligh returned from his second (and successful) breadfruit expedition in the 'Providence' in August 1793 and then spent the next 18 months clearing his name from the 'Bounty' mutiny of 1789. In April 1795 he was appointed commander of the 'Calcutta' to oversee its conversion from merchant ship to battleship before joining the North Sea fleet the following August. Bligh commanded the 'Calcutta' until early 1796 when he was posted as captain of the 64 gun larger HMS Director of 1400 tons with a crew of almost 500 men to rejoin the fleet patrolling the Channel and the North Sea.

Following Bligh's departure, the 'Calcutta' was transferred to the Transport Board and had her lower deck guns removed to increase her cargo carrying capacity. She served in this transport role until 1802 when she was fitted out as a transport for convicts being sent to Britain's penal colonies in Australia. Captain Daniel Woodriff was appointed to her in November 1802 and sailed from Spithead on 28 April 1803, accompanied by the 'Ocean' to establish a settlement at Port



HMS Calcutta

Phillip which he reached on 12 October. The 'Calcutta' left the settlement for Sydney the following December and arrived back at Spithead on 23 July 1804.

Two months later the 'Calcutta' was again fitted out for duty as a cruiser, still under the command of Captain Woodriff. In September 1805, she was escorting a convoy to England in the English Channel when engaged by a French squadron. The 'Calcutta' was captured and Woodriff was imprisoned at Verdun until 1807 when he was released back to England. On 12 March 1809, the 'Calcutta' was part of a French squadron when, during the Battle of the Basque Roads, she ran aground on the shoals of Les Palles. The French crew abandoned ship and an English boarding party set fire to her to prevent her recapture by the French, causing her to explode.

The NHS has an excellent large scale model of the 'Calcutta' at the Museum which is well worthwhile inspecting. We also have post cards featuring pictures of the 'Calcutta'.

Robert Barnes

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN WITH ARTIST JANE BYRNE

Once again Jane Eldred Byrne brought Art and History together during January for three successful mornings of fun for 7 to 12 year-olds.



The sessions were each themed with a museum display, so on the first morning I introduced the young people to Aborigines and William Buckley before

Jane took over and they were able to use their artistic talents in the portrayal of the story in craft and paint. Other themes were Shipwrecks and Rescue and, on the last day, Joy Kitch gave them a taste of Life in Watts' Cottage. The photographs say more than a thousand words! Thank you Jane.

Bergliot Dallas



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Nepean Historical Society
Sorrento

OFFICE-BEARERS 2011—2012

PRESIDENT: Dr Robert Barnes

VICE-PRESIDENTS : Doreen Parker, Natasha Wicks

SECRETARY: Don Ewart

ASSISTANT SECRETARY : Bev Baker

TREASURER: Yvonne Watson

ARCHIVIST: Doreen Parker

DISPLAYS AND COLLECTION CO-ORDINATOR : Joy Kitch

COMMITTEE: Bergliot Dallas, Jenny Nixon,

Val Peppler, Janet South

NHS WELCOMES NEW TREASURER

It is pleasing to advise that the NHS has a new Treasurer to replace the hard working Ian Bowers. Yvonne Watson comes to us as an experienced Treasurer and we welcome her onto the Executive Committee. Our Society's finances are in good shape and in good hands.

It is appropriate to express our deep gratitude to Ian for all the time and support he gave to the NHS, both as Treasurer and then as Acting Treasurer while we searched for a replacement.

Welcome aboard, Yvonne.

The Nepean Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of -



COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA

