



Nepean Historical Society
Sorrento

The Nepean

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Nepean Historical Society Incorporated will be held in the Museum's Heritage Gallery, Melbourne Road, Sorrento, on:

Friday, 5th October, 2012, at 8.00 p.m.

AGENDA

Welcome

Apologies

Confirmation of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting, 7th October 2011.

Business arising from the Minutes

Reports:

President's Report
Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial Statement

Election of Office Bearers:

President
Vice-Presidents (2)
Hon. Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
Archivist
Collection/Display Coordinator
Committee (no less than 3)

Appointment of Public Officer

Appointment of Auditor

Guest Speaker: Mr. Murray Adams

Close of Meeting.

Proxy Votes

Should a member be unable to attend the AGM, the member may vote by proxy.

Proxy forms are available on application to the Secretary. Please note that completed proxy forms must be received by the **28th September 2012.**

Don Ewart
Honorary Secretary



COMING EVENTS

Sept 7th General Meeting 8pm at the Museum

Speaker: Dr. Bob Marmion

Topic: 'The Defence of Port Phillip'

Oct 5th Annual General Meeting 8pm at the Museum

Speaker: Mr. Murray Adams

Topic: 'Digitisation of Museum Records'

Nov 2nd General Meeting 8pm at the Museum

Speaker: Prof. Tim Murray

Topic: 'The Archaeology of The Peninsula'

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 15th	Sorrento	Sep 29th	Blairgowrie
Oct 13th	Sorrento	Oct 27th	Blairgowrie
Nov 10th	Sorrento	Nov 17th	Blairgowrie

CORRECTION

The front page article in the June edition of the Nepean about recent studies on the prehistory of Port Phillip omitted to acknowledge that it was based on a paper prepared by the well known local historian Richard Cotter.

We apologise for this oversight.

Don Ewart

Honorary Secretary

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Mr & Mrs P & J Weston	Sorrento
Grace and George Kass	Mt Eliza
Stephanie De Boer	Rye
Judith Smart	Richmond
Marie Alice Clark	Sorrento
Mr & Mrs Cheetham	Portsea

We look forward to making them welcome at our functions.

Judy Walsh,

Membership Co-ordinator

VERY SPECIAL GARDEN OPENING

Both Jane Burke's **Offshore** and Fiona Brockhoff's **Karkalla** will be open on
Saturday- Sunday 5-6 January 2013.



Keating Avenue Sorrento.

Our Society has once again been invited to provide lunches and teas at these always very popular gardens.

Please note these dates in your diary to visit or to be one of the lucky volunteers who spend time serving teas and enjoying this special place.

Contact Joy Kitch on 5988 0467 or email joynev@westnet.com.au if you would like to volunteer for one of the interesting tasks to be done.



INNOVATION + INVENTION

The NHS focus for the **National Trust Heritage Festival 2012** was on our maritime display. Entitled Wrecks, Rockets and Rescue, the display has been enlarged and improved with added information and handouts for people to take away. Museum entry for the weekend of May 19/20 was by gold coin donation but most people donated generously. Although numbers were not huge Dr Robyn Adams came especially from the Yarra Valley because of her great interest in the Rocket Launcher. She has subsequently sent me a photograph and a good explanatory article which has added to our store of knowledge of the subject. I encourage you to come and have a look.
Bergliot Dallas



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Your Society continues to operate effectively with the help of all our volunteers. Sales at the Sorrento and Blairgowrie street stalls remain strong while there continues a slow but steady stream of visitors to the Museum on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The NHS finances are always tight; however we are able to live within our means.

Stalls & Shop

We are grateful that Bernie Poll has agreed to assume responsibility for the street stalls at Blairgowrie and Jayne Byrne will be organising the street stalls in Sorrento, but are still hoping someone will relieve Don and Suzanne Ewart for the management of the NHS shop. Would anyone able to assist in this regard please have a chat to Don or Suzanne.

The Management Committee

The Management committee continues to meet monthly and it is pleasing to see how well supported are the society's activities. Recent speakers have been interesting and informative while the remaining speakers for 2012 will maintain this high standard.

September: Dr Bob Marmion will talk about the Defence of Port Phillip

October (AGM): Murray Adams will update us on the digitalisation and photography of the Society's collections

November: Prof. Tim Murray (La Trobe) – The archaeology of The Peninsula

December: Our usual Christmas break-up function

Retirements

Our highly respected and long-serving secretary Don Ewart is retiring at the AGM after 10 years of exceptional service to the NHS. Don is a fountain of knowledge concerning the NHS and has been the best possible secretary. Suzanne also has been a tower of strength within the NHS as well as at street stalls, so both will be sorely missed. Bev Baker has agreed to stay on as Assistant Secretary to assist with the transformation.

While on the subject of change, this will be my last contribution to the Nepean as President, as I will also be retiring at the October AGM after 6 years as President. It is unwise to stay too long in positions such as these. However, there are people in the wings who have agreed to fill the gaps, so the NHS will continue its fine traditions.

We look forward to seeing you at future NHS events.

Robert Barnes

President

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



AGM

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the museum on **Friday 5th October 2012** (notice of the meeting is included with this newsletter). We hope that members will make a special effort to attend to support the committee members and volunteers who contribute so much to the Society and the museum.

Nominations

All financial members are eligible to nominate for positions on the committee. The committee meets monthly and receives reports on the various aspects of the Society's activities including finances, archives, collections and displays, new memberships, tours and special events, the shop and building and maintenance.

Volunteers

New volunteers are always needed for a range of Society activities including helping with the gift shop and street stalls and special events, research etc. in the archives, helping with the care of the collection, preparing displays and general administrative tasks in the office.

Heritage & Planning

Interested volunteers are also encouraged to join the Heritage and Planning Group who meet weekly to consider any planning issues before the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council that may affect the Sorrento town ship and other sensitive heritage sites. This group also takes part in monthly meetings with the Nepean Ratepayers Association and the Nepean Conservation Group to review matters of common interest with Councillor Tim Rodgers.

Don Ewart

Honorary Secretary

FROM THE ARCHIVES

VALUABLE ADDITION TO THE ARCHIVES

We have recently received a donation of two meticulously researched and documented year 12 school projects from the 1980s, the gift of the Henderson family who have had a holiday home in Blairgowrie for many years.

Elizabeth titled her assignment:

THE DETERIORATION OF THE BLAIRGOWRIE FORESHORE 1803 -1980.

A project for Environmental Science for the H.S.C. Examination prepared with a view to presenting to the Council for the Shire of Flinders.

Five years later her sister, Ruth, followed up on the theme with:

OBSERVATIONS OF THE NATURAL AND MAN INDUCED CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED TO THE BLAIRGOWRIE FORESHORE. 1980 -1985.

Both these documents were presented to the Shire of Flinders and used by the Council for planning and action in dealing with the problems of erosion. Both are illustrated with photographs, charts and diagrams. Together they form an interesting environmental commentary.

Bergliot Dallas



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.

DIGITISATION PROJECT

Mornington Peninsula Shire MEDIA RELEASE

25 June 2012

Mornington Peninsula Shire is working with eight local historical societies to create virtual collections by digitising significant images and archives.

The **Local History Network Digitisation Project** aims to digitise the peninsula's historical collections to preserve photos, maps, posters and documents as well as allowing improved access to the collections.

The project will ensure a standardised digital format which is a recognised and accepted museum standard.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Frank Martin says preserving our history is an important part of our culture.

"The digitisation actually enables damaged photos to be brought back to life and documents that may be literally falling apart can be saved.

"This means our local history can be preserved into the future, prolonging the life of the historical collections and providing greater access to this information for our community," he said.

The project will assist local historical societies to reduce the handling of fragile materials and create a back-up of these precious archives and photos.



Photo: Murray Adams – digitisation expert, Councillor Tim Rodgers – Nepean Ward, Doreen Parker – Nepean Historical Society, and Councillor Frank Martin - Shire Mayor at Nepean Historical Society.

Murray Adams spent over a month at the Nepean Historical Society digitising collection items. Murray scanned approximately 2,500 original archival items including 700 photographs and 1,200 documents. This will enable the NHS to provide easier access to these materials to researchers while preserving the originals.

Murray will be the guest speaker at the Society's AGM
Doreen Parker

PORTSEA CAMP TOUR

Members and friends of the NHS enjoyed a tour of the Portsea Camp with the CEO, Stephen Eastop, on 16th July.

The camp has a long history. Originally an aboriginal site, from the 1880s the area was used by the military. There is still evidence of defence structures on the site.



Participants in the tour with the Camp CEO, Stephen Eastop

It began as the Lord Mayor's Camp for Country Children in 1946.
Doreen Parker

“In the late 1940's it became apparent to the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sir Thomas Nettlefold, that children in the bush needed a break. Fathers had died at war, there were terrible droughts in the Mallee and there was no universal health care system. The Lord Mayor's Childrens' Camp for country children was established as a registered charity and the site was handed over as a temporary venue for children's camps.

The camps were a great success with many businesses, wealthy private citizens, service clubs, unions and the RSL and Country Women's Association providing volunteers and financial assistance.

Within a few short years, however, the Commonwealth attempted to regain use of the site and move the camp on. Much lobbying and fundraising by those involved ensured that sufficient money was raised to buy the property and this never eventuated.

In the early years up to 300 children were at the site at any one time.

In 1995 the camp was handed over to an independent Board of Directors.

The Board included members of the former management body and interested others. Together they united to ensure the camp's survival, became incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee and changed the name to The Portsea Camp.” - from Portsea Camp Website

DEFENCE AT NEPEAN

It was a chilly wintry day but the 20+ people who braved the cold for the launch of the new edition of **Barrie Follows'** fascinating little book, 'Defence at Nepean' were soon warmed up by the excellent speakers.

Stuart Hughes, manager of Pt. Nepean National Park, spoke enthusiastically of the significance of Nepean and the new stories he had learnt from Barrie's very readable book. In response, the lively Barrie explained that it was at the behest of NHS's always thoughtful ideas man, John Alexander, that the first edition was written: a proposed pamphlet grew into a book in 1998.

Dr. Bob Marmion, former Victorian police detective, now professional historian and passionate life long researcher into the history of defence, gave us a fascinating insight into the findings of the investigation of Victorian defence. Bob is the editor and researcher for the Victorian Defence Project 1803-1945 which will result in the preservation of important sites and a detailed multi volume publication. We learnt that 40,000 people served in Victoria's colonial forces while Victoria was a self governing colony and that there were 200 war scares (some admittedly a result of paranoid delusions.) We heard of the state of the art technology of the disappearing guns, top secret infra red beams across the Heads to protect the bay, even still remaining vestiges of tank traps zig zagging across paddocks. Over 250 sites have been identified as for defence on the Queenscliffe side of the Bay. These surely qualify this area to be described as 'the Gibraltar of the South'. How many sites might be found hidden in scrub on our side of the Bay? This is another story waiting to be told.

An unexpected but very moving bonus at this book launch was the playing of a short DVD Kutju Australia. It shows a group of children, Aboriginal and European learning and then performing Advance Australia Fair in the tribal Lutja language of the people from west of Alice Springs. Accompanying the voices are very beautiful photo

images of their outback country. Ted Egan is sponsoring and promoting this special project and hopes to extend it throughout Australia with the tribal languages of as many groups as possible.

Joy Kitch
Displays & Collection Co-ordinator

Copies of this new edition of Barrie Follows' very readable and interesting book are available at the museum for \$20.00 each.

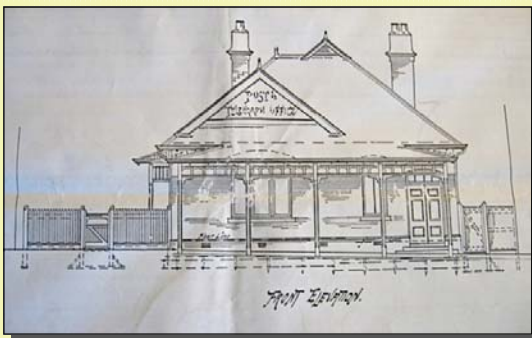


HERITAGE & PLANNING

Sorrento Post Office

Australia Post ceased providing postal services from the Sorrento Post Office building at 10-16 Ocean Beach Road in July, and it is believed that AusPost has plans to dispose of the landmark heritage building.

The building, comprising a combined Postal Office and Postmaster's Residence, has important heritage significance. Whilst it remains Commonwealth property, it is on the Commonwealth Heritage List, with the Commonwealth having the heritage obligations which that entails, but once title passes it is no longer eligible to be so listed. Members of NHS are rightly concerned to see that the considerable heritage values inherent in the building continue to be fully recognised by the authorities. The NHS has obtained copies of the original title, the 1905 building plans and the contract with local builder Charles Haslett, prepared soon after Federation in 1901 when Victoria's Postal Department passed to the new Commonwealth Government. The State made a Crown Grant of the land with the then existing building to the Commonwealth, in return for receiving compensation of four hundred and fifty pounds.



NHS representatives joined with Cr Rodgers and Council officers recently to inspect the property. Significance assessments of the heritage values of the building are to be found in the Shire's Flinders Heritage Study, as well as the current Commonwealth Heritage List. The building is structurally sound, and its heritage character is substantially intact. The original plan provided for the residence an entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, scullery, bedroom, pantry, servant's room, a verandah with woodwork of the period, a wood shed and water tank. A 25-30 foot wide garden strip runs the length of the block, and abuts the two-story limestone wall of the neighbouring heritage property.

There have been discussions with other community groups and Cr Rodgers about the desirability and possibility of retaining the building for public use.

Frank Hindley
Heritage and Planning Group

MID-YEAR LUNCH

On Friday July 6th, forty three members and friends gathered at The Rye Hotel for our Mid-Year Lunch.

After canapes and drinks, we were entertained in The Blue Water Room by Patricia Ball accompanied by Helen Schneider. They performed a delightful selection of songs favoured by Dame Nellie Melba.



Bernie & Faye Poll

After a delicious main course and dessert, Robert Barnes introduced our guest speaker Dr. Andrew Lemon, President of The Royal Historical Society. He spoke on "The Role Of The Royal" and included comments on the value of historical societies and historical site managements all around Port Phillip Bay co-operating to form an historical and cultural trail for visitors.

Winners of our raffle included Janice Bate, Frank South and Wayne Bastow, who each won hamper baskets, whilst Doreen Parker won a book and Weston Bate a bottle of wine.

We were all warmly welcomed by Dorothy Houghton and her Functions Manager Vicki and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon socialising with other members.

Rhonda Fitzjohn



Wayne Bastow



Patricia Ball



Dorothy Houghton
& Richard Moran



Margaret Broadhead, Frank
Hindley & Bergliot Dallas



Bergliot Dallas, Faye Poll, Frank
South & Doreen Parker

NEPEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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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

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

The Nepean Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of -



COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA

