

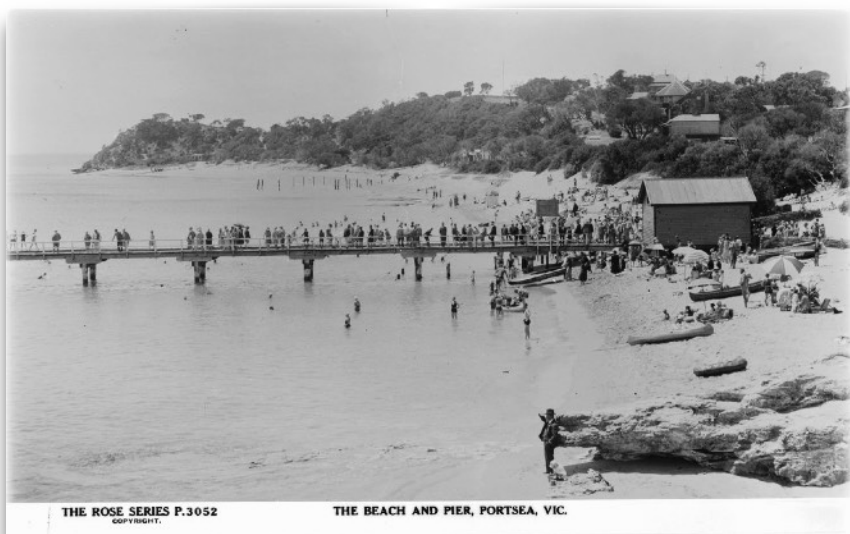


Nepean Historical Society
Sorrento

The Nepean

Volume 12 Number 2

June 2017



THE ROSE SERIES P.3052
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THE BEACH AND PIER, PORTSEA, VIC.

NEPEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Photo: Rose Postcard P.3052 SLV [see p.6]

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Festivals and special events are now a popular way to promote history around the world - see the National Trust's extensive annual program using their many properties as sites for lunches, lectures and special themed displays. Our Mrs. Watts' happening in May was a good example. NHS will be looking at others over the coming year.



Bergliot Dallas and her enthusiastic team's terrific group tours are always popular and bookings are increasing. All members are invited to contact Bergliot and join a tour as a way to extend your knowledge and perhaps inspire you to assist in these important Society activities.

The planned NHS building extension process is slowly progressing. Shire Manager David Hampton, in consultation with NHS, is still refining plans and organising for the necessary permits. NHS must now seriously embark on its efforts to raise funds and apply for grants to fulfil our commitment to contribute to the \$500,000 cost. In November we will resubmit to the Shire but will need to show evidence of funds raised or promised. Any suggestions re groups or individuals to approach will be gratefully received by the Committee - as will donations of course, which are tax deductible.

The Mornington Shire Council has approved our application for a grant from the 2017 Place making Grants programme for further investigations into the location of grave sites at the Collins Settlement. We will report progress in the next edition of the Nepean.

NHS Social Media Policy - social media such as Facebook and Twitter can be very useful tools for promoting the Society and sharing ideas. The Facebook site History of Sorrento and Portsea managed by long time member and local Jenny Nixon provides great opportunities for many people to share stories and photos of the local area. Over some months the NHS Committee has developed a social media policy with guidelines for all members on the appropriate use of social media regarding the museum and its many activities. This has now been passed by the Committee and a copy is on the society's website or may be requested.

SPECIAL AFTERNOON MEETING July 7 at 2 pm, for those who do not want to venture out on a cold winter's night: our speaker Murray Adams, the Shire's Digitisation Officer and keen researcher, will tell the story of the man behind the Rose Postcards we all find so interesting.

In September we will celebrate 50 years since the museum was opened, and welcome suggestions for appropriate ways to do so!

Joy Kitch

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members to the Society and look forward to meeting them at meetings and functions:

John and Cheryl BELL, Anna & Chris BARRY, Gordon & Alison CLEARY, David CRANKSHAW, Terry GAY and Liz MORGAN, Laurencia GRANT, Leigh LANSDOWN, Kathleen LOW and Sandra BRIANT.

Val Steiglbauer, Membership Secretary

HERITAGE WATCH

SORRENTO FERRY TERMINAL

A major expansion plan for the ferry terminal has been announced, after several years apparently of confidential negotiations with the shire council and other public authorities.

There is a plan by the private operator to increase traffic from the present numbers of 850,000 passengers and 200,000 vehicles per year. The SeaRoad ferry links Queenscliff and Sorrento, and is being heavily promoted as an important part of the State's growing tourism industry.

The company says that plans will be on open exhibition during June at the former helicopter site building (on the cliff at Sorrento Park), and submissions will be invited in response to a Council proposal to change the Planning Scheme in order to accommodate the proposed development.

Ever since George Coppin's town plan, Sorrento's sea frontage and jetty have been a key element in the town's character, and NHS will look carefully at the adverse effects this proposed major development may have on this highly regarded historic coastal town.

COLLINS SETTLEMENT SITE

Construction of the Eastern Sister pathway and the seawall linking Camerons Bight and Sullivan Bay beaches has started, with contract completion due in September. Unfortunately work has stopped at the time of writing, because of continuing problems with rockfalls along the cliff edge.

PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT FOR OCEAN BEACH ROAD

The Shire Council is proposing an Amendment to the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme which will specify certain controls on future development in Ocean Beach Road Sorrento. At the request of the Council, a Panel appointed by the State government heard submissions on 11 April. It is believed that at the time of writing, the Panel's comments and recommendations are in the hands of Shire Planners, who say they will study them for several weeks before making them publicly available.

Frank Hindley, Convenor Heritage & Planning Group

WE NEED YOUR HELP

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AT THE MUSEUM ?

There are many tasks we need help with, including the following:

Marketing : Promoting Sorrento Museum - we need someone with the necessary skills and interest to promote the museum and its activities to potential visitors eg. Tourists, school and other groups. We would see social media, local print and radio used for this purpose.

Data Entry: If you can use a computer and have time to spare on Tuesdays, please join our team of volunteers at the museum. You would be required to enter details of historical documents into the museum's database. The programme is not difficult and you will be trained on the job.

For further information please call:

Joy Kitch or Val Stieglbauer at the Museum on any Tuesday between 9.30am and 4pm on 5984 0255 or email admin@nhs.asn.au

A JULY AFTERNOON SPEAKER

Friday 7 July at 2 p.m.
Mr Adams and Mr. Rose



Murray Adams, Mornington Peninsula Shire Digitisation Officer, will tell the fascinating story of Mr.ROSE, the man behind the Rose Postcards. These thousands of images provide us with valuable records of times and places past. Hear how Mr.Rose lived for his work and travelled widely to obtain these wonderful views.

PRECEDED BY A SHORT NHS MEETING

ALL WELCOME

Followed by tea and coffee

Non-members attending are asked to donate a gold coin

AT SORRENTO MUSEUM

827 MELBOURNE ROAD SORRENTO

See our website: www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au

Museum News

Report on the programme for the National Trust Heritage Festival 2017, presented over the weekend of 13 and 14 May.

Dressed in period costume, our team of presenters showcased the daily life and leisure of the Watts family in Sorrento in the Coppin Era. The Sorrento Croquet Club attracted passers-by to test their skills with a mallet and ball in the Pioneer Garden and to visit the Cottage for an experience of life as a pioneer.

It was heart-warming to witness reunions and meetings between descendants of Watts, Watson and Ford families. Sharing memories with a lady seated beside her, one visitor discovered that the other had minded her when she was three years old!

In all there were 41 visitors, including 4 from interstate and one from Indonesia.

Other Mother's Day attractions were probably responsible for the absence of our target age group but one little person who came with her Dad enjoyed her visit so much that she has been clamouring to come back.



Jenny Gibson & Rhonda Fitzjohn [Photo NHS

We plan a similar programme on Sunday 22nd October, for History Week.

Bergliot Dallas

MUSEUM NEWS

COLLECTION and DISPLAY REPORT

We were fortunate to be successful in our application for the Roving Curator Programme. Curator Kitty Owens from Museum Australia (Victoria) visited for three full days to examine our collection and make positive suggestions for improving our interpretation of the stories behind our objects. New volunteers Hannah Bainbridge and Sandra Briant will take on some of the preparation of larger panels with photos.



Joy Kitch [NHS President] and Kitty Owens [Museum Australia], Photo: Murray Adams

Kitty noticed two indigenous spears donated during the very early days of the Society. After closely examining their markings and twine bindings, she sent images up to the Melbourne Museum expert and it seems that one of them may be a rather rare Victorian spear. To be continued

A new acquisition: The Portsea Surf Lifesaving Club has donated a special aluminium surf lifesaving boat used in the 1960s -70s. It is now installed in the courtyard on its stand. A group of strong Lifesavers was needed to put it in place. Its history will be written up soon.

Joy Kitch



Installing the lifesaving boat in the museum courtyard

PROMOTIONAL STREET STALLS

We continue to create interest in the NHS via monthly stalls. There's nothing like taking the books out for engaging people in conversation. Jams and knitwear still sell well. Suzanne Ewart, while no longer 'the face of the stalls', still works hard on best selling items. Takings for March-May including Portsea Market Day totalled \$2,610. Sorrento stall is now run by Suzanne Edginton, and Blairgowrie by Jan Weston. Gail Hood is a new team member, and we would welcome others. See dates below. Please call Jan 0413 040 057 or Suzanne 0417 540 721 if you would like to help.

Suzanne Edginton and Jan Weston

VALE COLLEEN ISAAC

The Nepean Historical Society was shocked by the sudden death of Colleen in April. She had only been a member for 18 months but was enjoying her role as a volunteer and had made her mark with her friendly disposition and passion for history. We have lost a gifted writer who had travelled widely and we grieve for the unfulfilled potential she had in our Society.

She will be sadly missed.

MUSEUM NEWS

NEW PLAQUE FOR ELECTRIC BALL AT SORRENTO MUSEUM

A joint project between Mornington Peninsula Shire and Nepean Historical Society has reached fruition with the placement of a new plaque relating to the electric ball in front of the museum. Readers may remember that Bergliot Dallas had discovered that the original name for the inventor was wrong, and researched the true story, reflected in the new plaque's inscription.

Val Stieglbauer worked with Ray Hodgson from Mornington Peninsula Shire to commission and install the new plaque, and the happy three can be seen in this photo.



Photo L-R: Ray Hodgson (MP Shire), Val Stieglbauer (Secretary NHS)
and Bergliot Dallas (Researcher & Cataloguer NHS).

COMING EVENTS

Meetings are held at 8pm in the Sorrento Museum, Mechanics' Institute

Corner of Melbourne & Ocean Beach Roads Sorrento

Free and open to all - Tea or Coffee afterwards by donation

If you would like to join us for dinner prior to meetings

at 6.15 pm at *Sorrento-Portsea RSL, 1-33 Hurley Street, Sorrento* (off George Street).

Saturday 24th June: Street Stall, Blairgowrie

Friday 7th July **N.B. Special daytime meeting at 2 pm:**

Murray Adams and Mr Rose see p.6 for details

Saturday 8th July: Street Stall, Sorrento

Saturday 15th July: Street Stall, Blairgowrie

Friday 4th August Monthly meeting at 8 pm:

Ian Miles, former Director of Land Conservation Council,

Conservation: Victoria over the last 50 years

Saturday 12th August: Street Stall, Sorrento

Saturday 26th August: Street Stall, Blairgowrie

Friday 1st September Monthly meeting at 8 pm:

Speaker to be announced.

Saturday 9th September: Street Stall, Sorrento

Saturday 23rd September: Street Stall, Blairgowrie

Friday 6th October at 8 pm:

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 22nd October 10am -3pm:

History week – Programme

Meeting Mrs. Watts [see p.7]

Friday 2nd December at 6 pm:

Save the date for our end of year Christmas function

PLEASE NOTE that the museum will not open on Saturdays during June, July August and September except school holidays.

NEPEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office Bearers of the Society 2016-2017

PRESIDENT: Joy Kitch

VICE-PRESIDENT: Natasha Wicks

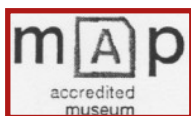
SECRETARY: Val Stieglbauer

TREASURER: Anna Hackwill.

ARCHIVIST: Janet South

COLLECTION & DISPLAY COORDINATOR: Joy Kitch

COMMITTEE: Jenny Nixon, Clive Smith, Marie Clark



The Nepean Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of :



Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in The Nepean are not necessarily those of the Society, whose stated values are non-sectarian and non-political.