

***YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.***
FOUNDED 1973

NEWSLETTER

March 1999.

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Issue No:2

From the President

Well, here we are into the 3rd month of 1999 already.

Have you thought what we can do in the name of history for this district of Yarra Glen for the year 2000.

By then I guess the new bridge over the Yarra will be finished, and maybe the Melba highway won't be running through the town.

I was very proud of our Society with the exhibition of photos of early school days, put on for the school's 130th Birthday.

It is good to see our Secretary, Betty, back in the chair again and trust that Vin Harris will soon be back to our meetings after her hip replacement. Gwen Sadlier has not been well with a nasty virus, hope by the time you read this Gwen, you will be fighting fit.

Bye for now,

Evelyn Smith.

NOTES FROM THE MINUTES

Taken from our minutes book.

1st May 1973. A meeting was held at the home of Mr & Mrs W.Herkes on the 1st May 1973 to investigate the possibility of forming an Historical Society for Yarra Glen & District.

Present were : Mrs Adams, Mrs Allen, Mr Blackburn, Mr & Mrs Elliot, Mrs Exton, Mrs Fothergill, Mr & Mrs Herkes, Mrs Mann, Miss Marshall, Mrs White & Ms. Tong.

After an initial discussion and an address by Mr Blackburn on the organisation of such a society, it was resolved to elect a steering committee.

President, Mr Herkes, Secretary/Treasurer, Ms.Tong.

Delegates were selected on a district basis :- Steels Creek, Miss Marshall.- Christmas Hills, Mrs Elliot.- Dixons Creck, Mrs Exton. -Tarrawarra, Mrs White.- Yarra Glen, Mrs Allen & Mrs Fothergill.

It was decided that in order to form officially the Yarra Glen & District Historical Society a public meeting would be held.

CHARACTERS - PAST & PRESENT

PETTY John Hicks, Yarra Flats. (From Victoria & its Metropolis)

A native of Lincolnshire, England, came out to Melbourne in 1852, and in the same year purchased two lots of land at Eltham from Mr. Holloway. He also engaged in the pursuit of horse-breaking. On the 1st August 1856, he bought 36 acres of land at Yarra Flats, where he built and now resides, and on the 8th January 1861, he was appointed postmaster for the district, an office he has held ever since. From time to time he has selected 220 acres at Christmas Hills, which he uses for grazing purposes, the water line running through his property. Mr. Petty has been married twice, and has a family of eight sons and five daughters.

John Hicks Petty died 8th June 1910, and is buried at Yarra Glen. His second wife, Maria Louisa (Byrne), who he married in 1864, died 6th May 1922, and is also buried at Yarra Glen.

We are pleased to announce that the Shire of Yarra Ranges has set aside a piece of land off Yarra Street to be known as the :

“JOHN HICKS PETTY RESERVE”.

This is land that originally belonged to John Hicks Petty. The Society wrote to Council some time ago suggesting that the name be given to this reserve which is part of the new subdivision. Council followed the normal procedure required and in due course granted our request.

NEXT MEETING

PLEASE NOTE. It was decided at the last meeting that in future all meetings will be held during the day, though perhaps not always on a Sunday.

Sunday, 11th April, 1.30 pm. This will be an open meeting, with no guest speaker. The theme of the discussion will be early photographs of the district. Dig into those old shoe boxes and bring along your treasures.

MAY MEETING. This would normally have fallen on the 9th, Mother's Day, so this has been deferred until the **16th May. 1.30 pm.**

June 13th 1.30 pm.

Membership Subscription : \$ 6.00 per year. Dates from 1st October.

President; Mrs. Evelyn Smith.

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Secretary, Mrs. Betty Seddon.

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Treasurer, Eric Tetlow,

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