

YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.
A0030684D ABN 68 883 314 408

FOUNDED 1973

NEWSLETTER

October 2001. Published occasionally.

Editor, Eric Tetlow, 9730 1445.

Issue No: 10

etetlow@alphalink.com.au

=====
President : Mrs. Brenda Cawte.
9730 1801

=====
Secretary : Eric Tetlow,
29 Henderson Rd.,
Yarra Glen, 3775

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2000/2001

I am pleased to present my report on the past year's activities for the YG&DHS. In November we discussed obtaining a Lemon Scented Gum tree to plant in McKenzie Reserve and a commemorative plaque to mark the Centenary of Federation.

On 6th December Some of us met at Watsons Creek Bridge from where we visited historic sites around Christmas Hills. It was a fine and pleasant day and most interesting - led by Mick Woiwod and Harold Muir. Lunch was eaten at Sugarloaf Reserve.

After a letter to the Shire of Yarra Ranges pointing out the erosion on "Breakneck" we were pleased to hear that it would be closed for a year.

Our Society made Kath Beach a life member - but we have not yet given her the certificate.

In February our speaker was Gwen Sadlier on her memories of coming to Yarra Glen. She was good !

At the 100th Yarra Glen Show in February we exhibited photographs , maps and old certificates which drew considerable interest from the public. (unfortunately no new members joined)

March was a time for going through some old books and papers which had belonged to our past President, Ev. Smith - which we shall treasure.

During April for Heritage week we mounted a photographic display at Hoogie's Hardware and this was later moved to Gulf Station for Scottish day. Eric was very busy organising and transporting all of these, plus mounting a display of WW1 soldiers of Yarra Glen. All drew interest from the public with many favourable comments.

The Living and Learning Centre kindly donated \$ 100. towards the cost of duplicating audio tapes of Yarra Glen and district personalities.

Fred Sadlier went to the Yarra Glen Primary School and gave a much appreciated talk to the children.

Our May meeting was cancelled at short notice when we realised that it clashed with Mother's Day. Later in the month we had an executive meeting to deal with any outstanding business.

In June our speaker was Les Hutchinson, from Croydon Historical Society, who spoke on his g/grandfather's life. We purchased a copy of his book

For the July meeting Gwen Sadlier showed us her collection of slides of the last Steam Train at Yarra Glen, an event that many will remember with nostalgia.

Our August speaker - Leigh Ahern, made our surrounding area come to life - and we hope to hear more from him one day.

At our September meeting Andrew Bell shared his memories of Yarra Glen, another enjoyable day.

On 12th September, our Mayor, Councillor Di. Moore unveiled the plaque at McKenzie reserve, followed by afternoon tea in St. Paul's Church hall.

During the year various photographs, documents and maps have been donated to our Society and we have purchased some books for the library. These are available for loan.

Eric and I have attended a regional meeting of the RHSV and most meetings of the Association of Eastern Historical Societies. While Eric and Gwen attended a meeting of the Shire Heritage Group.

My special thanks to Eric for his enthusiasm and work not only as Secretary and defacto Treasurer, and "Exhibitor Extraordinaire", but as a colleague at the various meetings we have attended.

Thank you to Dorothy my Vice-President, who has chosen not to stand again, and to Gwen, both for their input. And thank you to all our members who attend each month and give us your support. Without you there would not be a Yarra Glen & District Historical Society.

Brenda Cawte.

=====

-
-
-

Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting held 14th October, the following Office Bearers were elected :

Brenda Cawte.	President.
Frank Straford.	Vice President.
Eric Tetlow.	Secretary.
Geoff Keets.	Treasurer.

The meeting voted to increase the subscription to \$7.00.

=====

Unveiling of Federation Plaque

On Wednesday 12th September, Councillor Di. Moore, Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, unveiled a plaque beside a tree planted in McKenzie Reserve, Yarra Glen, commemorating the Centenary of Federation. The tree and plaque had been provided by the Y.G & D.H.S, the shire has made a generous contribution towards the cost of the plaque. The ceremony was well attended by members of the Society and Frank Straford made a short video of the event.

“Breakneck”

It has been proposed that the Society place a plaque on a boulder at the foot of “Breakneck” commemorating the use of this track by early settlers. Fred & Gwen Sadlier have obtained a suitable rock and have also had the plaque made.

The Society wrote to the Shire of Yarra Ranges some weeks ago outlining our proposal and seeking their approval.

The shire has now granted permission and the unveiling will take place at 2.00 p.m, 5th December, followed by afternoon tea at Gulf Station.

Mick Woiwod of Kangaroo Ground, noted local historian and author has kindly consented to perform the unveiling

All members and friends are urged to attend this function as it will be our last for 2001.

Health Report

For those of you who don't already know, your editor spent four nights in Maroondah Hospital with a nasty dose of blood poisoning. I was admitted on the 15th October and had an abscess opened. It took another few days before I was fit enough to be sent home. Happily I am now fit again.

-
-

Guest Speaker, October.

Our guest speaker for October was Frank Orenshaw who spent his early life in Yarra Glen. Frank's father had the garage in the 1930s where the recently demolished Caltex petrol station was located. This was formerly the Yarra Glen Peg Factory.

Frank gave an entertaining account of his life in Yarra Glen. Probably the most notable incident in his early life was being rescued from the residence attached to the garage during the 1934 floods.

Railway Station

I hope members have noted the excellent work being done around the Railway Station. The area certainly looks much better thanks to the work being done by a group of enthusiastic workers from the "Yarra Valley Tourist Railway". Two members of our Society had an informal meeting with a member of the railway team and promised our moral support and possibly some practical help with the restoration of the station building.

It is hoped that when the buildings are made secure the Society could then provide a small display of historic photographs and news items pertaining to the railway.

Have you seen our photo display in "Hoogies" ? This features the railway. It is hoped that a start will shortly be made on re-roofing the building.

The Steels Creek Garden Club have also made a commitment to assist with beautifying the station.

Wetlands

Now that the Shire of Yarra Ranges have accepted responsibility for the "Wetlands" it is hoped eventually to link the area via a walking track to the Yarra Glen Station. This will depend on funding becoming available. If the track does eventuate it could become part of an "Historic Walkway" around Yarra Glen.

=====

Subscriptions due

Members are reminded that subscriptions, \$7.00, are now due.

=====