

# Nillumbik Custodian

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## Special points of interest :

- Family History Research
- Special Day for Rev Jock Ryan
- Lady Teviot visit
- Archives Room completed

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

**TIME CONSUMING - SATISFYING  
NOT VERY EXPENSIVE  
SOMETIMES SURPRISING**

The Nillumbik Historical Society has a good deal of information to help the family history researcher with their enquiries. Our new Archives Room will make it easier for our Archives Team to assist with any enquiries.

We have a set of microfiche and a reading machine. Microfiche are small plastic cards, each one containing many hundreds of basic birth, death and marriage records of early settlers, some of them going back to the 1850's. The details are in the form of an index to original records that are available from various repositories.

Having found the basic reference information, it is possible to apply by post, or on the internet for a full copy of a certificate, at a price. A full certificate gives a mass of useful information. As the information on our set of microfiche forms part of the Historical Indexes for Births, Deaths & Marriages in Victoria, you only need to indicate that the certificate is required for family history research purposes. A close family link is not necessary as is the case for more recent certificate requests.

Our cabinets contain 583 files and documents of people, places and events in the Diamond Creek district, some of which contain a wealth of information. Local history books and articles such as *The Diamond Valley Story* or *Before You Came* make a good starting point for family history research. As well, our shelves contain 35 well-documented family histories.

Cemetery records and gravestone inscriptions are a helpful source of information. We have records for:

- Kangaroo Ground
- Nillumbik (Diamond Creek)
- St Helena
- Queenstown (St Andrews)
- Yarra Glen

A few State School rolls of the 1890's are available. Parish Plans from 1888 and Township Plans from 1868 name the first owner of the land, its dimensions and sometimes a reference to early correspondence between the first purchaser and the Government. The NHS has specialised in records of early gold mining in the district, including underground plans.

However, family researchers need to be aware that there may be skeletons in the family cupboard, so be prepared for a few surprises on the way.

**IF YOU ARE  
INTERESTED IN  
FAMILY HISTORY  
RESEARCH  
PLEASE DON'T MISS  
THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO ATTEND OUR  
AFTERNOON  
WITH LADY TEVIOT  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
FEDERATION OF  
FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETIES - UK  
(see details on page 5)**



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**

- Plasterboard, insulation and electrical wiring are in place
- Undercoat, the first coat of paint and electrics are finished off
- Wooden flooring is laid & air-conditioner installed
- Putting flat-pack desks together
- Then putting them in place
- Fit-out is almost completed only a bookcase to go





## VALE IRENE TURVEY

*Kevin Patterson, Life Member of the Nillumbik Historical Society*

Irene Turvey was the second President of the Nillumbik Historical Society. Irene was a lovely lady. Efficient and well spoken with a friendly personality that made her an ideal spokesperson for the Society.

Irene was on the Book Committee for the Diamond Valley Story Project with the additional job of liaising with author Dianne Edwards and reporting progress and queries to the Committee.

Irene drove Dianne around the Shire to many interviews with residents of interest. Often, after busy days on the road she and Dianne had late dinners and discussions at Irene's Greensborough flat.

Irene was a fun person and enjoyed manning the Society's float, in period dress, for the Town Fair Parades. She also appeared as an extra in Bill Wadeson's historical movies.

"Greensborough & Greenhills", published in 1973, was written by Irene and illustrated by local artist Ron Reynolds. Irene was also a member of the National Trust's Speakers Group for over 10 years and traveled around to various groups speaking on Trust themes.

Retiring from the Society as a Life Member Irene moved to a house in Kyneton to live near her daughter, Maureen, (Mrs. Wickes). She was soon involved with the local Historical Society.

When Mrs & Mrs Wickes retired to Myrtleford Irene followed her family and moved in a local flat where we visited her in 2002.

Still ready for an adventure Irene guided us up a rugged mountain road to a nearby heritage lookout. As we bounced along she gave us the historic details of the area.

Sadly she suffered a stroke in 2003 that left her disabled. Irene passed away in March this year.

## AN UPDATE FROM OUR ARCHIVISTS

**DONATION OF ARTEFACTS:** We would like to request our members to record as much history as possible from the donor at the time of donation for any artifact or piece of memorabilia donated to the Society.

Please record, as a minimum, the name and contact details of the donor or donors in the exercise book in the kitchen at the cottage. If the donor can provide some provenance for any item at the time of donation it would be appreciated if that could also be recorded.

### OUR ARCHIVE TEAM

Rev Jock Ryan continues to pass responsibilities over to our Archive Team - Jean Verso and Lyn Loft.

## THANK YOU TO ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Albury and District Historical Society were having a big clean out of their files. They found a cloth-backed map of an electoral area called Parish of Nillumbik dated 1888. They searched the records, located us, and forwarded the map. A small shaded area on the map suggests that at some time an Albury resident was interested in purchasing a piece of us.

## FRESH MINDS BRING FRESH IDEAS

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new members and invite them to visit the cottage and barn if interested in understanding what we have in our collections. The committee would also appreciate any feedback on how we can improve what we do as a Society.

## The 23rd Psalm for Busy People

The Lord is my pace-setter,  
I shall not rush,  
He makes me stop and rest  
For quiet intervals,  
He provides me with images of stillness  
Which restore my serenity,  
He leads me in the ways of efficiency:  
Through calmness of mind,  
And his guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things  
To accomplish each day,  
I will not fret,  
For His presence is here,  
His timelessness, His all-importance  
Will keep me in balance.  
He prepares refreshment and renewal  
In the midst of my activity,  
By anointing my mind  
With His oils of tranquility,  
My cup of joyous energy overflows.  
Surely harmony and effectiveness  
Shall be the fruits of my house,  
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord,  
And dwell in His house forever.

Written by a Japanese woman, Toki Miyashina.

## COMING EVENTS

### A SPECIAL DAY FOR REV. JOCK RYAN

**Sunday, 1st June from 2.00pm - 4.00pm**

Rev. Jock Ryan will be retiring from the committee of the Nillumbik Historical Society in June. We have arranged an afternoon to celebrate Jock's remarkable achievements and contributions to the Society and the community.

Please join us at the Barn at Ellis Cottage from 2.00pm - 4.00pm on Sunday, 1st June for afternoon tea and a get-together of friends and family.

*Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, 28th May to Ron or Margaret Gordon 9438 3441.  
(this is especially important for catering purposes)*

### Are you interested in ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES?

**then meet Frank Phipps at Yarrambat Park  
Saturday, June 14th at 12.45 pm**

You will be taken to see a wonderful collection of antiques and collectables at a private home in Yarrambat. The collections are quite unique and it is expected that you will need all of the 4 hours to view and appreciate them.

The tour is from 1.00 - 5.00 pm and will cost \$7.00 per person. The group size will be limited to 30.

#### HAPPY HOUR

at

**THE BARN, ELLIS COTTAGE**

Every 2nd Friday

Commencing Friday, 6th June

4.00pm - 6.00pm

Come & join us for a cup of tea & a chat

Tea and coffee provided, BYO drinks and nibbles

### LADY TEVIOT

(President of Federation of Family  
History Societies)

**WILL VISIT THE SOCIETY**

**Saturday, 5th July**

**2.00pm - 4.00pm**

Lady Teviot is President of the Federation of Family History Societies and will be visiting Australia from the United Kingdom. She has been involved in family history research for over 30 years. And has been involved with the FFHS since the mid-1990's.

Lady Teviot's talk will give you ideas on how to get started or continue with your family history research. It will also provide insight into using records for England, Scotland and Ireland. There will also be time for a question and answer session.

Afternoon tea will be provided  
Gold coin donation for talk and tea

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### COMMITTEE for 2007-08

Ron Gordon - President  
Ian Borrie - Vice President  
Gwen Myers - Secretary  
Lily Gould - Treasurer  
Marg Gordon - Membership Secretary  
Rev Jock Ryan - Archivist  
Frank Phipps - Public Officer  
Lyn Loft - Assistant Archivist  
Jean Verso - Assistant Archivist/Custodian  
Editor  
Nola Borrie  
Anne Padgham  
John Archer

ELLIS COTTAGE

IS OPEN

1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

2-4PM

### COTTAGE ROSTER

**Volunteers are needed to fill vacancies in the Duty Roster for the cottage open days. Please contact Jean Verso on 9710 1937 or [jeanv56@aapt.net.au](mailto:jeanv56@aapt.net.au)**

June 1st - Nola & Ian Borrie  
July 6th - Gwen Myers  
August 3rd - Jean Verso  
September 7th - Lyn Loft

**October 5th - vacant**

November 2nd - Ron & Gordon

December 7th - Nola & Ian Borrie

**2009 - January 4th - Vacant**

**- February 1st - Vacant**

## WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

Our **WOOD HEATER** is **NOW WELL AND TRULY A FEATURE IN THE BARN** and will feature prominently at any gathering over the coming winter months.



An **AUTOMATIC SENSOR LIGHT** has been installed on the outer wall of the Barn facing the parking area, so makes it much easier to walk to and from your car to the Cottage or Barn after dark.

Our meeting on 2nd April, introduced our **GUEST SPEAKER, BRUCE McBRIEN** who delivered a very interesting talk about the history of early Melbourne. The evening was made more interesting as it was also the night of high winds and stormy weather. A more rustic feel was created in the Barn with the addition of kerosene lanterns and candles during the subsequent blackout. The power returned just in time for a great supper to be enjoyed by all.

The **AUTUMN FAIR** was once again a success and was held on quite a warm day, with many visitors and locals alike enjoying the fun. We had about 20 stalls on the day, a jumping castle, trackless train and pony rides. The Devonshire teas and sausage sizzle and drinks stand were very busy all day.

The arts & crafts entries were again of a very high standard. Verna Annear's flower arranging demonstration was also popular.

**PUMPKIN BINGO** was on Saturday, 10th May we held Pumpkin Bingo with a good attendance of about 18. Many prizes were won, all very good fun - all with an orange theme of course! The major prize of a large pumpkin was not as big as we would have liked, unfortunately drought and large pumpkins don't mix!! A very well catered afternoon tea was enjoyed by all and the wood heater made the atmosphere in the Barn very cosy on a chilly day.

### HAPPY HOUR EVERY 2nd FRIDAY

With the building and fitting out of the new Archives Room, many of the working sessions have turned into informal gatherings for a chat and cup of tea or coffee.

We decided to hold a Happy Hour on the afternoon of 9th May. It was a success so we have decided to continue these on a fortnightly basis. Drop into the Barn for a warm welcome.

The next Happy Hour will be on Friday, 6th June from 4.00 - 6.00pm. Then every following fortnight on a Friday at the same time. Tea and coffee provided, BYO drinks and nibbles.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The NHS Investment Account has \$4,645.13 and Cheque Account has \$5,101.33, unrepresented cheques are \$1168.06.