



# HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT Inc.

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## Newsletter July 2005

Dear members,

It is 10 years now since the Hotham History Project was formed at a public meeting in the North Melbourne Library in March 1995, with the aim of researching and publishing the history of North and West Melbourne. Since then, eight publications have been produced; two of which are now out of print. During 2004 we produced three publications: – *Evelyn's Story* in June, *At Home on Hotham Hill* in September and *R Rated Real Estate* in October. We also established a website so that you can access information about the group's activities and publications at the web address on our letterhead.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our past and present members for their interest in promoting the history of this fascinating area

We also wish to report on the many exciting activities planned for the future.

### Centenary of North Melbourne's incorporation into the City of Melbourne

In 2005, North Melbourne, from 1859 a municipality in its own right, re-joined the City of Melbourne. During 2005, the community has organised various occasions to celebrate this centenary. In March the Melbourne Bowling Club in the Flagstaff Gardens hosted a Heritage Bowls Day which included a display of original minute books from the club's inception in 1866. During the speeches, Hotham History Chair, Lorna Hannan, announced that the group and the City of Melbourne Bowls Club will work together to write and publish a history of the Club.

### Annual General Meeting - Buncle Day - Saturday 10 September

In the spirit of the centennial celebrations, we will hold our Annual General Meeting on September 10, which will be known as our first 'Buncle Day'. In future we propose to hold Buncle Days annually on a Saturday in September.

Why Buncle?

Many of us know of Buncle Street and a few of us know Buncle's Place. These streets are named after John Buncle who arrived in Melbourne in the summer of 1852 and by 1853 had set up an engineering works in the vicinity of the present Buncle's Place. His foundry, Parkside, is still commemorated in a street name nearby and spanners bearing his mark are collector's items. In his own story of life in early Melbourne, *Experiences of a Victorian Manufacturer*, he describes his early days in Melbourne where he rented ground space and lived with his wife and family in a tent. Back in those times, he was employed to hang the bells of St James Cathedral, which he did successfully though he admits he was not a bell hanger. From his own words, we sense that he was an enthusiast and a man of lively and practical intelligence, a good role model for the work that the Hotham History Project has undertaken.

Apart from his own business, he helped to establish and taught at the Hotham School of Design (he had studied in Edinburgh) and was indeed a prominent citizen of early North Melbourne, a councillor and twice mayor of the Municipality of Hotham.

In 2005, we will visit the site of his foundry, hear about some of his exploits and, back at the meeting in the Library, consider how to better record and tell people about the history of our part of Melbourne.

The Annual General Meeting of the Hotham History Project will enable people to catch up with many of our present projects. Research is continuing into the history of the Melbourne Bowling Club. Oral history relating to West Melbourne is being systematised and augmented. Stories about St Michael's and the Hotham Hill area are accumulating and will enrich our future walks and later publications. We are keen to welcome newcomers into some of these projects, or indeed to hear about other schemes that you feel are important.

We are also keen to welcome more members to the Committee. A nomination form is on the reverse of the enclosed membership form. Please complete the form if you would like to nominate for the Committee or for any of the office bearer positions.

Current office bearers are:

Chair:	Lorna Hannan	9328 3211`	blhannan@netspace.net.au
Treasurer:	Rae Nicholls	9816 9720	raenicholls@optusnet.com.au
Secretary:	Mary Kehoe	9329 5814	<a href="mailto:mekehoe@iprimus.com.au">mekehoe@iprimus.com.au</a>
Minute Secretary:	Heather McKay	9297 3280	heatherm@yarranet.net.au

### **Walk along Errol Street Precinct and Surrounds - Saturday 6 August at 2.00pm**

As part of the centennial celebrations, we will be conducting the third in this year's program of historic walks around North Melbourne. Errol Street has been the premier shopping precinct in North Melbourne since the 1860s. Join us in a guided walk as we reveal the layers of history of this once bustling shopping centre. We will meet outside the North Melbourne Library shortly before 2.00 pm.

If you wish to come on the walk, you can book through our website. Alternatively, please leave your name at the North Melbourne Library or contact the Secretary, Mary Kehoe on 9329 4814 or [mekehoe@iprimus.com.au](mailto:mekehoe@iprimus.com.au).

### **Current projects:**

#### **Annals of Hotham volume 5**

*The Pride of Hotham: the history of North Melbourne's most prominent landmark* by Bill Hannan (nearing completion)

*Borough of Hotham & North Melbourne Councillors & Staff 1859 to 1905* (working title) by Local History Librarian Heather McKay. (nearing completion)

#### **Voices of Hotham volume 2**

Incorporating the memories of residents growing up in West Melbourne in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Annals of Hotham volume 6**

*History of the Melbourne Bowling Club* (working title).

### **Local & Family History Fair – West Bourke Heritage Association Inc – Saturday 20 August 10.00am-4.00pm**

Since our last AGM, the Hotham History Project has joined the West Bourke Heritage Association Inc, which was created to provide a forum for the local, family and heritage groups in the area west of Melbourne. A Local & Family History Fair was held at the Kensington Neighbourhood Centre in August last year and this year it is to be held at historic and impressive Overnewton Castle, Keilor, which is rarely open to the public. It should be a wonderful event and we encourage all our members to come along and join the fun - and find out some interesting information as well. The theme is 'Answers from the Grave'. Contacts for the W Bourke Heritage Association are: Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~wbourke>; Email: [westbourkev@hotmail.com](mailto:westbourkev@hotmail.com)

### **Membership**

This year's membership was due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month and we are enclosing a membership form for completion and return. The membership has not increased in the ten years since the Group was formed and this year we have kept it at \$10.00. However, next year we will have to increase our fees as it has been necessary to take out public liability insurance to be a participant in the West Bourke Local History Fair and also to be covered for our walks and other activities. The considerable cost of the public liability insurance to the group will be explained in more detail at the AGM.

We look forward to seeing you at some of our future events.

# Hotham History Project Inc

## NOMINATION FORM

Committee of Management – Office bearers and ordinary members

Nominee: .....

Position: .....

Nominator: .....

Seconder: .....

Signature of person nominated.....Date:.....

Please leave completed form for the Secretary at the North Melbourne Library