



HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT Inc.

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Newsletter June 2007

Dear friends and supporters of the Hotham History Project,

The financial year is drawing to a close and it is time once again to think about renewing your subscription. The subscription runs from 1 July to 30 June each year. Subscription fees help to pay for mail outs, organising our activities, public liability insurance and towards publication costs, which have increased enormously over the years. For those new members who joined earlier this year, your membership will extend until 30 June 2008.

We want also to inform you about the AGM and remind you about our other events planned for the remainder of the year.

FUTURE EVENTS

Centenary – Sunday 17 June at 2.00pm

A celebratory mass and afternoon tea are being held at St Michael's Catholic Church in Dryburgh Street to mark the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone for the church. To commemorate this event the Hotham History Project is preparing a booklet that will be available on the day.

Enquiries:

Lorna Hannan (blhannan@netspace.net.au, 9328 3211)

Rae Nicholls (raenicholls@optusnet.com.au, 9816 9720)

Talk – Tuesday 26 June at 8.00pm, North Melbourne Library

A reminder about the presentation on the history of North Melbourne in the 1850's. Learn about the green undulating countryside and the wondrous blue lake, the pioneers, the buildings and the incidents that took place in 19th century Hotham. Albert Mattingley, through the person of Jim Brady, will present excerpts from his address to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in March 1915.

AGM – Saturday 11 August at 2.00pm, North Melbourne Library

The Annual General Meeting of the Hotham History Project will be held in the North Melbourne Library on Saturday 11 August. The theme for the AGM will be "150 years of education in North & West Melbourne".

We encourage all our members to come along and consider becoming more actively involved. We are

always happy to welcome new members with exciting and innovative ideas to contribute to our work of collecting and making more accessible the history of this fascinating part of inner Melbourne.

Tour – VAC Saturday 8 September at 11.00am

The Hotham History Project is organising a tour for our members of the Victorian Archives Centre in Shiel Street. The tour will be conducted on Saturday 8 September at 11.00am and groups are restricted to 15 people. If there is enough interest the Archive Centre may be able to organise two tours but we need to know as soon as possible if you are interested so that we can confirm the numbers.

Enquiries:

Mary Kehoe (mekehoe@iprimus.com.au, 9329 5814)

Walk – Saturday 6 October at 2.00pm,

Discover the history behind the naming of some of North Melbourne's streets. Meeting place still to be decided. Please check our website nearer the date.

Enquiries:

Mary Kehoe (mekehoe@iprimus.com.au, 9329 5814)

Please remember to make a note of these dates in your calendar or diary.

PREVIOUS 2007 ACTIVITIES

Hotham Hill walk – 27 February

This pleasant twilight walk commenced at the Archive Centre in Shiel Street and proceeded along Melrose Street and up Erskine to Dryburgh Street, finishing with a talk about the interior of St Michael's church.

Gary Presland talk – 24 April

This was a very interesting and well-attended talk on the indigenous presence in the area before white settlement. Gary has promised to return to speak about the natural history of the area when his book on the subject is published next year.

Discovering Errol St – 26 May

It was a lovely sunny autumn afternoon for our recent walk around the Errol Street Shopping Precinct. The walk began with a talk by Bill Hannan about the history and architecture of the North Melbourne Town Hall then continued along the main shopping strip with a detour down Lt Webb Street to Victoria Street.

CONTINUING PROJECTS

People's History of West Melbourne

Work is proceeding slowly and we are still interested in hearing from anyone who would like to be involved, either to help with the project or to share their memories.

Enquiries:

Mary Kehoe (mekehoe@iprimus.com.au, 9329 5814) or Lorraine Siska (lsiska@bigpond.net.au 9328 1621)

City of Melbourne Bowls Club

It is hoped that the history of the Melbourne Bowls Club will be finished to coincide with the opening of the new Clubhouse in late 2008.

Enquiries:

Madeleine Scully [scully.madeleine.l@edumail.gov.au or 9326 9402(h), 9637 2024(w)]

WEST BOURKE DINNER

The Hotham History Project is a member of the West Bourke Heritage Association, an umbrella group for local and family history groups, and other heritage groups from the western region. For the past three years the West Bourke Heritage Association has held an annual fair to promote the groups and as a forum for selling our publications. This year it was decided to hold a dinner instead.

Where: Aberfeldie Bowling Club, Scott Street (just off Buckley Street), Essendon

When: 7th July 2007 6pm for 6.30pm start

Speaker; Joan Hunt (Vice President RHSV, President, Ballarat Genealogical Society)

Topic: Geelong Prostitutes on the Ballarat Goldfields"

Cost: \$20 per head

Enquiries:

Lorraine Siska (lsiska@bigpond.net.au 9328 1621)

Bookings and payment must be received by 27th June.

MEMORIES OF EARLY NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE.

We thought it was timely to quote from Albert Mattingley's address to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in this year, which marks the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the forerunner of the Errol Street State School. Albert was its first principal and the most senior teacher in Victoria when he retired in 1894.

The following excerpt should make us thankful that we are not living in North Melbourne in the 19th century and having to cart our water from the Yarra River.

The earliest pioneers, after their day's work of from nine to ten hours was over, had to take a barrel and bucket on a wheel-barrow or truck down to the Yarra, which was then fairly good water (above the falls), and with the bucket fill their cask from the river and then wheel it back to their respective homes over roads from 6 or 7 inches deep with fine powdery dust, and this was exceedingly trying during the hot evenings of summer,... especially when they had to face the awful dust raised by a strong north wind...

In 1849 Mr James Blackburn, afterwards City Surveyor, erected a small steam engine which pumped water from the Yarra into a tank situated in Flinders-street. From this tank water carts were filled from four stand-pipes, afterwards increased to six. These pipes stood at the corner of Elizabeth and Flinders streets.... From this source the city was supplied with water by means of water carts. It was not an uncommon sight to see 40 or 50 water carts standing one behind the other in Flinders Street waiting their turn to get a load of water, for which they paid a shilling. After a time, when sufficient inducement offered, Mr Andrew Haddow, one of the residents of North Melbourne, had a water cart built by Mr Robert Aitkin, of Villiers Street, by means of which he was able to supply his fellow townsmen with water at about 7s. per hogshead. In 1859-60 some of the streets of North Melbourne were reticulated, and a large amount of pipe laying took place in 1865. As the service from the Yan Yean was extended the water carts became less in number, until the year 1872, by which time the reticulation was completed in North Melbourne and the water carts, having served their turn, disappeared.

If you would like to learn more about Albert Mattingley's memories of 19th century North Melbourne we invite you to attend Jim Brady's recreation of Albert Mattingley's presentation on 26 June.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

We are attaching our membership form for 2007-08. Please forward a cheque or cash with completed form to the Treasurer, the North Melbourne Library or pay in person at one of the events listed above.

There are some on our emailing list who like to hear about our activities but do not wish to join and we are happy to continue emailing our notices and newsletters. **However if you do not want to receive our notices, please ask the Secretary to remove you from the mailing list.**

We look forward to seeing you at some of the events we have organised for the remainder of the year.