



HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT Inc.

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Hotham History News *Summer 2012*

Dear friends and supporters of the Hotham History Project,

We hope that you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and that you are looking forward to joining us at some of the activities we have planned for you in 2012.

Please mark the following dates in your calendar:

SOME 2012 ACTIVITIES

ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA, WEST MELBOURNE:

2.00PM SATURDAY 24 MARCH

If your appetite was whetted by seeing the magnificently restored interior of St Mary's during our twilight walk in November last year, you may wish to join Thomas Hazell, the Restoration Co-ordinator, who will share his expertise on bringing the church back to its former glory. He has also offered to include a tour of the 1870s presbytery, designed by famous architect William Wardell, the architect of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Meet outside St Mary Star of the Sea, Victoria Street, West Melbourne, about 1.50pm

WALK – 19th CENTURY SCHOOLS IN NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE:

2.00PM SATURDAY 12 MAY

There were once many private and government schools in North & West Melbourne. Several of these old school buildings have disappeared but some buildings remain. In the case of the Queensberry Street State School, this is being magnificently restored to reopen shortly as The Bastow Institute. We propose to walk past the sites of some of these old schools with the reminiscences of long-ago pupils ringing in our ears.

Meet outside the North Melbourne Library, Errol Street, about 1.50pm

TALK – STAINED GLASS IN NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE:

2.00PM SATURDAY 21 JULY

Ferguson & Urie were well-known 19th century stained glass makers based in North Melbourne. There are some magnificent examples of stained glass in our local churches so we thought we would acknowledge this work and the work of some of the stained glass artists who have contributed their artistry to our suburbs with an illustrated talk.

Venue to be advised

TALK – ARCHBISHOP DANIEL MANNIX IN WEST MELBOURNE 1913–1917 BY DR VAL NOONE:

7.30PM TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Dr Val Noone is an academic with a keen interest in Irish history, in particular, the Irish in Australia. He is on a subcommittee of the Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission planning celebrations for the centenary of Daniel Mannix's arrival in Victoria in March 1913.

Venue to be advised

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2.00PM SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER

Guest speaker and venue to be advised

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

FAMILY DAY, NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

How many of you attended the Family Day at Arden Street in December and noticed the tent dedicated to history? You may not have been aware that members of the Hotham History Project Committee participated in a program organised by Mairead Hannan, Education Programs Manager at The Huddle, NMFC, to record the memories of some of the more senior members of the NMFC who were attending the open day. The dedication of some club supporters is truly inspiring.

END-OF-YEAR TWILIGHT WALK

Our twilight walk to two West Melbourne churches, culminating in the ringing of the bells at St James Old Cathedral, was a great success, and we are following this up, as already mentioned, with a more detailed tour of St Mary Star of the Sea as our first event for the year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Jack Bowen, former Managing Director and grandson of the founder of Bowen & Pomeroy, was a very engaging guest speaker at our AGM in October. Jack also generously provided some copies of *Sixpence for a piece of timber...: a history of Bowen & Pomeroy 1894–1994*, which was commissioned for the company's centenary in 1994. There are now additional copies at the library which can be borrowed by members who missed out on obtaining a copy on the day. Thanks to the North Melbourne Football Club for the use of The Huddle and to Mairead Hannan for organising everything.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

During September, committee stalwarts Lorna Hannan and Rae Nicholls took various classes of St Michael's Primary School for a walk along Dryburgh Street from their present school to the site of the first St Michael's school building. It is a route that bristles with history and demonstrated the value of walking as a way of exploring the history and social fabric of our world.

In July 2011, Hotham History Project members, Lorna and Bill Hannan acted as guides on a walk by NMFC and Footscray supporters from Arden Street to Etihad Stadium, designed as a multicultural walk. The route emphasized the role of North and West Melbourne as the home for newly arrived immigrants and the factories and workshops that employed them.

BURCHETT INDEX

Members of the Hotham History Project are continuing to put the data from the Burchett card Index of Notices to Build in the City of Melbourne into an electronic format. The day that seems to suit most potential indexers is Thursday.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact Lorraine Siska on 9328 1621 or send us an email at: info@hothamhistory.org.au.

MEMORIES OF SCHOOL DAYS

SS1402 Errol Street, 1870s–1880s

It was a very large school, and the scholars dreaded the day when any disobedient boy was laid across Mr Mattingly's (sic) knee. One day a boy, who knew he was due for a caning, took the precaution to place a sheet of tin under his trousers, and when the caning commenced the noise could be heard all over the classroom, which naturally caused much merriment among the scholars

Fred Corry, letter to *The Age*, 10 October 1934

SS1689 King Street, early 1900s

Now Mr "Kruger" Meeking was one teacher in the school who used the cane. Should you be

teacher's "Pet" for the day you would most likely be sent over to a shop on the corner of Eades Place and Victoria Street. This shop was run by an old Frenchman – name eludes me. Canes were one penny each. There is a story to this. Should you be the lucky one to be sent for a new cane this was the procedure to be adopted. After purchasing the cane you would wait on a heavy horse drawn lorry to come down the Victoria St Hill. As it passed you, you would place the new cane under the wheels of the lorry, which would bruise the cane. Then first time "Kruger" would use it the cane would bend in the middle and the punishment would not be so severe;

...

Now in that last year 1913 Mr Osborne was eighth grade teacher. He was a very stern man but like the rest he was "good". My word what a strap he had. There were two sewn together and between them a few strands of copper wire and if you happened to be on the wrong end of that "strap" you certainly knew it. He would even occasionally give a student a "playful" tap on the back with it. One year some of the boys nicked some of the straps; cut them up and flushed them down the toilets. New straps promptly appeared and were well used as before. I did not participate in that episode and the real culprits were never revealed to the "Brass".

Reminiscences of Leslie Woodland, 1982

SS307 Queensberry Street, 1920s

At school the desks had holes for ink wells. These wells were often stopped up with wads of blotting paper by the boys. The wells were periodically collected and washed by the boys and refilled. A tray with many holes transported them and special brown earthenware-stoppered jugs held the ink – now collectors' items.

...

The boys played football on the earth back half to Elm Street and this end was lined with lovely big gum trees. We played skippy and spun tops, and hopscotch. The boys played marbles and jacks and cherrybobs. They got into trouble when they put cherry stones under the desk seat and then sat down to crack them.

Reminiscences of Ethel Mann, 1995

SS1689 King Street, 1920s

When I was at school, it was tough. They talk about the worries now – oof. I got stoned home twice, and I knew the chaps; I used to go to school with them. The Young Hawkes. They were a group of kids.

...

And there was senior Hawkes too. They were the days when there were big pushes. There were Angels, I think, down in South Melbourne and ...

It didn't matter the fact that they knew me at school. Fortunately in those days the trees in Hawke Street had a guard round them, which was a little bit higher than I was, and I was able to hide behind the guard. I remember that well.

Interview with Evan Hughes, 2006

We hope to see you at some of the events we have planned for this year, starting with our tour of St Mary Star of the Sea in March and our school walk in May.