

Plenty Historical Society Inc.



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"PLENTY NEWS AND VIEWS"

Preserving the History and Culture of Plenty

Vol: 1, No: 22 - February 2008



Produced with support from
Nillumbik Shire Council

Print Post Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. 381712/02375

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Contact with Plenty Historical Society Inc. can be made through the following:

President:	Ms Neisha Forbes	0438 793 776
Vice President:	Mrs Barbara Wright	9435 8201
Secretary/ Public Officer:	Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice	9435 9117
Treasurer:	Mr Alan Pearce	9435 9117
Committee:	Mrs Carmel Cunningham	9435 7536
	Mrs Glenda Embling	9436 132

Note: There is one vacancy on your Committee for 2007/08 and a volunteer interested in joining the team would be most welcome.

WE WISH ALL MEMBERS A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

The President, Officers and Committee of the Society wish all Members and Colleagues a Safe, Happy and Prosperous Year in 2008.

The Committee is looking forward to another productive year for members of the Society, with the view that we can bring to a successful conclusion, several projects currently in the planning stage. The Society will only be able to do this if members are willing to assist and YOUR help in completing these projects will be greatly appreciated. An organisation can only be successful through the efforts of its members working towards a common goal. Your Committee believes that every member in her or his own way has talents and skills that can be utilised and provide great assistance to the work of the Society. Are you willing to help? Please contact a Committee Member if you are willing to offer your assistance. We need the help of every member!

2007 CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

The Society's 2007 Christmas function was again a fun night with some 40 members and friends attending. Plenty CFA again provided barbecue facilities this year and we extend our sincere thanks for making these facilities available. The Christmas Raffle was well supported by members with Hamper donations enable the making up of six Hampers, and was drawn on the night. All winners were notified and Hampers delivered. Our sincere thanks go the Glenda Embling and Winnie Roberts for collecting the goods to make up the Hampers and for their work in assembling them. Thank you to all who sold tickets again this year and particularly to Winnie who sold in excess of \$200 worth of tickets. All in all, the Raffle raised almost \$600 for the Society and this is a tremendous effort on the part of all involved. Thank you all for your efforts.

The theme of the Christmas Function this year was "White Christmas" and the winners of the best characterisation of the theme were Rob Thomas, who came along as Frosty the Snowman, and Maie Boxhall, visitors, along with their respective other halves, attending the function for the second year (pictured below).



SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

Initial development work has been undertaken by 2 Squared Pty Ltd, computer consulting specialists, the company engaged to set up a Website for the Society, and a proposal together with a draft of a sample site has been received and considered by the Committee at its meeting on 24th January 2008. We are now in the process of finalising the home page for the website and also the initial content to be included on the site.

It is anticipated that the site will be up and running during February and members will be advised as soon as the site is launched.

The available of this website will enable the Society to promote its activities and events to the wider community, as well as seek new members, and provide up-to-date information about what is happening in the area. Included with the website an email address for the Society will be established for ease of contact by members of the general public.

CENTENARY OF PLENTY 1913 - 2013

Not all Plenty residents will be aware that the Centenary of Plenty will occur in 2013, the hundredth anniversary of land in the area being opened up for selection. Prior to this all land had been held in four large Crown Portions, dating from the original Crown auction in 1840 and subsequent land sales in 1853. The land in these Crown Portions remained in the same large holdings, but in different ownerships, until three large subdivisions took place in 1907, 1913, and 1917. It appears that the main subdivision took place in 1913 which was when the Plenty township originated, but significant growth did not occur until the 1980's. (See Plenty News and Views Vol. 1 No. 17 - November 2006)

The Diamond Valley Story records that **"by 1925 Plenty had a school, a Church and a social club. Residents there seemed particularly keen and active and described the area as the Toorak of the Northern suburbs, but this was hardly the case"**.

Nillumbik Shire Council website records that **"Plenty was named after the Plenty River, which was named because the surrounding country had such a promising aspect. Today Plenty is a pleasing mix of medium sized house blocks set among gum trees on undulating hills,"** although many of its residents are not necessarily comfortable about the way in which the area is currently developing.

Nevertheless, it would seem that the forthcoming Centenary provides a great opportunity for the Society and its members to suitably recognize the occasion. Although the actual Centenary is some five years into the future, it presents an ideal opportunity for the area to be actively promoted, and also for the Society to promote itself as a leading organisation active in the community. The Committee has considered this as a great opportunity to promote Plenty and the Society, and has agreed that the Society should take a leading role in planning for appropriate celebrations. Certainly it will need considerable time to achieve a successful outcome and we believe that the Society and its members should give their support over the period to ensuring that the event is appropriately recognized.

MEMORIAL GATES AT PLENTY WAR MEMORIAL PARK

After a prolonged delay in commencing our Restoration Project, because of the development and implementation of the Master Plan for the Park by Nillumbik Shire Council, we are at last about to begin the project. Council has approved plans drawn up by Dennis Ward and we have been seeking acceptable quotes for the initial paving work and straightening of the damaged pillars to be undertaken.

Some small amendments will need to be made to the plans to fit in with the conditions of the area, but hopefully, by the time this newsletter issues, this work will have commenced. Our objective is to have the project fully completed by April of this year and for a Re-dedication Ceremony to be held around Anzac Day. This is the first major project to be undertaken by the Society, and it is one that will make a significant impact on the entrance to the Park and improve an important public asset for the benefit of the Plenty community.

In association with the Restoration Project, research into the early history of the Memorial Gates is currently being undertaken. We have been able to access from the archives of Banyule City Council, the minute book of the Plenty War Memorial Community Centre Committee, formed at a public meeting of which took place on the 24th September 1945. The following people attended the meeting and accepted nomination to the Committee:

Cr W Elwers, Mrs L Elwers, Mr L Elwers, Mrs Walker, Mr R Beale, Mr J Wilson, Mrs Brereton, Mr B Lierse, Mr Durham, Mr L Wilson, Mr J Wilson, and Mr H White.

The inaugural officers of the Committee were:

President: Cr W Elwers

Vice President: Mr B Lierse

Secretary: Mr R Beale

Treasurer: Mr J Walker

Auditor: Mr A Brereton

This Committee had the responsibility for raising funds for the planned Memorial and operated until 1953, some two years after the Memorial Gates were dedicated. We are currently seeking the minutes of the Heidelberg War Memorial Trust, established under the auspices of the then Heidelberg City Council. This Trust undertook oversight of the various local community committees and was responsible for the overall financing of the War Memorials. It consisted of representatives of the various local committees. To date we have not been able to locate this latter minute book but the search goes on. We plan to produce a book on the history of the Memorial Gates and intend to seek stories from local families with members in the services and associated with the Gates.

CHRISTMAS GIGGLE - T'was the (Politically Correct) Night before Christmas.

"T'was the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck,
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves"
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves,
And labour conditions at the North Pole,
Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety,
Released to the wilds by the Humane Society,
And equal employment had made it quite clear,
That Santa had better not use just reindeer.

So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
Were replaced with four pigs, and you know that looked stupid.

The runners had been removed from his sleigh;
The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.,
And people had started to call the cops,
When they heard sled noises on their rooftops.

Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened,
His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened."

And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose,
And had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation,
Demanding millions in over-due compensation.

So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,
Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,
Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,
Demanding from now on her title was Ms.

And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion,
That making a choice could cause so much commotion,
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,
Which meant nothing for him, nothing for her.

Nothing that might be construed to pollute.
Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.
Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise,
Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.

Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific.

No candy or sweets, they were bad for the tooth,
Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth,
And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.

For they raised the hackles of those psychological,
Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football; someone could get hurt,
Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt,
Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passé,
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, dishevelled, perplexed,
He just could not figure out what to do next.

He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,
You've got to be careful with that word today,
His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground,
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might
Give to all without angering the left or the right,
A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,
Each group of people, every religion.

Every ethnicity, every hue,
Everyone, everywhere, even you,
So here is that gift, its price beyond worth,
"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."
(Unknown)

WHAT'S ON IN NILLUMBIK?

Arts and Culture:

From Sugarloaf to the City 30 Jan - 19 Feb

Exhibition of architecture and landscapes of the local area.

Eltham Library Community Gallery
Panther Place, Eltham

Red Chair - artists and art - 13 Feb (7pm)

Illustrated talk by Jenni Mitchell depicting the visual comparison between desert and ice.

The Pavilion, Living & Learning Centre
739 Main Rd., Eltham
RSVP 9433 3359

Creative Minds - 2007 VCE students 20 Feb - 18 Mar

Exhibition of selected works offering an insight into the creative minds of young adults.

Eltham Library Community Gallery
Panther Place, Eltham

Courthouse Readings - 21 Feb (7.30pm)

Tim Hamilton and Alex Skovon
Eltham Courthouse, 728 Main Rd Eltham

Courthouse Readings - 20 Mar (7.30pm)

Sean O'Connor and TTO

Red Chair - artists and art - 12 March (7pm)

Talk by Dr Danielle Clode, a Biologist, exploring how knowledge about our environment and past adds resonance and shifting perspectives to our lives and local landscape.

The Pavilion, Living & Learning Centre
739 Main Rd., Eltham
RSVP 9433 3359

Skyline - 19 Mar - 15 April

Exhibition features works by Cassie May
Eltham Library Community Gallery
Panther Place, Eltham

Flirting with Romance @ Your Library - 14 Feb - 10.30am - 11.30am

This Valentines Day get the low down on writing romance with Melbourne author, Nicola Marsh.

Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham

Discover Inner Goodness 19 Feb - 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Tanishka, author of "The Inner Goddess Makeover", an inspiring talk on feminine power and potential and a journey of self discovery.
Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham

The Female Line: An Introduction to Researching your Women Ancestors - Wed 5 Mar - 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Learn some strategies and tips to research the women in your family history.

Diamond Valley Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough

Italian Music Night - Tues 18 Mar 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Celebrating the colourful Italian Culture.

Light Supper provided. Duo Combo.
Diamond Valley Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough

Sounds of Italy - Wed 19 Mar - 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Students from Hurstbridge Learning Co-operative will perform traditional Italian songs.

Diamond Valley Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough

Bookings essential for most library programs.

Diamond Valley Library 9434 3809
Eltham Library 9439 9266