



NEWSLETTER

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History is Yesterday and Today

In reflecting on topics for this Newsletter it seems that we sometimes need to consider what has occurred in the past and also what is happening around us today that will become tomorrow's history for others to look back on.

It has been a challenging year for many people and organisations as individuals become involved in the needs of day to day personal, family and business activities and it becomes more difficult for some to carry on the spirit of volunteer work that was apparent in past decades.

There is still the need to record the past and to look forward as technology changes rapidly to see how it can be of benefit to the Historical Society and the local Community.

Detailed inside are some of the past and current planned activities and ideas that are in place for the future.

The photo above from the Melbourne Sun 4th October 1926 depicts the departure from Altona of the first Electric train after Mrs. J. Murphy the wife of the President of the Altona Progress Association cut the ribbon.

The photo when enlarged shows Mrs. Murphy's hand at the window cutting the ribbon, the scissors used are in our collection and a display of these items is planned for the Altona Homestead.

Harry Blair



We have reported in the past of the association of the Blair family with the Altona Homestead and current member Roger Blair is the proud holder of a number of medals and memorabilia in regard to the sporting activities of his father Harry Blair.

Harry Blair was a member of the Altona Beach Cricket Club formed in 1923 and the winner of several premierships in the local YMCA competition.

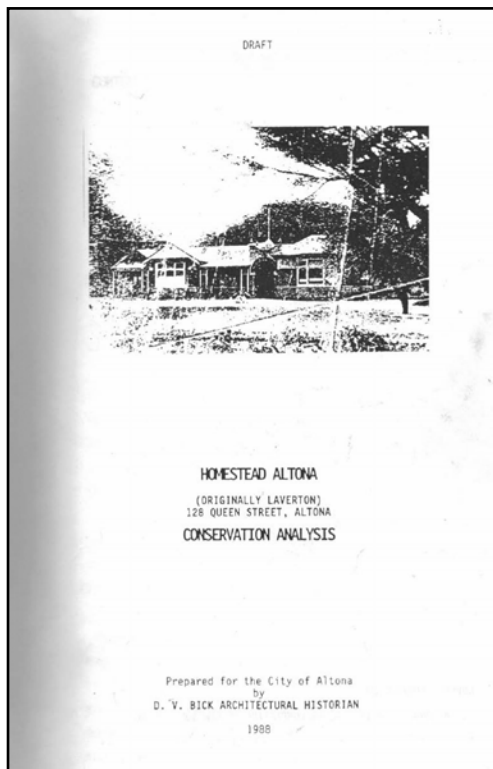
An article in an edition of the 1967 Altona Star carried a story and photo of the 1923-24 Premier Team, winners of the Hartley Perpetual Cup, which if it could be located would be a rare part of local history.

Harry Blair was also the First President of the Altona Tennis Club.



Pictured below are a series of cricket medals from the 1920's won by Harry Blair.





Altona Homestead

In 1988 a Conservation Analysis was prepared by D.V.Bick an Architectural Historian for the City of Altona which sets out in some detail the Cultural Significance of the Homestead, the evolution of Laverton and Altona and the history of the building and the general area at that time.

Past President Barry Hansen was closely involved with the project of restoring the building at the time and obtained a photocopy of the draft papers prepared by D.V.Bick.

A copy of this publication has been held by the Society for some time, it has now been scanned and produced in PDF format so that in future it will be more readily accessible for general information, and can be searched on the database for particular words if required for research purposes.

Our Archivist Ann Cassar has been handling the preparation of the relevant document.

Other General Activities

Barry Hansen, Ann Cassar and Owen Hyde have recently been researching the general background in regard to the Cherry family and their original home known as "Seaford".

It is understood that Barry is the possessor of that knowledge and recently gave Ann and Owen a tour of the general vicinity of the site of the home which is understood to have been located in the vicinity of Kororoit Creek Road and Millers Road in the area behind the current Mobil office building.

Publicity

Ann Cassar recently advised the National Library of her success in compiling historical information from the use of the "Trove" web site search facility.

The National Library in Canberra were so pleased with this that the comments by Ann are published in a brochure that will circulate around Australia.



Society News

Committee 2012/2013

President: Peter Weaver

Vice President: Carol Winfield

Secretary: Kim Walsh

Treasurer: Jim Hevey

Committee Members

Sharon Walsh

Owen Hyde

Important information for all Members

General Meetings

The General Meeting originally planned for

Tuesday 18th June 2013

will **NOT** go ahead as construction work is still being carried out internally at the Homestead

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th July 2013

Invoices for Annual Fees for 2013-2014 will be forwarded within the next few days and Official Notice of the Annual General Meeting and Nomination forms will also be prepared and forwarded to members.

Members are encouraged to support the Society in any way that they can to ensure progress into the future.

The Homestead Displays

Recent displays this year have been arranged and carried out with the assistance and cooperation of a number of members including Carol Winfield, Kim and Sharon Walsh, and the general help of others including Ethel, Joan, Owen, Ann and other non members from time to time.

These included the Popular Australia Day display of Indigenous Art and Work by Elaine Mead arranged by Carol, and the “All Things Tea” arranged by Sharon.



Current Display

Currently on display in the cabinets there is a range of cameras and equipment, books and second world war equipment, medical equipment, Nurses Cape and similar material as well as the normal furniture, equipment photos, merchandise and the like.

The major item is a Thornton Pickard Camera and Tripod and accessories used by a local photographer



From the Photo Album

Things may not always be what they appear ?



This photo is on one of the Photo Boards in the Homestead, no one at the Altona RSL can recall a football team of the period, is it possible it is a Soccer Team ?

At that time many UK immigrants were playing what was called British Football by the local papers. Note the limited number of players in picture, here is a lack of stops on the soles, and the jumpers do not look to be in the style of VFL jumpers.

The football seems to be of a VFL type, but this may have been the only one on hand at the Photo studio. A similar football was used in a Spotswood Club photo in which it is known that they were Soccer players.

If any one knows the correct answer please let us know.
