

Nobelius Heritage Park & Emerald Museum

Newsletter No. 7

Autumn 2014

*"come little leaves, said the wind one day,
come to the meadow with me and play
Put on your dresses of red and gold,
for summer is gone and the days grow cold"
- unknown*

Now that the heatwave and fire threat have passed, we can once again relax and enjoy the beauty that autumn in The Dandenong's brings.

Throughout the region there will be a vast array of events taking place and Emerald is no exception. The Emerald "Pave Festival" will be the highlight and the museum is proud to be a part of it.

Special Author Event -

Tuesday March 18, 6.30 - 7.30pm.

Emerald Museum and Emerald Library will present author Janet Werkmeister with her biography of her grandfather the 1920's media star Norman McCance at the Emerald Library. (No cost but booking essential).



Norman McCance was one of the stars of early radio in Melbourne. He became immensely popular during the second half of the 1920's for his broadcasting of wrestling matches for radio station 3LO, now known as 774ABC. But his work over 60 years encompassed far more than wrestling. He was the *Argus* newspaper's State Political reporter for many years and for both the *Argus* and the ABC made radio broadcasts of major events such as the first international flight to Melbourne in 1926.

For a decade in the 1930's he wrote and broadcast one of the very first morning news programs. In later years he became better known as a naturalist, his lifelong passion for animals becoming his profession from his home in Avonsleigh.

Initially a holiday retreat, it became his family home in the late 1940's. He wrote a nature column for the *Weekly Times* for over 24 years, right up until the age of 81, answering inquiries from all over Australia.



From Wireless to Wallabies
- a life of Norman McCance

"Janet Werkmeister has done us all a great service in reminding us of the achievements of her distinguished grandfather".

The Hon Barry Jones AO

Bring out that valuable memorabilia

How many of us have boxes of family memorabilia stored in a cupboard or in the garage after a family member has passed away, and it never sees the light of day again until we have to move?

There must be scores of families from Emerald and surrounding district who have interesting stories to tell that may never be told. The memorabilia may be objects or photographs, and it seems a great shame that they may be deteriorating or becoming damaged by inappropriate storage.

If you have such items, and there is a great local story behind them, the museum would be happy to help you create a "family collection" that could possibly be displayed for a period of time in the museum. You may be surprised just how fascinating your story is to others.

Please see any member of staff for advice and assistance.

My Likeness Taken

An exhibition of Victorian
photographs at Emerald
Museum April 6 - 13
2014



Launch April 4,
6.30 - 8.00pm at
Emerald Museum
* all welcome
* gold coin donation
* light refreshments

Daguerreotype and Ambrotype portraits
from Australia, Great Britain and USA
1840's to 1860's from a private collection

Museum opening hours during Pave Festival will be as follows:

Sun. 6 & 13	1.30 - 4.00pm
Wed. 9	10.00 - 3.00pm
Thu. 10	10.00 - 3.00pm
Sat. 12	11.00 - 3.00pm

Emerald and District Museum
5 Crichton Road, Emerald, Victoria
Tel. 0359682152

e-mail enquiries@emeraldmuseum.org.au
www.emeraldmuseum.org.au

An exhibition of Victorian photographs will be held at the museum from April 6 to April 13. Nothing in this private collection is from the collectors family, rather it was formed by buying portraits from other families.

The aim of the collector was to save these photographs from destruction for future generations and to study them in numerous ways.

Most portraits are of unknown people and photographers. It is always a magic moment to handle the photographs and find a link to the sitter by a memento hidden in the back of the photograph, such as a lock of hair, a simple inscription of the sitter's name and date.

In one case it involved a love letter from sitter to bearer.

The collector is amazed at the care taken by the sitter and the photographer to present the best possible likeness of the person depicted, often in very trying circumstances.

Most people would be unaware of just how bothersome sitting for a portrait was more than 150-170 years ago.

The photographer was careful to hide the posing stand and neck brace necessary to keep the sitter firmly in position for up to several minutes while the photographic likeness was taken.

The anxiety of sitting or standing still in a studio illuminated by sunlit blue glass rather than electricity often resulted in glum, rather than smiling faces. The solemnity of daguerrotype portraits are undeniable. The truth was the sitter had to remain rigid, otherwise their likeness would be blurred, an event suffered by young children who wriggled during the process, disappointing their parents. Smiles were rare and informal poses rarer.

A visit to this exhibition will be rewarding to photographic and non photographic enthusiasts alike. The event will run in conjunction with the Emerald Pave Festival.

Launch April 4, 6.30 - 8.00pm at Emerald Museum Gold coin donation, light refreshments.
Other viewing dates during the Pave Festival are:

<i>Sun April 6 & 13</i>	<i>1.30 - 4.00pm</i>
<i>Wed. April 9</i>	<i>10.00 - 3.00pm</i>
<i>Thu. April 10</i>	<i>10.00 - 3.00pm</i>
<i>Sat. April 12</i>	<i>11.00 - 3.00pm</i>



WORKING BEES

The next working bee for the Nobelius Heritage Park will be on April 26. Meet at museum for a 10.00am start. Other working bee dates will be announced in future newsletters. Remember, we are always looking for volunteers for both the park and the museum, please feel free to come and join us.

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