Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia

Object/sample number: 2005.1.2
Object/sample Date: 1920s
Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories
Object Category: Women’s Fashion Accessories
Object name: Lang family – woven straw hat

Related objects within the collection: Other Lang family accessories as previous listing 2005.1.1

Main material/textile/fabric: Natural gold straw/raffia hat

Main visual feature/component: Spring flowers to decorate the shallow crown, narrow brimmed

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Hand woven by Christopher Lang’s aunt, Chris, a local farmer, assisted with photographing for this catalogue. The hat is made from natural beige raffia with multi-coloured raffia embroidery around the crown. The hat has a shallow crown and narrow brim and spring flowers reflect the abundance of a country cottage garden. The flowers are made in minute detail in a wide range of realistic colours that still retain their bright hues. The flowers are closely positioned to each other to cover the sides of the crown. The edge of the brim features an open lace look weave to match the feeling of lightness that the hat has. The main brim and crown is of a plaited braid construction. Deceptively sturdy construction has stood the test of time.

Credit – Donor/Source: Lang family.

These items (the embroidered bag and hat – 2005.1.1 and 2005.1.2) were donated by a local Lismore region family, the Langs from ‘Titanga’ an established country property, one of the few original family farms still left in the Lismore area. The family also gave Dorothy hostess aprons often paraded with the Eldridge aunt’s afternoon dresses (2005.2.1A/B/C/D). Nell Lang was the original owner, wearer and creator of the handbag and hat. Her daughter-in-law Val is the contact person history enthusiast. Val Lang reported that her mother-in-law, Nell, was a skilled dressmaker, as were many country women of the time. Women developed their skills out of necessity. They were remote from city suppliers and rural town shops and had a pride in their self-sufficiency. They made and recycled textile and clothing items for practical purposes mainly. At the same time, they could be inventive and creative in achieving their own brand of original fashion glamour to sparkle at the range of country social events that they and their family attended. The popular events were parties and dances with family and friends and larger get togethers run by churches and community groups. Such events were held at ‘Titanga’ for many generations. Val and her family, as the current residents of ‘Titanga’, have a keen interest in local history and the role her family and property had in past times.

These 1920s accessories would have had an interesting life serving both practical and decorative purposes. Being admired then as they are still appreciated now at the parades where many audience members would gladly integrate them into their current fashion wardrobe.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
The Lang Family Accessories
2005.1.2 1920s
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia
Object/sample number: 2005.2.1A
Object/sample Date: 1920/1930/1940
Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories
Object Category: Women’s Formal Day Dresses
Object name: The Eldridge Aunts’ Fashion Collection. Self-sufficiency and style in formal day dresses.

Related objects within the collection: This one dress pattern was made over and again during the three decades 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Little changes like trims and the choice of fabric were made to the taste of these three farming sisters.

Main material/textile/fabric: Heavy weight green background, multi-coloured paisley all over print, silk crepe fabric.

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:
Credit – Donor/Source:

Acquisition Details – Date Acquired:
Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

These garments from the Aunts’ collection have featured in all Flappers to Flares parades. They were made and worn by the Eldridge sisters of Terang.
The dresses joined Dorothy’s collection via the owners’ nephew, niece and niece-in-law. The family are enthusiastic about preserving local history.

Others of the niece-in-law’s, Barbara Eldridge’s garments, have been part of parades, especially the original Rosebank performance in 2000 at Terang, Victoria.
The strength and resilience of rural women has been much written about in Australian history. Romanticised and spectacularised in the description of the hardships of women alone eking out a rural life.25, 26, 27 & 28

The Eldridge Aunts, Florence, Anne Mariah and Ethel, have been remembered by their family who still farm their property today. From 1920, these ladies worked quite self-sufficiently on the family farms that they inherited. They much later moved into town, Terang, after passing the farms on to relatives, for example, to their nephew and his family.
The Aunts used the same paper pattern and altered it over the decades. The details of trimming, fabric and different alterations for the Aunts’ size, taste and the purpose and occasion of the dress, were catered for in the changes from the original paper pattern style.

When the current residents inherited the property named, Noogee, and moved into the home, there was some fabric still with paper patterns pinned to them ready to be made again.

A large legacy of ingenuity such as this adaptation of fashion was also part of the inherited contents of the house. There were even flour bag aprons carefully sewn and quite delicately embroidered sugar bag knickers.

Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.2.1B

Object/sample Date: 1920/1930/1940

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Formal Day Dresses.

Object name: The Eldridge Aunts’ Fashion Collection. Self-sufficiency and style in formal day dresses.

Related objects within the collection: This one dress pattern was made over and over again during the three decades 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Little changes like trims and the choice of fabric were made to the taste of these three farming sisters.

Main material/textile/fabric: Heavy weight black silk crepe.

Main visual feature/component: White cotton lace-edged neckline.

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

- Material details:
- Trimmings:
- Dimensions and size:
- Label:
- Maker:
- Condition:
- Care and conservation requirement:
- Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details: The details are with listing 2005.2.1A

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

The Eldridge family were early settlers in the Terang area. The Aunts lived a quiet, hard-working life. Their life was fairly refined, featuring Sunday visits as a main social activity and picnics in the bush block as a favourite outing.
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.
Object/sample number: 2005.2.1C
Object/sample Date: 1920/1930/1940
Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.
Object Category: Women’s Formal Day Dresses.

Object name: The Eldridge Aunts’ Fashion Collection. Self-sufficiency and style in formal day dresses.

Related objects within the collection: This one dress pattern was made over and over again during the three decades 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Little changes like trims and the choice of fabric were made to the taste of these three farming sisters.

Main material/textile/fabric: Black silk crepe featuring tucks and gores to provide bust, waist, hip fit and skirt fullness. White cotton lace-edged neckline and two-coloured, black and white decorative buttons trim the bodice. The dress’ panelling may have been necessary to accommodate narrow width of the fabric then available.

Object Characteristics and description:

This generation of the Eldridge family was very clannish and very content with what they had, their own entertainment and company. They maintained the traditional lifestyle and values of using an innovative approach to problems and challenges. Each of the sisters was good at particular aspects of work and they stuck to those roles. For example, one did the outside work, another liked gardening and another was good at cooking and sewing.

These dresses hold the story of rural women making their mark on the land and nurturing their property for subsequent generations to continue to enjoy and grow. They contributed a continuity and stability to country regional life.

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details: The details are with listing 2005.2.1A

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.2.1D Object/sample Date: 1920/1930/1940

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Formal Day Dresses.

Object name: The Eldridge Aunts’ Fashion Collection. Self-sufficiency and style in formal day dresses.

Related objects within the collection: This one dress pattern was made over and over again during the three decades 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Little changes like trims and the choice of fabric were made to the taste of these three farming sisters.

Main material/textile/fabric: Black and white striped crepe lace-trimmed neckline and decorative centre front buttons.

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details: The details are with listing 2005.2.1A
The details of the Eldridge Aunts’ history was collected thanks to Barbara Eldridge and family of Noogee Terang.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.3.1 Object/sample Date: 1920s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.
Object category: Women’s Eveningwear.
Object name: Flapper cocktail party dress – Shimmery Black.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

This fashion treasure was spotted for Dorothy because her fashion collecting passions were shared by the staff at a local Antiques shop in Warrnambool, Victoria.

When this dress was offered to the shop they immediately thought that such a treasure would fit well into Dorothy’s collection. This flappers dress could have had a busy life from the 20s until 2003 when it came into Dorothy’s care.

Worn with a lot of flair, this dress was appreciated by the parade audience at Erskine House, Lorne and has been much appreciated at its subsequent presentations. Beading on black, delicate sheer silk crepe forms a spectacular contrast of matte and shine textures.

Black knee-length, typical straight waistedless silhouette, this dress is worn over matching black slip.

Decorated with beaded flower motifs and waist and hemline shimmering, waving flowing lines of beading. Slip on over head, vee front and back neck shape means fastenings are not required.

Western District regional connection, via the Antiques fashion lifecycle, which facilitates discarded and found items to be worn, conserved and reworn. This is a quality item, one of the best examples of classic 1920s evening styling in the collection, and is a stand-out piece.

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired: 2003
Found in Alternate Antiques. This store specialises in being involved with collectors and assisting them collect.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Flappers Cocktail Dress – 1920s
2005.3.1
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.3.2  

Object/sample Date: 1920s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.
Object Category: Women’s Eveningwear.


Main material/textile/fabric::

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:
Local Op Shop find transformed when worn at a parade at Colac. The jacket completed a very glamorous ensemble with a midnight blue evening sheath dress and included the stylish 1920s handbag given to Dorothy from Nell Lang’s collection. The jacket was much appreciated, shown by the enthusiastic audience applause.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Op Shop Treasure – 1920s
2005.3.2
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: *Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection*.

Collection owner: *Dorothy Nicol*.

Collection location: *Lismore, Victoria, Australia*.

Object/sample number: *2005.2.2*  
Object/sample Date: *1930s*

Collection type: *Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories*.

Object Category: *Women’s Day Wear*.

Object name: *Afternoon tea summer dress – Sky Blue*.

Main material/textile/fabric: *Sky blue printed woven fabric is used for the majority of the garment with a plain blue band at the hem*.

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description: 
Description includes –

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

*A view club group visited Dorothy at Lismore to enjoy her collection. After this visit, when family members enjoyed the Craig’s Hotel Ballarat parade, they donated this pretty dress to Dorothy. It made a welcome addition to the 1930s section of Dorothy’s collection.*

*The family brought this pretty spring floral dress to a “good home” in Dorothy’s collection.*

*A Ballarat family donated this dress of their mother’s because it was too pretty to throw out.*

Photographs: *S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving*

Date catalogued: *2004*

Cataloguer details: *S. Walsh, D. Nicol*
Afternoon tea dress – 1930s
2005.2.2
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.
Object/sample number: 2005.2.3
Object/sample Date: 1930s
Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.
Object Category: Women’s Day Wear.
Object name: Special daywear dress. High summer going out dress – Navy Blue.
Main visual feature/component: Bright coloured, soft silhouette.

Object Characteristics and description:

Printed silk chiffon weave – navy background, striking floral in realistic bright colours. The print is the most attractive and strong feature therefore not required additional trims except front buttons.

Cool dress worn over plain navy slip dress – soft fitted bodice with short puff sleeve – flared to a wide flowing hemline using panels/gores to create fit and fullness from the narrow fabrics of the time.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Visiting dress – 1930s
2005.2.3
Dorothy’s daughter-in-law’s grandmother
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.3.3

Object/sample Date: 1930s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Eveningwear.

Object name: Dress & gown of elegant simplicity of design – cream with gold pattern.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

Rescued on its way to the trash.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

Lounging and elegant dining at home this gown has a “V” neckline, relaxed flowing line.

Dorothy had bought the mannequin that this outfit was on. Without the mannequin this outfit was destined to be thrown out until Dorothy “adopted” it – saved for local enjoyment and the mannequin found a “good home” with Dorothy too.

This full length dress and coat ensemble was collected when Dorothy purchased the historical mannequin from a doll collection. Thoughts of using the fabric vanished when the outfit came back to life and has shone brightly on many a live mannequin at many of Dorothy’s parades.

Metallic brocade weave, full length and full skirted with dropped armhole bodice silhouette.

Features interesting metallic cord waist ties trimmed with braided balls at each end.
Dress and gown ensemble – 1930s
2005.3.3
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.3.4

Object/sample Date: 1930s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Eveningwear.

Object name: Elegant timeless evening wear – rich, warm red.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

The local Antique shop a treasure trove for the collector.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

Evening party after 5 wear red crepe, full length gown features a flounce of self fabric from left side front waist. Artificial flowers trim the top of flounce at waistline.

The local Antiques shop has a “want book” where collectors (buyers) and sellers can be matched up. The whole range of antiques is stocked but fashion holds their fascination and connecting buyers and sellers is their passion.

Through Dorothy’s quiet enthusiasm, the dealer’s and her staff’s interest and enthusiasm for clothing and fashion accessories has grown. Paul Sheedy from the shop has been involved in modelling for the parades which have given him the opportunity to wear and showcase items from his own collection including formal wear and his striking range of 1970s body shirts.

This example of support indicates Dorothy’s deep local involvement and the extent of the local championing of the collection.
Evening gown – 1930s
2005.3.4
From Alternate Antiques
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.3.5 Object/sample Date: 1930s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Eveningwear.

Object name: Float through the evening – Sheer Black with metallic gold hail spots.

Main material/textile/fabric: Glamorous evening wear.

Main visual feature/component: Full length gown with batwing full sleeves ideal style to show off the sparkling sheer spotted fabric.

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes – Black crepe body and black georgette sleeves metallic diamante sleeve spots. Belt with front metallic clasp.

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

Camperdown Op Shop – op shops such as this one are and have been a great resource for building Dorothy’s collection.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Evening gown, Op-shop treasure—1930s
2005.3.5
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.3.6

Object/sample Date: 1940s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Eveningwear.

Object name: The very latest in party “frocks”.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

Given by friends to Dorothy.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

Crinkle nylon in lustrous Turquoise blue – several layers of crinkle sheer fabric are supported on matching gathered petticoat. Structure and colour of dress are very eye-catching and negate the need for decorative trims. Top of bodice features a single layer of fabric giving an alluring rounded effect gathered then fitted into a midriff section. Gathered skirt and under bust gathering supply the fit and flow/movement of this dress.

Fabric: Textured/crinkle woven nylon (polyamide).

Colour: Turquoise blue.

Labelled Lucy Secor, a Melbourne designer and manufacturer.
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.2.4
Object/sample Date: 1940s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.
Object Category: Women’s Day wear.

Object name: Summer rock and roll square/barn dance/parties.
Related objects within the collection: Eldridge family.

Main material/textile/fabric: Gingham check black & white.

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Acquisition Details – Date acquired:
Eldridge family.

Credit – Donor Source:
Information regarding the involvement of Barbara Eldridge and family in Dorothy’s collection can be read in previous listings for styles #2005.2.1.A, B, C and D.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

Fitted bodice and full skirt, a typical silhouette of the Fashion of the New look era. With the growth of youth culture music and dancing entertainments were popular. Full skirts were very effective when dancers dipped, twirled and attempted more bold spinning movements and lifts of rock & roll and square dancing.

Gingham was a no fuss fabric that could produce diagonal/straight grain interesting effects easily when cut on the cross grain.

Colour – black and white check.

Fabric – Cotton gingham weave.

Cotton gingham in weave checks cut on cross in skirt make a good contrast. This dress would have had several stiffened/starched petticoats to support the simple construction.
Dance dress, gift from Barbara Eldridge – 1940s
2005.2.4
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.4.1
Object/sample Date: 1940s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.
Object Category: Women’s Bridal Wear.

Object name: Bridesmaid dress – full length gown.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:
Dawe family donated this gown and more information is featured in Case Studies Nos. 1 & 2 also from this family.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

Mid blue crepe. Gores and pleats spread widely for hem fullness.
Pleats are sewn in at and through waist line and hip and are left free to create fullness at front bodice and skirt full hemline.
Heavy silk crepe de chine weave drapes into an elegant silhouette.
Neckline shoulder details features midnight blue sequin and beaded design.
This gown was made in Ballarat by a dressmaker and has been passed through the family being “too good to throw away.” There is a copy of the newspaper item that recorded the wedding included.
TWO bridesmaids wearing frocks of heavenly blue French crepe, and a flower girl in a blue “Kate Greenaway” frock attended Daisy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Wm. Alexander, of “Kelvin Grove,” Skipton road, Skipton, at her marriage to Herbert Arthur (Dick), only son of the late Mr and Mrs J. C. Dawe, of Baringham, which was celebrated at St. Andrew’s Kirk, Ballarat, last Saturday by the Rev G. L. Johnson, of Skipton.

The lovely bridal gown was of very figured chiffon made on classical lines, the corderoy being trimmed with scallops and beaded in white. A veil of cut tulle with embroidered corners fell in soft folds from a collar of tulle over the long graceful train. A bouquet of raffia of white roses, cactus dahlias, chrysanthemums and crepe centre gladioli was carried.

Messes Janet and Ethel Dawe (sisters of the “groom”) were the bridesmaids. Their bouquets of pink gladioli, carnations and blue hydranges harmonized delightfully with their frocks which featured deep seqin beading and they wore little hats of blue flowers, ostrich feathers and soft veiling.

The bride’s sister, Joan, was over girl and wore a tiny hat to match her posy of pink and blue carnations.

The best man was Mr W. Alexander (A.I.P.) brother of the bride, and Mr L. Bandy (ex A.I.P.) was roomman.

Mr Alexander gave his daughter away and during the signing of the register Miss Lorna Bauich sang “O Promise Me.” Following the ceremony Mr. and Mrs Alexander entertained their guests at the Wattle where the soloists, “Because” and “My Hero” were sung by Miss Bauich. A special feature of the bridal table was the two-tier wedding cake, made by Mrs J. H. Walker, of Skipton, and decorated by the bride.

The bride’s sister wearing a black ensemble and matching felt hat, black accessories and a shoulder spray of pink Cecil Bunmer roses and blue delphiniums. A honeymoon motor tour of being enjoyed by the couple who are to make their future home at “Cragside,” Brandywine, Skipton. Per travelling the bride chose a mustard colored crepe frock embroidered with brown seqin, brown wool de Chine coat, hat and accessories and pinned to her coat was a shoulder spry in autumn shades.
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.4.2          Object/sample Date: 1940

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.
Object Category: Women’s Bridal Wear.

Object name: Elegant country wedding Post war soldier settler bride – ivory.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:
Purchased at Rockmans Department Store in Warrnambool.
Donated to Dorothy.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

Dorothy went to the soldier settler wedding where this gown was worn.
The Bride donated the gown to Dorothy after seeing her collection in the local newspaper and was pleased to find a good place at Dorothy’s to leave the gown where it would be appreciated and admired in the future rather than just being stored away.
Sheen of the satin comes to life when worn. Soft silk satin with all over floral lace overlay on bodice forming alluring unlined sleeves. Lace overlay forms a peplum shape at the front waist and flowing back skirt towards the train hemline, generously gathered at the back waist.
Sweetheart neckline, finger tip points at sleeves wrist edges are featured.
Buttoned at wrists and short neck placquet with small self covered buttons completes the gown’s trims.
Mortlake Bride, local family – 1940s
2005.4.2
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.2.5
Object/sample Date: 1940s – 1950s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.
Object Category: Women’s Day wear.

Object name: Shirt-maker style – green & white print.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:
Publicity of Dorothy’s collection reached Geelong so this family were pleased to find Dorothy’s collection as a place to donate past family heirlooms.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

A Geelong family was cleaning husband’s grandmother’s wardrobe, found and offered garments to Dorothy.

This dress is labelled –
Kenwall brand
Patricia fitting
All rayon (new man-made fibre)
The construction is machined, mass produced/ready to wear from a Department store range.
The style is button-through/from the neckline to the hemline through the centre-front. It is waisted and belted, bodice features a shirt or convertible collar. The generic style name is “shirt-maker”.
Shirtmaker style, Geelong family – 1950s
2005.2.5
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.4.3

Object/sample Date: 1947 & 1970

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Bridal wear.

Object name: Family History passes on with wedding gown—worn by two generations—mother and daughter.

Main material/textile/fabric: Rich gold pearl, fabric is a lustrous satin that is appliquéd and embossed, the front panel features crystals and embroidery, deep sleeve cuffs feature self fabric buttons and loops, the skirt forms a long draped train.

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor Source:

Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

This gown was worn by both mother and daughter at their weddings, then given to Dorothy.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Mother and daughter brides – 1947 & 1970
2005.4.3
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.3.7 Object/sample Date: 1948–1950

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women's Eveningwear.

Object name: Black moire taffeta evening dress.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

Fran Dickson at 94 years old, said to be frail and deaf but still was able to enter into a lively chat when reminiscing about her work as a Dressmaker in Lismore which was thriving nearly 50 years ago. Fran was interviewed by telephone and a handwritten letter from Mrs. Dickson is included.

Fran worked from a house and shop and in the post WWII heyday of country social life fashion demands, needed a couple of girls working for her. Even though the business went through the times of rationing and the use of coupons for dress fabrics and trims, sewing quality was high and the finish was good and thorough. Fran trained friends’ daughters to learn the dressmaking techniques and business and there was time for complex styles and detailed treatments of sewing. Fran enjoyed dressmaking and the excitement of glamorous and happy social times that the garments represented with this dress for Joyce. Fran remembers that Joyce had the ideas and always bought good quality fabrics and they collaborated on the details of the design together. Fran Dickson remembers that the growth in ready-made fashion was the end of an era for country dressmaking businesses like hers.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Lismore fashion: worn locally and produced locally – 1948
2005.3.7
Frances Dickson, dressmaker, remembers

Dear Sylvia,

I am sorry that I cannot remember any details re the black evening dress – it would be over fifty years ago and there were many Balls held then. Wishing you well.

Yours sincerely,
Joye Bennett
A Lasting Image made of Cloth: Masters Research Project. 2004

PUBLICITY/PUBLICATION RELEASE FORM

Please complete and return: To Sylvia Walsh
sylvia.walsh@rmit.edu.au; (email or mail as available.)

My/Our Contact Details:

Name:(title) FRANCES JANE DICKSON (M-)  

Company/Organization: HOME RESIDENCE

Address:

Email, Telephone and mobile: 03 55962123

PLEASE INDICATE BY CIRCLING AS APPROPRIATE:

I/We agree to be quoted and made reference to, with full acknowledgement, in the documentation concerned with the Masters Project of Sylvia Walsh for Rmit, following appropriate consultation and approval from me, prior to publication.

(YES / NO)

Signature/s: Frances J. Dickson

Date: July 5th, 2004

Comments: I was just a self taught sewer, born 1931. sewing was a necessity during the depression and during second world war. My children grew up in made over clothes and district mothers got me to “make over” for their children. Thankyou very much for your valuable cooperation.

In regard to Joyce Bennett’s frock in Dorothy’s collection, I was the local dressmaker by then. We think the frock was made in the late 1930’s for a ball here in Kynmore. Several balls a year were held, possibly the “Hospital Ball” was the most important. I’ll enclose some memories of sewing. I’m only too happy to help.
Dear Sylvia,

I'm sorry it took so long responding to your letter of June. I doubt if I have anything of interest to you, but a description of rearing in a small country village during the early part of last century. I was born in 1910.

By the way, I bought a copy of from flappers & flares when it came out, and interested in my own in law's cousin's wife's frock Page 10, and saw the frock at Dorothy's.

A brief outline of some memories of fashion while growing up.

My mother made our clothes on a treadle sewing machine, and liked to dress nicely within her means. I only remember my grandmothers in black dresses. I was the oldest grandchild on Mum's side.

Mum wore ankle length frocks. I and my friends wore black rock or stockings, even with white "Sunday" frocks. School frocks were very simple and durable. We wore black lace up boots. Some boys had white embroidery collars. Boys wore knicker-bockers, some times called apple catchers. Good shoes were made of patent leather. I think I wore a white embroidery pinapost the day I started school.

We had a main teacher most of my school days. The lady teachers, in grades 7 & 8, taught us sewing. We did some patches, knitted socks on four needles AND made a pair of white calico wide legged drawers. We button hole a scalloped edge in colored Doctors cotton on these. Bloomers were standard under wear about then (1922). I think I remember the lady teacher wearing lower waisted ankle length frocks, with golfer for warmth and hair in balled coils over their ears.

Main shopping trips were horse drawn vehicle to Wantirna. A few cars were around by this time. My best friends had teenage cousins in Melbourne and spent the Christmas holidays there. They would come back with the latest fashions.
Memories

Hair length was shorter and bobbed and shingled hair became the fashion. Wait lines dropped long strings of beads, flapped and of course we all did the Charleston and started wearing lipstick and rouge in the early twenties. Flapper Era, also Bras. Even bridal frocks were up to the knees.

Then the depression hit. Of necessity everyone who could, made their own clothes, remade what they could, and re-knitted jumpers - there were of real wool and didn’t “fill” a monthly magazine came out, with a paper pattern enclosed and I purchased them. I learned to sew by following the instructions with the patterns and used these patterns as a base for years. After we moved to Lismore, I attended a few weeks course a visiting lady did and learned to shift suits which was very valuable. I think the magazine may have been The Australian Home Journal.

I think generally women have always liked to dress as smartly as they were able. Always there would be some able to buy smart frocks and some who were careless. I hated to see a frock I’d taken great pains with, being trashed.

When I got married in 1933, wedding dresses were full length again. The second World War helped and the depression era, but scarcity of materials and coupons kept fashion, fairly simple. When the war finished and supplies became more plentiful the New Look came in, with longer and placed skirts, new materials, artificial silks, crepes, rayons etc were around. One was magnific, which strangely while there were sheath frocks and mini skirts.

Quilts Balls and other Balls became fashionable, quite full skirts with several layers underneath took hours to level, but the girls did look lovely.

A friend with two daughters keen to learn costume making
Memories

I built a very useful and convenient little work place for me to rent, if I'd teach his daughters to sew. They both became very proficient dress makers.

There was a large mirror in the fitting room and some clients just loved to turn and twist in front of it.

I was too slow to make money, and had three girls to supervise. Most clients were wonderful, some expected cheaper, more prices, one had a 40 inch waist.

My husband and family were a wonderful support. I worked in that building for about seven a eight years, then grandchildren began to arrive in Canberra and my husband had a big operation, so I more a less gave up dress making. I made wedding out fits for nieces, two of those frocks are still intact.

During those years, like all creative work there was agony and ecstasy.

Some highlights for me.

Seeing the pleasure, new borns with toddlers and who hadn't been to balls for while, having frocks made over or renovated at small cost.

One I was very happy with, lime green silk net, beaded bodice, flared skirt with graduated widths, tails graduated, distances apart, that skirt had to be allowed to drop before tails were finished. One evening dress for my daughter.

One of the smartest new evening frocks of black and gold silk, and black net. I had a lady who dressed smartly.

One niece's all cream wedding gown, It was a wet day.

The bride had a bouffant hair, lined and stiffened skirt, which gleamed on the dull day, as did the simple cassin on bridesmaid frock and frilled net flower girls frock.

The nicest material very fine woolen material.

Not scoring. Cutting scissors into lovely material.

Happy memory. Making bright yellow silk jacket & pants for a golden haired young woman, from scraps.

The best way to get a job done was to go to the clients home for a day.

Perhaps this is another side of the firmly cut some fashionable clothes.
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.3.8

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Eveningwear.

Object name: Paquita’s Mum’s Evening Ensemble – cream and gold.

Related objects within the collection: Paquita has written a story of this outfit’s history. An email message shows the connection through fashion of friendship between Dorothy’s friend/colleague Judie Irving and then to Dorothy.


Main visual feature/component: Glamorous Eveningwear – Hong Kong made-to-measure – sparkled at high fashion social and corporate events. At a time when overseas travel was becoming increasingly accessible and reasonably cheap for Australians, the oriental tailor was discovered. Originally, Singapore and Hong Kong offered travelling business, holiday, long-haul stopover, Aussies a treasure trove of exotic fabrics and trims, duty free prices and detailed workmanship. Asian fashion products of high quality had not been imported in any quantity into Australia yet. Made-to-measure clothing became a very popular and exciting purchase from Asia. Getting something uniquely styled, custom-made quickly and cheaply filled a traveller’s consuming shopping and fashion passions. This Evening wear ensemble features a long, fully-lined coat and matching Cheongsam dress. In silk brocade weave, the coat features oriental frog style fastenings and mandarin collar. As the trimming is economical the rich coloured and woven-textured fabric is ensured as the focal point.

Object characteristics and description:

Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

Donated by Paquita Lamacraft. Further history is described by Paquita and included.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Paquita’s Mum’s evening ensemble – 1940s
2005.3.8
Dearest Judie and Den

I too, think of you both so often and wonder when again we shall sit around your dining table and laugh together and for Den and I to pun while you make coffee in disgust at our nonsense!!!

Miss you both.

You will be pleased to know that the first chapters of a novel are about to go to a London publisher next week. Moments of truth are upon us. Have been writing and writing and, yes, characters are coming to me off into such interesting mixtures of history, fact and fiction.

I am still in Bergerac which I love. My friend from New Orleans came to visit and she will travel back to the UK with me Tuesday when the cold hard reality of finding somewhere to pay the bills becomes the primary goal. She will flit back to the US and hopefully help me sort out the co, plications of having stuff there I cannot access from here without a “man on the ground”

Now - my mother. What a lovely thing. Here is the story. My father was South East Asian Sales Manager for IBM and went to many many of their 100% Club Meetings which were always at exotic destinations. The first big overseas trip was to Bangkok and then to Hong Kong. I think the IBM meeting was in HK but they had friends in Thailand and combined the trip. My mother was so excited as it was her first overseas trip. She had just recovered from cancer, being their one living statistic for the extent of the cancer she had. She had a radium implant and I remember her hovering near death for some time. They came home jubilant and my mother had some lovely things. It was the start of a long running love affair with Hong Kong and every trip afterwards they would detour through the colony. Each time they again patronised Johnson Dong, the tailor. They sent many friends there and his business was expanding. By the time I met Johnson Dong himself he was a man of about 50 and now had an elegant suite right at the ferry wharf in Kowloon. I was treated like royalty for like all Chinese, he respected and never forgot their loyalty to his business. My mother wore these outfits to the Opera House in the early days when big events came to Sydney and I cannot recall but I think there was one that was gold and white - she wore that for my debut ball at Sydney University - a very grand affair. My Dad wore his military evening kit with the turquoise cummabund (sp?) of the Intelligence Corp. I thought they were the handsomest parents in the place!

Hope that helps

Any more let me know. Still paying extortionate costs for the internet here so must tootle off.

Hugs and kisses and loads of misses

Paquita

If you are talking to David send him big warm hugs from me...

Provided by Judie Irving – detail of the oriental ensemble – Terang.
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.2.6 Object/sample Date: 1950s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Day wear.

Object name: Summer dress in the newest of modern fabrics – lemon yellow.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:
Dorothy found this dress in the “dress-up” box at the op shop and was attracted to the fabric.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

Full skirted crispness relies on the nature/characteristic of the nylon and plisse fabric finish treatment. The dimensions of unpressed pleats also adds to the full skirted silhouette. Held in at the waist with a wide cinch belt.

Nylon plisse fabric modern and young – easy care, wash and wear.

Separate elasticised belt “cinched” the waistline typical of 1950s dresses. Simple shapes, simple sewing.

Full skirt and relaxed fit reflects abundant use of fabric possible from the end of the 1940s after wartime (WWII) fabric restrictions.
“Miracle” fabric, nylon – 1950s
2005.2.6
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.4.4

Object/sample Date: 1959

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Bridal Wear.

Object name: Summer Bride – Fresh, young look at the sunny wattle flower.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Fabric story: this is a very interesting fabric both visually, technically and historically. There are two layers of cotton voile and cotton plain weave, lining throughout. The fabric retains some of its original crispness of handle. The overall background colour is white with a transparency that is the nature of a light weight fabric such as voile. The feature embellishment treatment is machine embroidery following a realistic pattern and colour way. The motifs are bright yellow and clear green representing wattle flower sprigs. The fabric was purchased from the prestigious, up-market Department Store, Georges, in Collins Street, Melbourne. The fabric is the same that was used in a dress worn by the young Queen Elizabeth when she opened government in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

The garment design: this is a personal adaptation of the then current styling by the bride with the dressmaker. The knee-length, full-skirted silhouette, popular for women’s day wear was an interesting departure from the floor-length, traditional Wedding gown. Double layers of the main fabric plus lining helps the highly gathered skirt stand out from the body in the fashionable way. The dress features a fitted, belted waistline also popular and fashionable, garment and figure shape of the time. The boat-neckline of the dart fitted bodice is balanced with elbow length fitted sleeves to complete the dress shape that is recognised as the 1950s.

The trims: this dress has a metal zipper centre-back fastening at a time when plastic zippers were not so available and accepted. The waistline is finished and adjusted with a narrow self-fabric belt.

Garment construction: reflects the work of the professional dressmaker Mrs. Winifred Mott, then of Seaforf, Victoria and is to a high technical and aesthetic standard. The simple styling and construction relies on the unusual fabric to make the dress’ visual and functional impact.

This garment was included in the original Flappers to Flares collection. It is listed again with the added information and contact there has been with Judie Irving and Mrs. Winifred Mott.
RSL Fashion Parade At Seaford

A One-Woman Achievement

From the time the two tiny page-girls marched smartly towards the huge frame which centred the stage of the Seaford Theatre, “Fashions of Today and Tomorrow,” presented by the ladies’ auxiliary of the Seaford R.S.L. on Monday last was a triumph.

In her opening speech, Veronese Irving (who appeared by permission of the Council of Adult Education) stressed the amazing fact that every one of the 160 garments to be modelled was fashioned by one pair of hands, those of Mrs. W. Mott, who is president of the auxiliary.

Men in the audience were entranced by lovely young women in colorful garments, but the women saw farther than that. They saw the incredible amount of handwork which had gone into the design and making of the garments, each one so carefully made and so expertly designed.

The audience which filled the Seaford Theatre was enthusiastic in their applause, as well as they might be, for a parade of this particular character has never before been seen on the Peninsula.

Among the notabilities present were the State President of the R.S.L. and Mrs. Wilson, with their daughter and son-in-law; the assistant secretary and Mrs. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. C. and Mrs. G. W. Harrenger, Dr. and Mrs. John Askew, the shire president and Mrs. Frouder, Mr. and Mrs. Coates, and Mrs. Cocks, all forgetting Mr. and Mrs. Lang, of Cyrrum, whose generosity did much to help the effort.

A delightful supper prepared by ladies of the auxiliary rounded off a memorable evening for which these respectable nuns felt justly proud.

Helping others reaps rewards

By JULIA MEDWEC

AS ONE OF 321 Australians receiving an Order of Australia Medal, 92-year-old Winifred Mott said she was not quite sure how to handle the honour.

“It seems out of this world to me. I just hope I can handle the situation with grace,” the former dressmaker said yesterday.

Mrs. Mott, who has hosted fashion parades in her Mount Eliza home to raise money for charities for more than 40 years, said she was concerned about being thrust into the limelight.

“I've been behind the scenes all my life. When you're sewing behind the scenes and you run the fashion parades you're behind the scenes,” she said.

Mott said her extensive collection of lace and dresses, with donations by the likes of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch and the late Sir Rupert Hamer, has attracted many viewers.
Dear Sylvia

It was interesting to find myself listed in the book you sent. When Sally read it out to me it brought back many lovely memories, as making wedding gowns was a specialty in my life. To have an Irving one was special so I thought to have the newspaper clipping copied for you. An interesting detail of the Ivings – Veranne Irving came out to Australia as the Secretary of Garnet Carroll (of theatre fame). Her husband Phillip Irving had a sister Beatrice who married Cas Woinarski, Vice President of the Seafood RSL, hence the interest in my parade. It was a great time as the President, my husband, built a proscenium and T shaped walk over some of the seats in the theatre and a noted commercial artist painted a grape arbor from which the models walked onto the stage and along the walk. The RSL men folk were as interested as the ladies in the whole procedure. The occasion even listed a mention in a London paper.

I hope you will bring those girls down at some time in the near future, as I’d love to meet them. Weekends are fine for an appointment.

Yours Sincerely

Winifred Mott
Judie Irving’s wedding dress – 1959
2005.4.4
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.4.5  
Object/sample Date: 1963

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Bridal Wear.

Object name: Fabric texture and detail enhances simple styling – bright white.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

Purchased at Rockman’s Department Store in Warrnambool.

Donated to Dorothy.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

Originally worn at a time when people moved to the country to work not retire or move away to work as is more the case currently.

Dawn Grant was the local kinder teacher. On moving to work in Lismore Dawn met and married a local man. Now after their retirement, they have moved to Ballarat. This wedding attracted a lot of local interest since the local kinder teacher was well known and liked.

Dorothy has the husband’s wedding outfit too.

Complete overlay of silk organdie satin has stitched floral motif scattered all over. Overlay forms long full train at back skirt and wraps over from side front panels.

Sheer sleeves but is otherwise fully lined. Waisted silhouette with centre-front floral appliqué waist treatment.
Local kindergarten teacher’s wedding dress – 1963  
2005.4.5
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.2.7  
Object/sample Date: 1960s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Day Wear.

Object name: Yellow dress and coat, very mini.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

From the Australian Kenneth Pirie House – leading Melbourne/Australian “groovy” fashion designer label.
Found at Alternate Antiques, Warrnambool.
Donated to Dorothy.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

Complete ensemble included – textured stockings and clunky shoes – pumps to match outfit’s yellow and a small boxy handbag would also match, a small neat hat or a fascinator (small veil) might also complete the look.

Labelled – ss worms size woman.

Mary Quant/Carnaby Street London look designs influence this styling.

Pure wool with self fabric collar and neckline edge frills.

Self covered buttons, fully lined coat features pintucks on front bodice.

Originally a “Going away outfit” the donor reported that the choice of such a bright cheerful yellow, as an outfit for a bride to leave her wedding reception and “go away” on a honeymoon and then start a new life, implies cheerful promise of blossoming youthful, married life.

This is an important dress within the collection because Kenneth Pirie was a major Australian mod and youthquake designer. He was a peer of Prue Acton and Norma Tullo, although people tend to remember only Acton now in any detail and forget the talented Tullo and Pirie.
Mini dress and coat ensemble – 1960-70s
*Kenneth Pirrie* fashion label
2005.2.7
This full-length, fully lined gown is of an allover beaded fabric. The gown features:
Simple Evening dress sheath silhouette with scoop neckline, narrow shoulder straps and narrow silhouette.
At this time, simplicity of the shape and construction allowed the spectacular beaded fabric to be the focal point of this style of this stunning evening dress.
Beaded evening gown – 1960s
Alternate Antiques find
2005.3.9
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.3.10

Object/sample Date: 1969-1970

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Eveningwear.

Object name: Bright canary yellow pants suit. Evening, special occasion pant suit.

Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Bought as part of the Wedding Trousseaux – Special after marriage wardrobes were brought so new wives could start up married life well dressed. This glamorous example was bought in North Adelaide and the purchase carefully considered.

Dance the ‘Stomp’, ‘hitchhiker’ and ‘go go’ at the disco is part of the style context. The wearing of pants in this type of dressy/formal outfit was acceptable at a time when pants wearing, for women did not always meet the official dress code.

Outfits such as these were revolutionary. Pants suits of this type stimulate many happy memories for parade audiences.

Gasps of disbelief as well – at the popular combination bright colour, very wide pants, tunic and high platform shoes.

The top is a hip-length mini dress of lace with plain yellow underneath.

A half belt buttons from side front across back. The pants are wide and flared. The outfit shows a high standard of commercial manufacture.

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

The past owner Lynn Stammberger was happy to donate this outfit to Dorothy containing her happy memories.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Gift from the trousseau of Lynn Stammberger
2005.3.10
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.2.8
Object/sample Date: 1970

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.
Object Category: Women’s Day Wear.

Object name: Flares/mini/micro era 1970s – She is a mod in aqua crochet with “see-through” waistline treatment.

Main material/textile/fabric:
Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:
Originally worn by Jane Savage.
Jane’s mother-in-law Claire, of Lismore, facilitated this dress’ move to Dorothy’s collection.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
Micro-mini “mod” era fashion – 1970s
Gift of Jane Savage
2005.2.8
A Lasting Image made of Cloth: Masters Research Project. 2004

PUBLICITY/PUBLICATION RELEASE FORM

Please complete and return: To Sylvia Walsh
sylvia.walsh@rmit.edu.au; (email or mail as available.)

My/Our Contact Details
Name:(title)

Company/Organization:

Address:

Email, Telephone and mobile:

PLEASE INDICATE BY CIRCLING AS APPROPRIATE:

I/We agree to be quoted and made reference to, with full acknowledgement, in the documentation concerned with the Masters Project of Sylvia Walsh for Rmit, following appropriate consultation and approval from me, prior to publication.

YES / NO

Signature/s:

Date:

22/6/04

Comments:

P.T.O.

Thankyou very much for your valuable cooperation.
60's Crochet dress—
Created in 1968 from a 'send away for' magazine pattern.
Maker of the dress—
Isabel Kelleff — farmer's wife.
from Tongala in Northern Vic.

I wore this dress when it was made—
with thin black strap sandals.
Later with front lacing bone knee
high suede boots and a black
curly wig. (I had waist length hair at the time)

I reused the dress a decade later
in the very late 70's/80's when punk was
in vogue. It was whilst wearing this dress
I met the father of my children. We are
still together. He said it was love at first sight.
Dresses have great powers.
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.2.9  
Object/sample Date: 1970

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women's Day Wear.


Main material/textile/fabric:

Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details:

Trimmings:

Dimensions and size:

Label:

Maker:

Condition:

Care and conservation requirement:

Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:

The op shop. Donated and rescued caftans 1970.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

The caftan was a strange item of dress for male and female adopted from traditional folk costume and favoured by hippy types.

Dorothy's selection, when shown at the Colac parade, inspired a combination of groans and amusement.

To quote “It was pretty outrageous for me to wear caftans” but how many of the Lismore region's fashion conscious men and women went out or relaxed at home in a caftan—an entertaining fashion trend, even in the city.

The fabric used for caftans was often the main feature of an extremely simple silhouette cut/designer garment. Border prints and ethnic motifs were very popular. Simple sewing was all that was needed to create floating/flowing lines that need not fit the wearer very well—these garments were often copies of middle eastern and Indian traditional costumes.
Caftans – 1970s
2005.2.9
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.
Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.
Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.
Object/sample number: 2005.4.6
Object/sample Date: 1970s
Object Category: Women’s Bridal Wear.
Object name: Pink Bridesmaid ensemble – local family wedding.

Main material/textile/fabric:
Main visual feature/component:

Object Characteristics and description:
Description includes –
Material details:
Trimmings:
Dimensions and size:
Label:
Maker:
Condition:
Care and conservation requirement:
Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context:
Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired:
Local family member was the bridesmaid.

Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving
Date catalogued: 2004
Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol

This bright pretty ensemble includes a wide brimmed “picture” hat. The dress and hat are both trimmed with matching pink flowers. Full length gown, full skirted, fitted and draped bodice and neckline.

Margaret McBean and her mother Alison McBean are the contacts for this outfit.

Alison preserved and presented the outfit of full length, full skirted dress and soft wide brimmed hat to Dorothy on her daughter Margaret’s behalf.

Margaret remembers that Katies store in Bourke street Melbourne was where the 1982 purchase was made. Margaret wore this outfit at the March 6th wedding 1982 when she was her friend’s Bridesmaid. The Bride was Diane Lowe and she married Anthony Glover. Diane and Margaret were both originally from Lismore and the wedding was held in Melbourne at the Hughesdale Anglican church.

Margaret and Diane have enthusiastically shared their memories for publishing in this catalogue.
Local Bridesmaid's outfit – 1970s
Fabulous sparkle of luscious polyester chiffon
2005.4.6
Collection Identification details –

Collection name: Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection.

Collection owner: Dorothy Nicol.

Collection location: Lismore, Victoria, Australia.

Object/sample number: 2005.4.7  
Object/sample Date: 1980s

Collection type: Historic Fashion Garments and Accessories.

Object Category: Women’s Bridal Wear.

Object name: Replicating the magic of the fairy princess wedding. Princess Diana wedding gown – pearly white. Worn by mysterious glamorous bride.

Main material/textile/fabric: Heavy Duchess satin, full many-layered skirt with an overlay of lace rose motif on the bodice extending to the unlined sleeves. Self buttons and loops fasten at wrist and back bodice.

Main visual feature/component: Self fabric satin roses and puffed frills decorate the shoulders.

Object Characteristics and description:

Description includes –

Material details: This gown was rescued and renovated under Dorothy's care to star on the catwalk at the grand finale of her many recent parades. At the Flappers to Flares presentation at Erskine House, Lorne, this gown captivated the audience drawing gasps of admiration yet only a short time earlier the same gown was a sorry sight.

Trimmings: Bundled up very unceremoniously in garbage bags, it was delivered to RMIT Fashion and Textiles Brunswick. RMIT Brunswick was the ideal place to deliver these bags where the researcher was able to pass them on to the skillful attention of Patrick Quinlan.

Dimensions and size: Heavy Duchess satin, full many-layered skirt with an overlay of lace rose motif on the bodice extending to the unlined sleeves. Self buttons and loops fasten at wrist and back bodice.

Label: Self fabric satin roses and puffed frills decorate the shoulders.

Maker: This gown is seamed and darted to fit the body, highly structured and would command an elegant posture from the wearer, largely because of its weight and train from the side waist to the centre back hem would demand care when the wearer moved.

Condition: The RMIT Dry Cleaning specialist facility is of national repute. The resources applied to this gown totally revived what had been a grubby op-shop discard.

Care and conservation requirement: Details of the wearer/owner/cultural context: Photographs: S. Walsh, C. Lang, J. Irving

Credit – Donor/Source: Acquisition Details – Date acquired: Bought from an op-shop in Ballarat in Central Victoria by Dorothy.

Date catalogued: 2004

Cataloguer details: S. Walsh, D. Nicol
“Princess Diana” Bride's gown – 1980s
Rescued and magically renovated
2005.4.7
A Lasting Image Made of Cloth
The Dorothy Nicol Historic Fashion Collection

Appendix
Version 1 Print Catalogue 2000
From Flappers to Flares – Six Decades of Fashion
Ready for *Flappers to Flares* parade at Rosebank, Terang, Victoria February 2000
Preparing for Erskine House Parade, Lorne, Victoria.
Selected display history.
Collection parades – Rosebank, Terang, 2000; Craig’s, Ballarat 2001; Windsor, Melbourne, 2002.

Craig’s Hotel 2002.
Lismore resident Dorothy Nicol holds a 1960’s polyester chiffon v neck, floral print gown from the House of Franke Stuart and a pink chiffon gown with pink guipere lace bodice, worn in the 1980’s that will be among the gowns modelled in the Flappers to Flares, Glamour Night.

Masonic lodge hordes fashion history