

Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc. NEWSLETTER



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Series 10. No. 5 October 2002

All mail to be addressed to P.O. Box 272 Mitcham 3132 - Museum Telephone 9873 4946

From the President

At the Annual Meeting in August, unfortunately two committee members retired – Barbara Keene who has served as President, Secretary, and Committee member and a diligent member of the Wednesday working group and Claire Kelly who assist on Tuesday evenings in scanning photos. Fortunately for us, these two members will continue with their tasks. June Ventouras and Vicki Jones-Evans, both members of the Wednesday Working Group have consented to join the committee and we welcome them.

“Fashions Through the Ages” was a great success. Eighty people enjoyed a beautiful parade. Thanks to Barbara Rogalski for donating a painting of the Cottage as a raffle prize. Thanks to all who helped especially the Nunawading Arts Council for its sponsorship.

The Governor appreciated all he saw at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex. Thanks to those who had everything sparkling for his visit.

Doug Livermore, speaking at the August meeting told us of the importance of horses in orchard work and that coolstores were important meeting places for orchardists. Doug and his family moved from Vermont to Avonsleigh where he now grows kiwi fruit.

Remember the Wisteria Party Garden on Sunday 6th October from 2 – 4pm and also Sunday 20th October when we will have a display at the Whitehorse Spring Festival. Help is wanted for these two events.

At the next meeting on Saturday 12th October at 1.30 pm we look forward to welcoming Rachel Faggetter, who will speak on her “Recollection and Memories of Schwerkolt Cottage and Garden”. Rachel’s mother Pat was instrumental in designing the gardens surrounding the Cottage.

I look forward to seeing you at these coming events.

I would also like to welcome Russell Hannan of Blackburn as a new member of the Society.

Judith Fry.

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Saturday 12th October at 1.30pm. October General Meeting. Our guest speaker will be Rachel Faggetter who will speak on “Recollection and Memories of Schwerkolt Cottage and Garden” Rachel is the daughter of Pat Faggetter who was very involved in the acquisition and refurbishing of Schwerkolt Cottage and the gardens surrounding them.

Wisteria Garden Party – Sunday 6th October 2-4 pm. “A Magical Day for the Children” at Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham. Keep this date free and bring along the children and grandchildren for an enjoyable day and see the spring garden and Wisteria. Attractions for the children – Brumbies Bush Band, Magician with Balloon Animals, Hula Hoops, Treasure Hunt, Drawing and Play Dough, Face Painting, and Bubbles everywhere!

A Visit to Yarra Park Costume Collection, Sunday October 27th at 39 Greenaway Street, Bulleen – 1.30 pm. Cost \$5. This collection is highly recommended by members who were delighted on a recent visit. Proceeds will be given into our funds, courtesy of Mrs. Loel Thomson. Please ring Valda Arrowsmith 9874 1414 or Barbara Gardiner on 9874 6592 by October 23rd if transport required. Greenaway Street is off Manningham Road, on the left just past the Bulleen Road intersection. Mel Ref 32 D6.

Whitehorse Spring Community Festival - Sunday 20th October 10am to 4 pm
The Society will be displaying artefacts and photographs and will need help to staff the display. Ring Judith Fry on 9874 4220 if you are available for an hour or two.

PLEASE REMEMBER

December General Meeting and Christmas Luncheon. Saturday 14th December at 12 noon followed by the General meeting. We will have lunch together. Please bring lunch to share.

Working Bee. Saturday, November 9th. 9.30am
Please come along and help clean up. One hour would help, longer if you can. A good attendance will shorten the time needed.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Society is to foster historical interest and knowledge. To collect, document, research, preserve and exhibit items that show how people have lived and worked in the development of the Whitehorse area from human settlement to the present day.

VALE Walter Jack

We are saddened by the death of Walter Jack, the last surviving grandson of August Schwerkolt, who died at his home in Pittsburgh, U.S.A. on August 21st 2002.

Walter was the only child of Mary, daughter of August Schwerkolt and his second wife Wilhelmina. Mary was born in Schwerkolt Cottage in 1887. After her mother died in 1900, Wilhelmina took Mary and her brother to the U.S.A. so that she could care for her brother who lived there.

Mary outlived her mother and brother who both died in 1903 and she inherited the Cottage, which the Nunawading Council purchased from her in 1964.

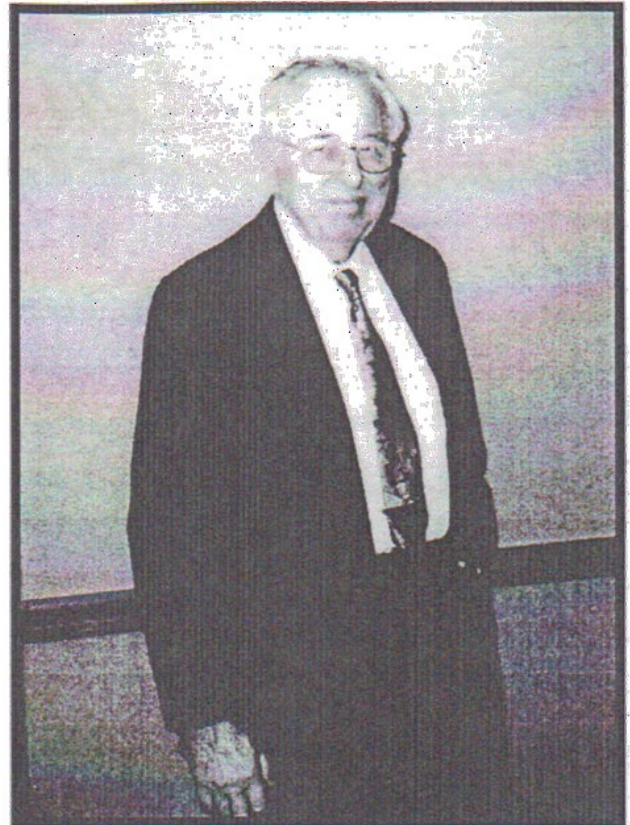
She married a German seaman Jacksowsky in 1912 and they were on their way to Australia and the Cottage in 1914 via Germany when war broke out he was conscripted into the army while she had to fend for herself. They survived the war. Walter was born in Berlin on 25 September 1919. It took until 1922 for them to be able to return to the U.S.A. where they settled in Pittsburgh.

Walter grew up there and became a manufacturing engineer and worked for Westinghouse Electric for 43 years and was a WW2 veteran. He married Sally Postlewaite in 1944 and they had four daughters. Sally died in 1968 and Walter married Marie Stafford in 1970.

In 1990 Walter and Marie visited Australia and Schwerkolt Cottage in particular and they were so thrilled to see the efforts of his grandfather being so carefully and lovingly preserved. He had taken an active interest ever since and we have been grateful for the donations he has made.

He was very much a gentleman - honest, loyal, dependable, frugal and supportive and loved his family, nature and his garden. He was blessed with a beautiful singing voice and was much in demand as a soloist at his church. He also enjoyed repairing things and Marie now has a basement full of "treasure" to sort through! He is survived by his wife Marie and his four married daughters and seventeen grandchildren.

From Rosalie Whalen, great granddaughter of August Schwerkolt and a member of our Society.



WALTER JACK April 1999

August Schwerkolt and his Legacy.

The above is the interim title to a booklet that has been researched and written by Ted Arrowsmith from information available in the Society's records and with the assistance of Society members, in particular Rosalie Whalen, great granddaughter of August Schwerkolt. The Whitehorse Council has made a Community Grant to the Society of \$4,500 to publish this booklet.

It is hoped that the booklet will be available at the Heritage Festival in April, 2003

From the Treasurer

Thank you to all members who have paid their fees so promptly, also for the generous donations. Just a reminder that that our fees were due in August.

Barbara Rogalski

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3158	Items catalogued
Documents	3953	Items catalogued
Photographs	2700	Items catalogued

Visit of Governor John Landy, AC, MBE.

The Governor of Victoria, John Landy, AC, MB. was accompanied by Cr. Robert Chong, O.A.M., Mayor of City of Whitehorse arrived at Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex at 10 am on Monday 9th September, 2002 and was greeted by our President, Judith Fry and President of Box Hill Historical Society, William Orange.

The Governor viewed the Cottage, Outbuildings and Cellar with great interest, and was then introduced to members of both societies and local residents who were assembled in the Local History Room. He mingled and chatted with the guests and was presented with a gift of books, "Windows on Nunawading" and "Box Hill". The Governor was impressed with the Museum and the whole collection and expressed his belief of the importance of preserving our heritage and of the contribution of volunteers in this important task.



The Governor, Mr. John Landy, viewing the Lace Collection in the Museum, accompanied by the Mayor, Cr. Robert Chong, O.A.M. and the Presidents' of the Box Hill, and the Nunawading and District Historical Societies.



The Governor inspecting the Barn.



Fashion Through the Ages.

What a great afternoon – 80 plus people enjoyed on Saturday Afternoon on 31st August the "The Fashion Through the Ages" group. Led by Netta Fuller they showed us over 40 fashion ensembles from the 1850s to the more recent times. These ranged from wedding dresses to neck to knee bathers and all items fascinated those of us in the audience.

This event was sponsored by a grant from the Nunawading Arts Council and the Society wishes to express its grateful thanks to the Arts Council. Thanks also to Barbara Rogalski for her donation of a painting of the Schwerkolt Cottage as a raffle prize.

Almost \$1,000 was raised and with our imminent (we hope!) extension to the Local History Room and Museum we will now be able to purchase the extras required, such as shelving or more desks or another computer or display cases etc. Whatever is deemed to be more urgent.

Barbara Keene

NEWSLETTER POSTAGE

Following a query that some newsletters received by members are stamped "insufficient postage". Val Riches checked with Mitcham Post Office who assured her that as we pay for bulk postage no stamp is necessary, and no member should be required to pay extra. Please advise the Editors if there is a problem.

Please Note.

The accounts presented to the A.G.M. in August have been audited by Ken Barelli without charge. Thank you Ken!

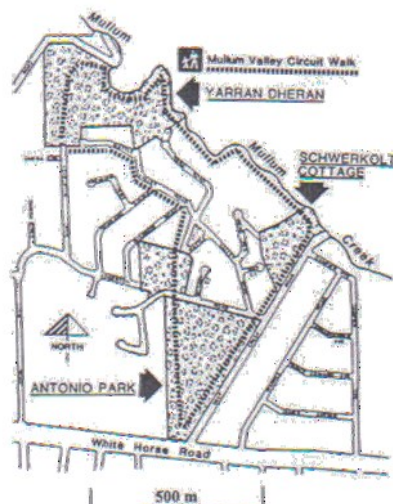
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Our Society on the Internet.

www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/



Melway Ref. 49 D7



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 Museum Accreditation Program*

Mr Mr Mr
 Accredited Museum

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James Cowley Morgan Fisher and Family.

Fisher is centre back row with wife Emma (nee Kefford) second from left in middle row. Photo includes four of their children and Rintel relatives. c.1890. The photo was kindly loaned for copying by Guy Featherstone.

Fisher, sometimes known as "The Nunawading Messiah" led a small millenarian sect "The Church of the Firstborn" from 1862, moving to Western Australia in 1904.

Accusations of polygamy and fraud, launched in 1871, were brought some notoriety, which faded after charges were dismissed.

***Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc.
 Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.***

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