

Nunawading and District Historical Society Inc. NEWSLETTER



A0012235J ABN 44 352 041 634
Series 10. No. 6 December, 2002

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

From the President

Yes the extension has started! When we met the contractor he said he would start on Monday 18th November and on the Monday the work commenced. On Wednesday the regular working group had to roll their sleeves and get their muscles to work moving files, boxes, furniture, etc to clear the west wall to allow access for the contractor. Thank you all for your efforts and also to Whitehorse Council who arranged for the moving of our large display case into the Museum.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to have our December and February meetings in the Local History Room. We have booked the Forster Hall at Christ Church Anglican Church, in Edward Street. There is ample parking in the multi deck car park. As we have learnt in life we can't have everything and in this case the inconvenience will justify the end product.

Some of you using the parkland surrounding the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex may have noticed that the public toilets have been kept locked. The Whitehorse Council, in their wisdom have decided on this course following complaints of inappropriate behaviour at this location.

A big thank you to all who helped out at the working bee. We covered a lot of cleaning in the Cottage, Museum, kitchen and the implement areas.

The Wisteria Party was its usual success with lots of fairies, elves and magicians joining in the fun. Large quantities of fairy bread and cordial helped to keep spirits high.

The Whitehorse Spring Festival was again a success. Unfortunately our little nook, being off the beaten track, was not well patronized. Thanks to all who helped at these activities.

Those who visited the "Yarra Park Costume Collection" were most impressed and a few tips for future presentation were picked up.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish all Historical Society members and their friends a Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you on Saturday 14th December for lunch at 12 noon and the meeting at 1.30pm in the Forster Hall of the Anglican Church on the corner of Whitehorse Road and Edward Street.

Judith Fry

IMPORTANT NOTICE

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING and CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday 14th December at 12 noon in the Forster Hall at the Anglican Church Complex, Edward Street, Mitcham. **PARKING** is available in the Multi-deck car park in Edward Street.

Please bring a lunch to share. At the General Meeting at 1.30pm our speaker at will be Norm Foote. His subject will be Australian Poetry.

Note. The February meeting will also be held at the above location on Saturday 8th February at 1.30pm. Our speaker will be the Mayor of our City, Cr. Robert Chong, O.A.M.

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.

Visit to Westgarthtown

Some members of the Society, invited by Lois Binnie and Julie Jones of the Whitehorse Council, went on an visit to the early German settlement located in today's Thomastown on 8th October.

William Westgarth, a prominent local merchant in the 1840s and 1850s, encouraged the immigration of about 900 Wendish German farmers to Victoria between 1848 and 1851. He assisted with their naturalisation so that they could purchase land – about 800 acres at one pound an acre was purchased. They built farmhouses and sheds, a school and church from local bluestone, and a number of these buildings, a sizeable graveyard and extensive drystone walls survive today.

The Lutheran church is small, seating about 40, very plainly finished and equipped with a handsome reed organ. It is the oldest operating Lutheran church in Australia, having opened in 1856. Services are still held, on two Sundays a month. Irma Hatty, one of the Friends of Westgarthtown, spoke to us about the church and her childhood recollections of the parishioners and their activities.

Ellen Mitchell guided us around the site, which included the reconstructed Maltzahn house, used as a community centre, the Wuchsatsch farmhouse, still occupied by the family, the Siebel farmhouse, also in private hands, and the Ziebell farmhouse, owned by the City of Whittlesea, which has undergone extensive renovation and is open to the public, together with its outbuildings and attractive garden. These are all very substantial dwellings, contrasting with the relatively modest cottage built by August Schwerkolt.

We also visited the cemetery, on church land on the corner of German Lane and Gardenia Road, which is in good condition. Many of the headstones are elaborately inscribed in German. Although surrounded by ordinary suburban houses, the church land remains open, with a creek running through it. We were told that it may be acquired by the City of Whittlesea in the future, and that attempts to acquire the land for a retirement village and other developments have been repelled!

We greatly appreciated Ellen's guidance and informative commentary, as well as the warm hospitality offered to us – especially welcome on a cold and windy day!

Peter Simmenauer



Interior St Johns Church Westgarthtown



St John's Church Westgarthtown from the Cemetery

Wisteria Garden Party

Another beautiful day for this 'Magical Day for the Children', with many of the children arriving in costume – they looked stunning. We had many fairies and wizards and other interesting costumes.. The Wisteria was looking its most beautiful and everyone seemed to be having a great time – the magician was so busy making balloon animals, he didn't have time for any magic! The Brumbies entertained in their usual style, and the children seemed to enjoy the drawing, the playdough, the Hula Hoops and the Balloon machine was a great hit with all ages.

Thank you to all members who helped on the day – we could not run a function like this without your help.

Barbara Gardiner



*Children enjoying the fun at the Wisteria Party.
Photo by Joy Suto*

Yarra Park Costume Collection Visit

Twenty members and friends visited this wonderful collection and all were enchanted - this private collection has to be seen to be believed, with costumes and accessories from 18th century into the 20th century, all beautifully displayed. Our thanks to our generous hostess, Mrs Loel Thomson. We raised one hundred dollars which will help in future displays in our newly extended museum.

Research by our members.

Frances Warren has researched the history of some pharmacies in our area. This Newsletter includes the result which you will agree is interesting. We have reprinted her work for your information.

PHARMACIES of MITCHAM and DISTRICT.

The first pharmacy in Mitcham was started in 1924 by Pharmacist, Mr. Allan. It was called Allan's Dispensary at 546 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, (south side). Mr. Allan did the dispensing in a wheel chair - Mrs. Allan tended the shop. It was a residential Pharmacy with a dwelling on the west side of the shop and a garden in front of the house.

The shop had glass cupboards all around the shop walls with a glass counter. There was a large sign on the back wall that said "Dispensary". In those days all prescriptions were written by the doctor and prepared by the pharmacist - "nothing off the shelf". The first prescription was written by Dr. Langley of Ringwood on 24 May 1924. Other prescriptions were written by Dr. Craig of Box Hill, Dr. Forsyth of Surrey Hills, Dr. Cochrane, Mitcham, Dr. Liebert, Mitcham and Dr. Lempriere who lived in Terrara Road, Vermont.

Some entries in the first prescription book were:

Baby Johns "Martin"	12 -10 - 25	Dr. Forsyth
Baby Johns	13 -12 - 25	Dr. Forsyth
Elvie Johns	21 - 2 - 26	
Martin Johns	- - - - 26	Dr. Liebert

In 1936, Mr. Keith Wellington and Mrs. Dorothy Wellington took over the business. They were both pharmacists and continued the business for the next 20 years. During the Second World War, Mr. Wellington started the A.R.P. (Air Raid Precautions) and also the V.D.C. (Voluntary Defence Corp), he was a Commissioner in the Boy Scouts and was known as "the Duke". He also worked with the Men's group at Christ Church, Mitcham. Mr. Wellington started a chemist shop in Vermont in 1959, it was managed by Mr. Parks until Mr. Wellington, for health reasons, had to give up the shop in Mitcham, when Mr Parks purchased the Vermont Pharmacy.

Mr. John and Mrs. Pam Sharwood bought the the Mitcham Pharmacy and set about renovating the shop by incorporating the residence and garden into the shop and building a walk way through to Quality Way. During this time Mrs Twiddy, wife of Dr. Twiddy, worked in the pharmacy. In 2002 there is now a Travel Agency in the original shop on the east side and a barber's shop on the west side and an M.S. Opportunity Shop (closed in 2001) in the former pharmacy. John worked with the local clubs, the Youth Club at Christ Church etc. In 1991 John and Pam retired and went farming at "Woodleigh", Goulburn Valley Highway, Molesworth .

Glenda Jackson took over the Pharmacy from John and Pam Sharwood in 1991 and ran it until 1995 when she sold to Paul Katsavos, the owner of the Maroondah Apothecary, on the opposite side of Whitehorse Road. He set up his wife to run the business. When Glenda left she became a Naturopath and Pharmacist in North Ringwood helping her clients to maintain their vitality with nutritional and herbal medicines .

A Pharmacist, Mr. Bob Dorian, came out of the Army after the Second World War. He managed the "Jones" Chemist shop in Blackburn, then did a travelling job selling small goods. About this time he came to an agreement with Mr. Doug Williamson, who, in 1947, ran a fruit shop at 511 Whitehorse Road, (north side). This shop was divided into two, one for the fruit shop and one for a store room. Bob persuaded Doug to let him use the store room as a Chemist shop. He built fixtures and a glass counter and then he was in business. Bob lived at Surrey Hills and his brother Bert also of Surrey Hills, a retired dentist, worked with Bob. Bert's wife tended the shop. Mrs. Elizabeth Wood-Ingram of Mitcham worked with them as a pharmacist. It was known as the Mitcham Apothecary. Bob and his family later came to live at 567 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, where he lived until he died in 2001.

Some of the upstairs rooms above the shop were let to a tailor, Mr. Berger, who later moved further up Whitehorse Road. Also sharing the building was a dentist, Mr. Rawson who lived in Glenburnie Road, Vermont for many years. There was a metal shed in the back-yard of the shop where Les Steele set up a printing business. (Printing the first community newspaper.

In 1972, Bob Dorian's chemist shop was taken over by Peter Scurriah, George Greenberg and Geoff Daniels, as the Maroondah Apothecary. The shop was enlarged with a walk-way through to car park off Enterprise Way. They also built a doctor's surgery where Dr. Roger Fagan set up a general practise with later Dr. Peter Reiter as a partner. The pharmacy was a very successful business - people would travel to buy George's special skin-care creams he made from an old recipe. George was a great help to his customers.

In 1992 the business was bought by Paul Katsavos, Sotto Kowzas and Joe Suptar and ran under the name of Chemart Chemist Maroondah Apothecary. The Tatts Lotto Agency was moved from the men's hairdresser shop in Whitehorse Road and run by "Norma" who had been co-owner with her husband at the former location. The business thrived and expanded, so that in 1998, Paul bought a bigger shop two doors down the street. This shop had a chequered life, starting as a Super Market (Moran & Cato), a shoe shop, an electrical shop and a furniture shop.

Paul had bought the Mitcham Dispensary at 546 Whitehorse Road. He moved it over to become as one with the Maroondah Apothecary at 507 Whitehorse Road. The Whitehorse Medical Centre was also incorporated into the new shop with rooms for six doctors. There was a walkway through to Enterprise Way and the car park. In 2001 the Whitehorse Medical Centre has expanded into the former Commonwealth Bank building next door at 505 Whitehorse Road, giving greater room for the Maroondah Apothecary, and enabling the Whitehorse Medical Centre to offer the services of doctors, dentists, physiotherapist, consultants and the services of Mayne Health, which incorporated Dorevitch Pathology. The General Practitioners are Drs. M. DeClifford, R. Fagan, J.Sakowsky, V. Shue, S. Cunningham, W.Manning and D. Fraser.

In 1958 another pharmacy was opened in Mirama Court Arcade on the eastern corner of Whitehorse Road And Mitcham Road, by Mr. Keith Barrow. Known as Barrow's Pharmacy. With his wife Evelyn he ran this business for 20 years. Keith had started another pharmacy in Belgrave and they moved to that shop. They had two daughters and lived in McDowall Street, Mitcham. Keith Barrow died in 1987 and the Belgrave shop became a Gift shop run by his widow Evelyn Barrow.

In the 1930s a Mr. and Mrs. Minnis ran a pharmacy in Whitehorse Road, Mitcham. For some years a Mr. Gall also had a pharmacy in Whitehorse Road.

Vermont.

Mr. Ian Park ran the Vermont Pharmacy for 40 years at 10 Boronia Road, Vermont having taken over from Mr. Keith Wellington who started the pharmacy in 1959. Mr and Mrs Park have been a great help to all their customers especially if they were ill by having their prescriptions delivered to them. He was always ready to talk to them and offer advice. His was the "Most Outstanding Small Business" in Whitehorse in 1998. His pharmacy beat 19 other contenders and received a "Highly Commended for Excellence" in customer relations in 1999. Mr. Park traded as Vermont Pharmacy also as Vermont Overseas Trading and Break-of-Day Harness Racing Stud. He was a life member of the Vermont Football Club and has worked for the schools and churches. Mr. Park died on 6th January, 2001 after 42 years as a well loved pharmacist in Vermont. The pharmacy was taken over by Liz O'Neill and Chris Farquhar from 1st December 2001. Chris had grown up in Vermont so it is very fitting for him to become the local pharmacist.

Rangeview.

Rangeview Pharmacy, 586 Mitcham Road, Mitcham, was started by Mr. Fox in the 1950s. When Voight's orchard was sub-divided, roads built and the houses spread out, the Rangeview shops really took off. Mr. Ian McLean was the next pharmacist, then John Sgroe in 1971 for 10 years. Bill McLeod came in 1981 for 13 years. Edward Tsui took over in 1994.

Now in 2002, Edward has moved to 570 Mitcham Road, a larger shop, and is an accredited pharmacy known as Rangeview Pharmacy.

Another Pharmacy was opened in Rangeview in 1980 by Mr. Ray Johnson. He stayed for 18 years and sold out in 1998 to Tammy Sioumis. It is known as Mitcham Road Amcal Pharmacy. Tracy Perkins has worked in this pharmacy for 13 years.

North Mitcham.

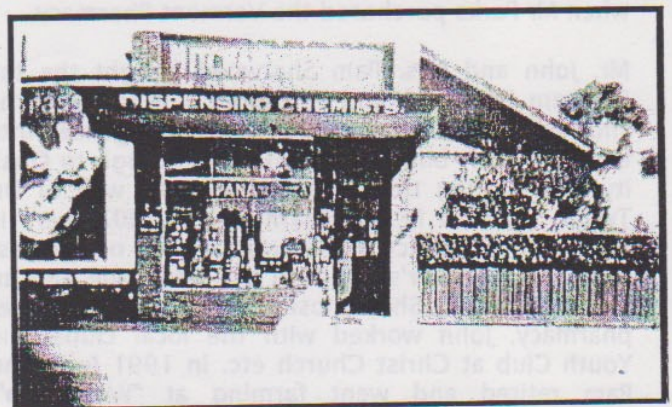
In 1965 Mr. Barry Dobyn set up a Pharmacy at 224 Mitcham Road, North Mitcham. The district was just developing and young people were setting up their homes. Barry looked after his customers in a friendly "village" style. He supported the Mitcham Football Club for 27 years and was a sponsor for 25 years. In 1998 he sold his business and said goodbye to his customer friends whom he had served with expertise and care for 33 years. Mr. John Merkreles took over the pharmacy in 1998 following Barry Dobyn's retirement. John came from Yarraville and East Hawthorn where he formerly had pharmacies.

Box Hill & District United Friendly Society Dispensary.

As well as the pharmacies in the district there was a United Friendly Society Dispensary in Box Hill. The building is still there. The Friendly Societies got together and formed the U.F.S. Dispensary (registered in October 1932). It included the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society, Rechabites, Oddfellows, etc. They opened the Dispensary at 10 Rutland Road Box Hill. If you belonged to a Society you were entitled to free doctor consultations, free medicine, Doctors prescriptions and a discount on pharmacy lines. The Society moved to 20 Main Street, Box Hill in March 1988 and then to 36 Main Street in March 1996. It is still trading in 2002 under the name of Box Hill Community Pharmacy, Friendly Society Limited

Frances Warren
May 2002.

Thanks Frances for researching this to add to our Archives. We would always be pleased to receive any historical information.



Wellington's Pharmacy, Whitehorse Road Mitcham c1940s

Some Thoughts on Heatherdale

*The following was include in September 2002
Newsletter of the Ringwood Historical Society,*

Some notes recently came our way regarding the Heatherdale Railway Station at Heatherdale Road. A few extracts are particularly interesting.

The "Heatherdale" we know was nearly called "Heathdale" because of the wild white and pink heath that grew everywhere. But because it sounded like (and was too close geographically to) "Heathmont", so Heatherdale it became.

Heatherdale Spur (we'll call it) had a creek running from Whitehorse Road, under the railway and down what is now Cochrane Street to Somers Street, then through Somers Walk to the Football Ground and then on to the rear of the Manhattan Hotel, And it was a small but very muddy, boggy, blackberry overgrown creek. It had a tributary that ran from the middle of Ferguson Street, through the Heatherdale State School Oval, past the Heatherdale Scout/Guide/Brownie/Cub hall and down Somers Trail to Fuller Street Bridge.

And on the other side was a creek from Whitehorse Road under the railway at Madden Street, over Molan Street and down where the S E C substation is, then right up to the rear of the Manhattan Hotel. And that was just as boggy and impenetrable as the Cochrane Street creek. Put the railway line across the top and entry became so difficult that people didn't look at it as housing land until the push for the station made development possible. The first registered pony club in Victoria used to splash across the creek under the railway bridge (now Cochrane Street).

The land now occupied by Good Governs Road was owned by a Miss Roberts, who originally desired a chapel to be built on the land and the street called God Governs Street. The application was refused and the street became Good Governs Street.

Heatherdale, like Mitcham's Antonio Park and Schwerkolts Cottage pioneers were from Europe. Thriving orchards run by German migrants were between the railway line and Whitehorse Road. English migrants, the Godfreys, ran an orchard where Stokes and Ansett Wridgways are today. The rest was cattle and horses land, hence the cattle grid and 3 wire fence along the railway line (pieces of which are still to be seen today).

Dates for your Diary

Twilight Jazz Concerts.

Blackburn Lake Sunday 2nd February
Sunday 16th February
Box Hill Gardens Sunday 9th February
Sunday 23 February

All concerts 3pm to 7pm

Whitehorse Centre

Final Whitehorse Summer Music Series Sunday
2nd March 5pm to 7pm – Tickets required

General Meeting 8th February 2003, at 1.30pm

Our speaker will be the Mayor of our City. Cr. Robert Chong, O.A.M. Don't forget change of location. See front page.

Heritage Festival

The 2003 Heritage Festival will conducted from April 14th to 28th April and the theme will be "Water" - appropriate in this time of drought!

Our general meeting will be on Saturday, April 12th and with the timing of the school holidays, we feel the best day for our Heritage Open Day will be on Sunday 13th April, 2003. Planning is going ahead for this occasion – attractions will be advised in our next newsletter.

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3204 Items catalogued
Documents	4087 Items catalogued
Photographs	2525 Items catalogued

THANKS:

for the provision to the Society of space to display our photographs.

John Cybula, Estate Agent, 108 Canterbury Road Blackburn South.

Stockdale & Leggo, South Parade, Blackburn.

REMEMBER

Box Hill Cemetery Records and Nunawading Gazette for 1964-1974 available on microfiche for research.

Nunawading and District Historical Society Local History Collection - open from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm on Wednesday

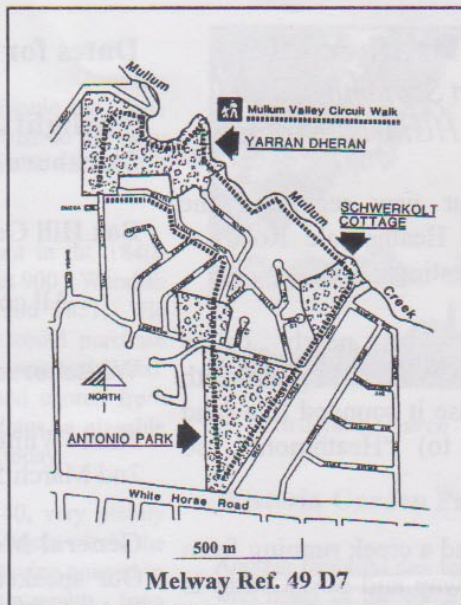
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Our Society on the Internet.

www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/



*Nunawading and District
 Historical Society, Inc.
 acknowledge the support
 from the
 City of Whitehorse
 Museum Accreditation Program*

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 Accredited Museum
 ISSN 1328-2395



Tunstall Football Club

This photograph taken in 1927 was donated by Robert Collier. Can you identify anyone in the group.

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

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