

Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

(formerly the Nunawading & District Historical Inc)

NEWSLETTER



A0012235J ABN 44 352 041 634
Series 11. No. 4 August 2003

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

From the President

It is Annual Meeting time again!

The next meeting is on Saturday 9th August at 1.30 pm and will be the Annual Meeting – subscriptions are due on this day. Our speaker will Rod Fraser, who will tell us about the “Champion of the Seas”, an early sailing ship.

We need an assistant newsletter editor. This is not an arduous job and can become quite enjoyable. Please think about this position.

Thank you to all who helped at the working bee on Saturday 12th July. Many hands make light work, and everything was bright and sparkling when we finished. We were rewarded for our hard work with a bunch of beautiful camellias each from Ian Nethercote.

The previous Saturday, Valda and Ted Arrowsmith had supervised an energetic group of young volunteers from “Pay It Forward”, who washed all the windows.

At the June meeting, all in attendance were fascinated to hear the “History of the Overland Telegraph” from guest speaker Gordon Keene. The Overland Telegraph line was required to connect Australia with the Northern Hemisphere via a new cable being extended under sea from India to Darwin and allowed news to come to Australia in seven days.

The new toilets are on site, and just need the finishing touches. The carpark has been asphalted with a bus-turning roundabout. Members may like to use the carpark to ease the congestion in Irene Crescent.

The committee would appreciate suggestions for speakers. Please advise if you know of one who could be of interest to our group.

It is always sad to say good-bye and two of our Council contacts have moved on – Lois Binnie and Kelvin Ward. Both were instrumental in helping with our extension, new toilets and carpark landscaping. We thank them and wish them well in their new positions.

A warm welcome to new member, Chintin Paul, who has already joined the Wednesday Group and has been working hard, entering data on the computer. We hope that she enjoys our activities.

On Sunday, September 7th, we will hold our main fund raiser for the year – a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, 250 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. We will need lots of help on this day so please ring Judith 9874 4220 or Peter on 9877 0141,

“Wedding Days, Etcetera, Etcetera” at Forster Hall, Christ Church Anglican Church, Mitcham on Saturday 13th September should be an enjoyable afternoon for all – flyer enclosed. Bring all your friends!

The annual “Wisteria Party” will be held 2–4 pm on Sunday 5th October, with lots of attractions for children. This year’s Theme “Dress Up Party” leaves plenty of scope to wear their favourite costume. We will need help on this day so please keep it free. Looking forward to seeing you at our coming events.

Our Annual General Meeting will be conducted on Saturday, 9th August 2003 at 1.30 pm at Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham. Guest Speaker - Rod Fraser Subject – “Champion of the Seas”, one of the famous Black Ball Line clipper ships.

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.

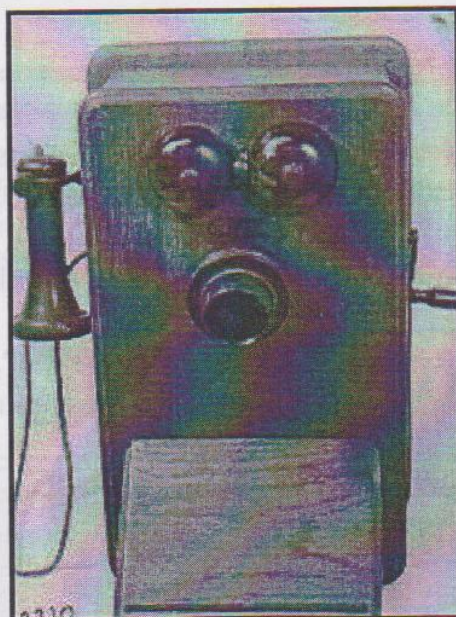
Recent Acquisition.

Magneto Wall Telephone

British Ericsson PMG 135 MW Originally chosen by the Australian Post Office to replace the then standard Ericsson 131MW. It was then designated as a 35 M.W. Its development over the years was mainly in the type of transmitter used. This model, [the 135M. W.] and the transmitter had a No. 10 cartridge housed in a bakelite mounting. Its advantage was that the carbon granules in it did not pack to the same extent as the earlier one.

It consists of an oak case, generator, magneto bell, switchhook spring set, induction coil, together with 2 dry cell mounted in the wooden case. Mounted on the front of the right hand opening full length door was the magneto bell, transmitter and writing slope. On the right hand side is the generator handle and a hole for a cord for an additional receiver, if required. On the left hand side is the receiver. All wiring terminals and mounting screws were hidden. Two No. 6 type batteries of 1.5 volt each provide the power required for the transmitter and receiver.

This magneto wall telephone was used to communicate with the local telephone exchange at Caboolture and for connection to other subscribers. The introduction of automatic exchanges saw the their replacement by automatic phones. This phone was acquired as similar phones would have been used in our municipality during the 1940s and 1950s.



What's in a Name?

In 1945 the City of Nunawading was created - a place where people lived in the newly subdivided suburban blocks formerly occupied by the clay, fruit, flower and poultry industries which had characterised the area for many years.

So in 1964, when a historical society was formed, consequent on Council acquisition and restoration of the highly significant local landmark, Schwerkolt Cottage, it was named Nunawading Historical Society, later changed to Nunawading and District Historical Society, to reflect its coverage of the suburbs of Blackburn, Blackburn North, Blackburn South, Burwood East, Forest Hill, Nunawading, Mitcham and Vermont South, which comprised the City of Nunawading.

Thirty years later, the State Government merged the City of Nunawading with the neighbouring City of Box Hill, to form the present City of Whitehorse. About six years ago, there were discussions about a new name for the historical society to better express its scope and the name was extended to the rather cumbersome "Nunawading and District Historical Society".

As the municipal authorities became better known under their new names, Nunawading, despite its historical associations, became less suitable as an indicator of the scope of the society's operations. People either thought that it applied only to the suburb, or didn't think of it at all. It was rumoured that another committee had been formed to discuss the matter, but was in despair of ever coming up with a solution that would please everyone. Its members fled, and were last heard of scattered to all parts of the globe, as far from "Nunawading and District" as possible.

In April of this year, the members of NDHS voted to endorse a recommendation of their Committee to change the name of the society to "Whitehorse Historical Society", and end the confusion - at least until the next "reform" of municipal boundaries. Unfortunately, "WHS" cannot form a pronounceable acronym - if you try, all you get is a strange whistling sound. Any suggestions?

Peter Simmenauer

Important Dates for your Dairy

Saturday August 9th – Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Local History Room on at 1.30 pm.. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Rod Fraser whose subject will be – “Champion of the Seas”, one of the famous Black Ball Line clipper ships of the 1850’s.

Sunday, September, 7th

Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, 250 Whitehorse Road Nunawading (the original Bunnings) – this is our main fund raising effort for this year and your help is needed as we need staff from 9am to 5 pm . Please ring Judith Fry on 9874 4220 or Peter Simmenauer on 9877 0141

Saturday, September 13th, at 2 pm.

Wedding Gowns, Etcetera, Etcetera.

A presentation of gowns and accessories by Ann Dixon at Forster Hall, Christ Church Anglican Church, Cnr. Whitehorse Road and Edward Street, Mitcham. 2 pm. Donation \$6
A delicious afternoon tea will be served.

Sunday October 5th – Wisteria Party for the children between 2 and 4 pm., with an Animal Farm, the Brumbies Band, Bubbles Galore, Face Painting and lots of activities to be enjoyed.

Saturday, October 11th – meeting at 1.30 pm – Our Speaker will Marjorie Morgan whose subject will be “Prison Hulks of Port Phillip Bay.”

Increase in Membership Fees

At our last meeting it was agreed, that owing to a substantial increase in insurance fees, our annual membership fees would have to increase as follows:-

Individual	\$18
Household (2 adults + children under 18)	\$25
Newsletter Only	\$12

Newsletter members would always be welcome at

From the Editor – My thanks to June Ventouras for her help and to the ever reliable Val Riches. Please ring me 9874 6592 if you can help with the newsletter. Barbara Gardiner

From the “Blackburn and Mitcham Reporter”

March 4, 1938

PERSONAL

At the early age of 15, Mr. Raleigh Armstrong, son of Mr. N. Armstrong, estate agent, has been granted a sub-agents licence.

Property Owners Association

On the grounds that there should exist some energetic organization to protect and further the interests of property owners throughout the shire, a body of influential citizens has constituted the Property Owners Association, Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham. An executive has been elected, an intensive program is being formulated, and in every riding great interest has been aroused among potential members. Further details will be published, and announcements of meetings in the various ridings will be made.

HOUSES AND LAND FOR SALE

Frank Parker knows all the orchards around Melbourne. It would be foolish to purchase before seeing him.
Ring F 3045

COMMUNITY SINGING

The two Special attractions at next Tuesday’s session of Community Singing in the Regent Theatre will be George Ventura, mello accordian and Phillip Russell, tenor.

PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Ellingworth of 54 William Street, Box Hill are much benefited in health after a vacation spent at Sorrento

FOR SALE

Horses , used to all work £10, also Wheel Scoops , Sale or Hire
G. Knee, Doncaster

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3293 Items catalogued
Documents	4452 Items catalogued
Photographs	2875 Items catalogued

THANKS:

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

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

REMEMBER

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

Whitehorse Historical Society Local History Collection - open 10.30 am to 2.30 pm on Wednesday. Visitors welcomed. Ring 9873 4946 for an appointment at other times.

President
Judith Fry 9874 4220
Secretary
Peter Simmenauer 9877 0141
Treasurer
Barbara Rogalski 9874 4668

Editor Barbara Gardiner

Distribution Val Riches

Our Society on the Internet.

www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/



Melway Ref. 49 D7



*Whitehorse Historical
Society, Inc.
acknowledge the support
from the
City of Whitehorse*

Museum Accreditation Program

MMA/MMA/MMA
Accredited Museum

ISSN 1328-2395

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Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.

Deep Creek Road, Mitcham, Vic, 3132 (Melway Ref. 49 D7)

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