

Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Formerly Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER



A0012235J

ABN 44 352 041 634

ser 12 no 3 Jun 2004

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

From the President

June is upon us and we are halfway through another busy period in the life of the Historical Society. A big thank you to all who contributed to the success of Heritage Day, even though the local newspaper advertised the incorrect date. It was pleasing to see so many people enjoying the displays, sausage sizzle, and refreshments.

Jock Ryan who was our guest speaker on Saturday, 3rd April, described himself as more a storyteller than a historian. We once again heard that John Batman was dishonest with his dealings with the aborigines. In 1835, the population for Victoria was 250, in 1840, it was 10,000. Owing to the discovery of gold in 1851, there was a dramatic increase in the population of Victoria.

We were pleased to learn that Schwerkolt Cottage was equal first with the Whitehorse Centre in a recent satisfaction survey of City of Whitehorse residents. We are indebted to the volunteers who spend many hours ensuring the cottage and museum are always in pristine condition.

A satisfactory meeting with Mark Fawcett, Team Leader of Cultural Facilities and Programs, at the City of Whitehorse enabled us to plan strategies for future events. We appreciate his suggestions and will certainly implement them.

Thank you to the people who so tastefully arranged the display cases at the Nunawading Library. These always attract great interest with the wider community.

The Accreditation Committee is working very hard to get our procedures up to standard. Monitoring equipment is being purchased to measure the changes in temperature at both the cottage and museum. Two of our people have attended workshops on conservation - Vicki Jones-Evans on Caring for your Collections: Basic and Peter Simmenauer on Conservation Planning. This will enable us to ensure that the conservation procedures we use are correct.

The acquisition committee continues to examine donated articles to ensure they compliment our collection.

A warm welcome to new members - Shirley Mill of Mitcham

and Ken Turner of Blackburn. We look forward to seeing them at some of our future activities.

A small but energetic group of members attended the Working Bee on 8th May. Our numbers were affected by the attendance of ten of our members at the Conference of the Association of the Eastern Historical Societies at Croydon.

The Wednesday Group recently said goodbye to Ted Goode, who has decided to retire as our photographer of artifacts. We have enjoyed his company and appreciated his expertise. We wish him well in the future, we will miss his smiling face.

On Saturday 31st July, we will be hosting a luncheon for the Association of Eastern Historical Societies with a guest speaker who will inform us of 150 years of Railways. All members are invited to attend. Cost of \$8 covers this interesting day. Please advise me on 9874 4220 if you wish to attend.

Keep Saturday afternoon, 4th September free as we will be conducting another vintage costume event. This time it will be "Cup Fashions from the 1880's" presented by "Sharing Yesterday".

Our planned speaker at our June meeting, David Crowe of Parkside, City of Whitehorse is unable to attend as he will be overseas on that day. We thank our members who have volunteered to speak on pioneer families. Details below.

Judith Fry

Next Meeting - Saturday, 3rd June 1.30 pm. (Note change of date) Guest speakers: Ted Arrowsmith, who has researched the Schwerkolt family history for his book which has been selling steadily. Judith Fry whose family has lived in Mitcham for five generations. It will be interesting to compare these family histories with origins from German and Scottish heritage.

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.

From the Archives

This item are from society newsletter of March, 1977.

Post Offices in Nunawading

The following are the dates on which post offices in the City of Nunawading were opened.

Official Offices

Blackburn 10th January, 1876

Opened as Blackburn Creek, name changed to Blackburn 12th March 1883

Vermont 1st November, 1881

Originally L. L. Vale, Name changed to

Vermont 1st August 1885 *

Mitcham 1st June, 1884

The first post office was at the railway station

Nunawading 1889

Known as Tunstall until the name was changed on 1st November, 1945

Blackburn South 2nd February 1954

Was an unofficial office, raised to official status 2nd September, 1957 in a newly transported building used as Post Office at the Heidelberg Olympic Village 1956

Non-official Offices

Blackburn North 2nd May 1955

Burwood East 1906-1913

(closed 5th July 1976)

Forest Hill 1st July 1949-3rd Aug 1976

Forest Hill Centre 15th November 1965

Kinkuna 1st October 1950

Laburnum 12th November 1962

Mitcham North 1st August 1960

Nunawading North 2nd September, 1963

(closed 1967)

Parkmore 1st November, 1962

Rangeview 15th September 1955

Vermont East 1st June 1964

Vermont South 22nd October 1974

Some newer members may not be aware that "L. L. Vale" was named after one of the early land owners, a well known Melbourne doctor, L. L. Smith, who had a medical practice in Collins Street, Melbourne and operated an experimental farm on his property along the Dandenong Creek at Vermont. The property was bounded by Canterbury Road, Heatherdale Road and L. L. Vale Road, later changed to Boronia Road.

From the Editor

I feel the time has come to pass on this role to another member of the Historical Society. I have been involved with the Newsletter since January 1996 as typist for Beryl Gray, then Anne Jones and I shared the editorship until 1998, when Ted Arrowsmith became co-editor.

It has been an interesting job and I have learnt much about our collection and about the use of a computer.

I will be happy to continue to do the mailing labels and to assist the new editor for an issue or two.

I will act as editor until the Annual General Meeting and ask that members consider taking over the Editor's job.

Barbara Gardiner



Blackburn Creek Post Office 1876



*New Blackburn Post Office opened
12 September 1960*

Saturday 17th July, 2004
A Bus Tour of German Heritage Sites

This will begin at 10 am at Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex, for morning tea and tour of the complex. A visit to Schramm's Cottage at Doncaster will follow and a light lunch will be served in the picturesque environs. The tour will then proceed to the Zeibell Farmhouse Precinct and the Thomastown Lutheran Church in Westgarthtown (Thomastown). Guides from the Historical Societies will introduce visitors to each heritage site. Morning, afternoon tea and lunch will be provided. Cost \$25
 10 am to 4 pm.

Payment required by Monday, 5th July to E. Mitchell. 2 Salford Ave, Balwyn 3103
 Cheques or Postal Notes to be made out to "The Friends of Westgarthtown"
 Enquiries to Ellen Mitchell at 9836 2917 or email Ellen.mitchell@optusnet.com.au

Thank you to Penguin Dry Cleaners of Shop 9, Tunstall Square, East Doncaster. They have been dry cleaning garments from our collection with special attention to the wedding gowns.

A Big Thank You to Val Riches

Val has decided to retire as the newsletter mailout assistant. She has fulfilled this job since 1989 and during that time has mailed out nearly 90 editions of newsletters for the Society! She has been supported by her husband, Ed. and we thank them both their contribution to the Society.



This German Etui camera made in the early 1920's was recently donated by Ted Goode, who has photographed over 1000 of our artifacts. It is a treasure of its time and will be a worthy part of our camera collection. Thank you Ted.

Dates for your Dairy
Saturday, 3rd June –
 General Meeting 1.30pm
 Guest Speakers, Judith Fry
 Ted Arrowsmith

Saturday, 10th July
 Working Bee from 9.30 am

Saturday 17th July 10 am
 Bus tour of German Heritage Sites

Saturday 31st July at noon – Luncheon for the Association of Eastern Historical Societies – with guest speaker to inform us of 150 Years of Railways. Cost \$8 – All members are invited to attend.

Saturday, 14th August
 Annual General Meeting 1.30 pm.
 Guest Speaker – Stephen Clifton

Subject – Wedgewood China
Saturday 4 th September
 "Cup Fashions from the 1880's"

Sunday 3rd October 2pm
 Our 10th Wisteria Party

Saturday 9th October 1.30 pm
 Speaker – John Waghorn – Post Offices

Sunday 17th October
 Whitehorse Spring Festival

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3254	Items catalogued
Documents	4180	Items catalogued
Photographs	2773	Items catalogued

THANKS:

for the provision to the Society of space to display our photographs to:-
 Raine & Horne, 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.

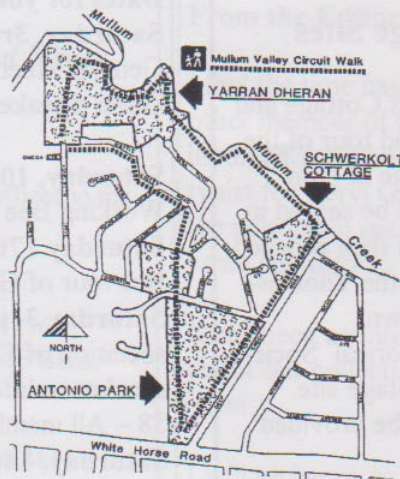
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Editor Barbara Gardiner

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

Mr/Mr/Mr
Accredited Museum

ISSN 1328-2395

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