

Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Formerly Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc.



NEWSLETTER

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Series 12. No. 4 August 2004

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

From the President

August 14th is our Annual General Meeting Day, and we hope to see many of our members there, as our speaker will be Stephen Clifton whose subject will be "Wedgwood China". I am sure you will agree that this will be an interesting subject as some of us may treasure a piece of lovely Wedgwood china tucked away in our china cabinets.

We need a committee to arrange entertaining, interesting meetings and other happenings. Being a committee member is not an arduous task, in fact it can be very rewarding. You are asked to attend a committee meeting each month, where we plan, discuss and suggest, and along the way you get to know other people and form friendships.

The Historical Society needs You!

Please give the Society a year of your life and you will not be disappointed.

On Saturday, 17th July, a German Cultural Tour commencing at Schwerkolt Cottage Museum enjoyed the morning tea and a talk on Schwerkolt Family History as well as an tour of our museum and cottage. We received many compliments on the presentation of the complex. A number of our members joined the tour which continued onto Schramm's Cottage at Doncaster, and finally to Thomastown, where there is a German settlement including a Lutheran Church and Cemetery as well as original German style residences. Thank you to all who helped with the morning tea.

Ian Nethercote, our Working Bee Co-ordinator, successfully led a team to make sure the Museum, Cottage and Farm Equipment Shed were left spick and span. Thank you Ian and your fellow workers.

A warm welcome to two new members, Myra Fort of Mitcham and Dorothy Bullen of Burwood.

"Cup Fashions from the 1880's" will be held on Saturday, 4th September at Forster Hall, Christ Church Anglican Church, in Edward Street, Mitcham. at 2 pm. For the cost of \$10, there will be great entertainment, a delicious afternoon tea and great door prizes. We are grateful to the Nunawading Arts Council for their sponsorship of this afternoon.

The Wisteria Party is 10 years old this year and what a day of celebrations is planned for Sunday 3rd October, from 2 pm to 4 pm. The Theme this year is "Teddy Bear and Dolly Day". Bring along the children and grandchildren and everyone's favourite teddy and doll.

With a sigh of relief, we are glad to report that our application for re-accreditation has been completed. Special thanks to Peter Simmenauer and his committee for their hard and consistent work.

At the June meeting, we heard of my ancestors' arrival in Victoria and their settlement in Mitcham in 1888. My great grand father, William Chalmers worked for the Australian Tesselated Tile Company until his death in 1916. My grandfather, Frederick and his brother Edward built a number of homes and buildings in the district, including the Mitcham Hospital which was located on the corner of McDowall and Harrison Streets, where the Mitcham R.S.L. stands today. Five generations have and still attend Mitcham Primary School and were christened at Christ Church. Ted Arrowsmith told of his research and the writing of Schwerkolt Family History book.

I look forward to seeing you at our coming events and hope I am overwhelmed with offers of people wishing to join the committee.

Judith Fry

**Our Annual General Meeting
will be conducted at 1.30 pm
on Saturday 14th August
at our Local History Room.
Guest Speaker: Stephen Clifton
Subject : Wedgwood China**

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 Collection

This item is from our newsletter of December 1986 and is an excerpt from the Melbourne Herald of 1935.

Real Estate is reviving between Box Hill and Croydon. Undulating, high and well drained, the district between Box Hill and Croydon is experiencing a real estate revival, and builders are operating on many sites. Orchards, flower farms and poultry runs testify to the quality of the soil, and during the last twelve months a number of new industries have started in Box Hill, Blackburn and Ringwood. The result is a great shortage of houses to let.

The Tramways Board has been asked to extend the present tramline along Whitehorse Road from Union Road to Middleborough Road to cater for the district's transport needs.

Blackburn may be described as the first of the eastern suburbs, which combines the beauty of the country with handiness to the city. Native trees grow there in profusion, but cannot be found nearer the city. There is a steady enquiry for land for the first time since the depression. Values run from one pound to five pound per foot near the station. Homes can be built for three hundred and ninety pound including land.

Mitcham can look down on most suburbs by reason of its altitude of 500 feet, and the healthy surroundings have resulted in many persons being sent there by medical men. A little more than a mile away is Vermont where many fine homes have been built.

Before the land boom of 1908, Mitcham land was sold by enterprising agents as East Hawthorn. The land was cut up into tiny allotments, and when the crash came, many houses were carted away.

Glazed tiles from Mitcham supply a touch of color to many shop fronts and the excellent shopping facilities in Mitcham make it a centre for many neighbouring districts.

Forty years ago, Ringwood's interests were wholly industrial, the brick kiln and antimony mine were busy and what is now Ringwood East was the shopping centre, the railway station shifted the town's centre a mile to the west of old Ringwood, and shop sites which could not be sold in 1905 found ready buyers three years later.

From the Reporter of May 1945

The local "Reporter" was happy to publish an account of the proclamation of the City of Nunawading, with the Governor of Victoria, Sir Winston Dugan, being present, on Wednesday 30th May, 1945.

All arrangements proceeded smoothly, but the organisers had had some worries beforehand. Application was still necessary then to the Director of Rationing for the necessary coupons to purchase 10 lbs. of tea and two bags of sugar for the sports afternoon, with 2000 children attending. Cakes for distribution, unfortunately were not covered by any exemption and were taxable at the general rate of twelve and half per cent, and the same conditions applied of course for the mayoral purchases of other food. A Vermont orchardist supplied the many apples needed for all the local children.

From the Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter, 26th February, 1932

The Council of Blackburn and Mitcham has a by-law prohibiting the picking of gum-leaves from trees on shire roads. There have been so many offenders that it has been decided erect additional notices to warn motorist's organizations and clubs of the provisions of the law.

From the Blackburn and Mitcham Reporter, 18th March, 1938

The Report of the Shire Engineer (Mr. F. Maw) to Blackburn and Mitcham Shire Council contained the following:-

The condition of the bridge on Blackburn Road, near Heath Street is such that it will be necessary to have a notice shown in some conspicuous place nearby to the effect that loads should be limited to 3 tons, including the weight of the vehicle and that no vehicle should cross it at a speed greater than 10 mile per hour.

The deck timbers are in bad condition and the supporting stringers are badly affected with dry rot..... the cost of reconstruction of this bridge, with a reinforced concrete deck would be approximately \$220 and it must be regarded as an essential work for the next year.

From the Editor

Next time you are in the museum, check the large photographs on the walls - a photo of this intersection in flood is very interesting.

Our sincere sympathy to our member, Ian Armstrong and his family. Ian's father, a well known local identity, Mr. Raleigh Armstrong, died recently and will be sadly missed by many Mitcham residents.

Dates For Your Diary

Our Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14th August at 1.30 pm
Guest Speaker : Stephen Clifton
whose subject of Wedgwood China
should be of great interest to all.

Saturday 4th September – 2 pm

“Cup Fashions From the 1880”s

This should be an enjoyable afternoon tea with the interesting gowns, the traditional delicious afternoon tea and great door prizes! \$10 donation.

Please bring your friends.

Saturday 11th September from 9.30 am

Working Bee

We hope to have some enthusiastic workers to spruce up the complex for the Wisteria Party

Sunday 3rd October from 2-4 pm

Our 10th Wisteria Party so we must celebrate! Our theme is a “Teddy Bear and Dolly Day”. Attractions will be “Animals on the Move”, with lovely farm animals, the Brumbies Bush Band and a display of antique dolls and teddy bears that will take us back to bygone days.

Saturday 9th October, 1.30 pm

General Meeting –

Speaker – John Waghorn

Subject – Post Offices

Sunday 17th October

Whitehorse Spring Festival

We will need help on this day to staff our display. Ring Judith Fry on 9874 4220

What's a Pod?

The Public Record Office of Victoria has some records of historical importance which are either duplicate holdings or are of more interest to local communities. Organizations can apply to be a “Place of Deposit” for such records. The Society applied and our Local History Room was recently inspected by Chris and Margaret from the Public Record Office for suitability. So, Whitehorse Historical Society will shortly become a POD. Chris and Margaret are very happy to organize a group tour of the new premises at North Melbourne at a mutually convenient time – let us know if you are interested.

From the Editor

This will be my last newsletter and my thanks to Valda and Ted Arrowsmith for their support over the eight years I have been involved. Thanks also to the Wednesday Group for their help. It is time to hand over to someone new – who will it be?

A reminder that subscription fees are due by 31st August. An enrolment form is enclosed.

Fees are:- Individual \$18
Household \$25
Newsletter only \$12

Best Wishes to all members and readers,
Barbara Gardiner

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3462	Items catalogued
Documents	4956	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

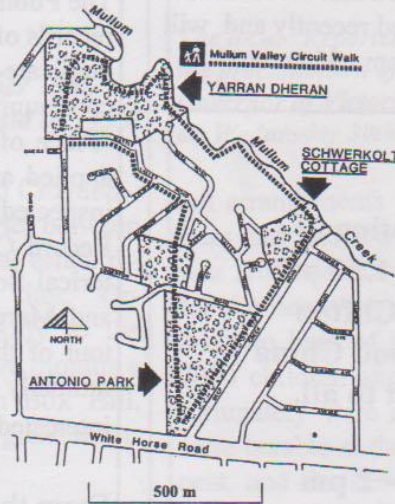
Box Hill Cemetery Records and Nunawading Gazette for 1964-1974 available on microfiche for research.
Whitehorse Historical Society Local History Collection - open 10.30 am to 2.30 pm on Wednesday. Visitors welcomed. Ring 9873 4946 for an appointment at other times.

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

Editor Barbara Gardiner

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

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Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.

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

if undeliverable please return to P.O.Box 272 Mitcham, 3132, Vic



Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.
presents

*A Parade of Cup Fashions
From the 1880's*



at 2 pm
On Saturday 4th September, 2004

at
Forster Hall
Christ Church Anglican Church.
Edward Street,
Mitcham



*A delicious afternoon tea will be served
Great door prizes!*

Donation \$10

Sponsored by
Nunawading Arts Council



For enquiries
9874 6592