

Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Formerly Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER



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Series 12. No. 5 October 2004

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

From the President

Spring is upon us once again. The blossom is out and hopefully the wisteria will be ready for our annual Wisteria Party on Sunday 3rd October. Lots of fun for the children and adults between 2 – 4 p.m. The theme for this tenth anniversary Party will be 'Teddy and Dolly Day.' We invite all children to bring along a favourite teddy or dolly or both, or they may like to dress up as a favourite story character. There will be a Grand Parade of all participants at 3.30pm. A display of antique teddies and dolls and an animal farm will also feature, together with the wonderful Brumbies Bush Band, face painting, and games. Help needed on this day.

On Saturday the 4th September we held an historical fashion show sponsored by the Nunawading Arts Council with a Cup Day Costume theme, it was an enjoyable trip down memory lane for many of us. The costumes ranged from 1880 when Archer won the Melbourne Cup through to the present day. It was interesting to note the different styles in fur fashions. I must compliment the mannequins, our own Vicki Jones-Evans, Wendy Standfield, and June Ventouras, were ably accompanied by Bob Gardiner, and a special thanks to all their dressers working behind the scenes. Everyone contributed to make the afternoon a great success, and we owe special thanks to all those organisations who donated door prizes. Thanks to Ted Arrowsmith and Jay Miller for photographs.

This winter we hosted the Association of Eastern Historical Societies lunch and heard Clarrie Talbot tell us of 150 years of railways. We underestimated the interest in this subject, but in our usual way, coped with the large number of people present.

*Model
June Ventouras
Steps out
Edwardian -style
In a an elegant
Wool jacket and full
black satin skirt*



Recently, Senator the Hon Ian Campbell, Minister for Environment and Heritage, local politicians and Whitehorse Council personnel were in attendance at Schwerkolt Cottage to launch a Federal Government Grant for "Sharing our Stories".

At the AGM, we farewelled Jay Miller from the committee for the time being. Jay has been invaluable with her museum knowledge, but it is not goodbye as Jay is now editing the Newsletter. Barbara Rogalski, our very capable Treasurer for the last 10 years, has retired but fortunately has consented to be Vice President. June Ventouras, with a little persuasion has consented to be treasurer. Fred Smith is a new committee member and we welcome him. Vicki Jones-Evans has consented to become assistant secretary and has taken up her position effective immediately with secretary Peter Simmenaeur on holiday.

At the August meeting Stephen Clifton told us of the history of Wedgwood China and showed us many beautiful pieces from his collection. Wedgwood china was started in 1795 by Josiah Wedgwood. He was the 12th child of a potter. He joined Wheldon pottery and experimented with glazes. After he opened his own factory he made a tea set for Queen Charlotte which became known as Queensware. Catherine the Great also ordered a 950 piece dinner set from Wedgwood which took artists Stubbs and William Blake 2 years to complete. A vase was made by the Wedgwood factory to mark the Federation of Australia in 1901. The Wedgwood name now embraces Stewart and Waterford Crystal, and specialises in fine bone china and dinner ware at affordable prices.

Our former president Joan Roczniook at the time of writing is recovering at her daughter's home after a 3 month stay in hospital. We wish Joan and all others in a similar situation a speedy recovery.

Finally, a big welcome to our newest member, Michelle Smith of Blackburn South.

Judith Fry

Next General Meeting October 9th, 1.30pm
Speaker : John Waghorn on: Post Offices
Dates for your diary :
Wisteria Day 3rd of October 2-4pm
Christmas Meeting 12th December 12.30pm

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.

CUP Fashions 1860s – 1960s

Our latest historical fashion event, sponsored by the Nunawading Arts Council, was presented at Christ Church Anglican Church Hall, Mitcham.

Appropriately on our first Spring weekend for 2004 the theme was Cup Fashions over a Century accompanied by music of the day. Our own members modelled the stylish costumes supplied by Heather Kobiolke of "Sharing Yesterday". For those who were unable to attend here are some selected memories



1900



1910



1920



1930



1940



1950



1960

*A century of fashion was modelled by
Historical Society Members:
Top left: Wendy Standfield & Bob Gardiner
Top centre: Vicki Jones-Evans
Lower left: June Ventouras*

The generous sponsorship of the following organisations helped make our fashion parade an extra special event:

- ◆ *Nunawading Arts Council*
- ◆ *Bunnings, Mitcham*
- ◆ *Lombards Paper, Nunawading*
- ◆ *Mitcham Hotel*
- ◆ *Sandton Hair Gallery of Mitcham*

From the Collection

Following the talk on railways given by Clarrie Talbot, members may be interested to read this reprint of two articles from the Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter, 1938 on one of our important local railway sites.

Blackburn Station Beautification 25/2/1938

"Although as yet only in its primary stages, the work of beautifying the environs of the Railway Station, fronting South Parade, is being pushed on steadily. Already the passer-by can realise the improvement which will become more and more apparent every day... At the Shire Council meeting on Monday night, the sum of £45 was made available to be expended as required. Credit is due to the Progress Association for having persevered in its efforts to have remedied this eyesore of many years standing."

Beautification Scheme 22/4/1938

"The work of beautifying the environs of the railway station on the south side, though not yet nearly complete, already gives a very good impression of the different appearance the whole area will present when the piece is finished. Smooth lawns and a terraced garden will have taken the place of ugly uneven stretches and will form a very pleasing change. The new approach opposite the end of Main St. is in the process of formation and will doubtless be a boon to those who make a practice of 'just catching' trains. On the north side, the through road proved itself a very great benefit during the rush of the fruit-loading season, and obviated much of the congestion which used to occur at that time. The Progress Association to whose efforts these improvements are mainly due, is still pressing for further facilities in the goods yard, and has proposed a scheme by which shunting operations would be greatly simplified and increased space be made available."

Volunteers urgently needed!

Whitehorse Spring Festival

Is on again at the Whitehorse Civic Centre
October 17th

Any members who can offer assistance to set up and or mind the Historical Society display for 1 hour or 2 please contact by October 2nd any of the Committee see phone numbers p4.

"There was a time..."

On Wednesday 8th of September at Wyreena, Croydon, our Society was well represented by ten members, who attended the launch of a book by long-time member Shirley Jones. Entitled "There was a Time", the book presents a focus on her family's railway-life between 1928 and 1939.

Despite the rainy weather, the occasion was well attended, with author and historian, Peter Cuffley launching the book. The event was marked by several lively speeches and celebrated with lovely music by Shirley's daughter, Thelma and friends. We congratulate Shirley on this fine achievement.

Closer to Home ...

Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum : the legacy of Johann August Schwerkolt, Pioneer

by Ted Arrowsmith

After the launch at the Open Day this year this highly readable history has also been well received and copies are selling fast. If you have not already got your copy of this first edition it is well worth acquiring at just \$7

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3397	Items catalogued
Documents	4223	Items catalogued
Photographs	2795	Items catalogued

THANKS:

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

Raine & Horne Estate Agent
108 Canterbury Rd
Blackburn South

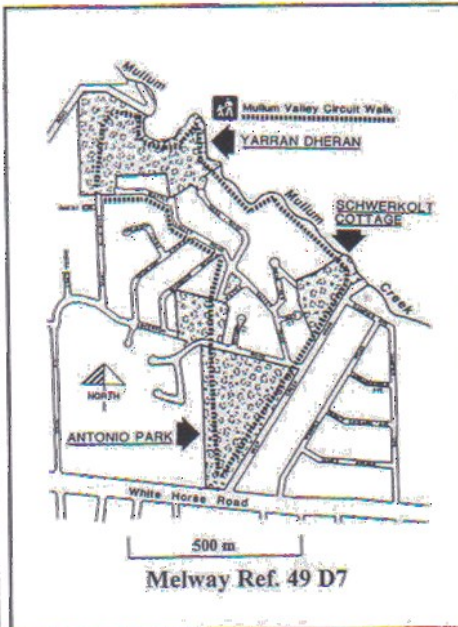
REMEMBER

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
Vice President
 Barbara Rogalski 9874 4668
Secretary
 Peter Simmenauer 9877 0141
Asst. Secretary
 Vicki Jones-Evans 9873 3383
Treasurer
 June Ventouras 9878 1659

Editor Jay Miller
 jmil@unimelb.edu.au
Distribution Barbara Gardiner
Our Society on the Internet.
www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/
Local History Room 9873 4946



CITY OF

 WHITEHORSE

Whitehorse Historical Society, Inc.
acknowledge the support
from the
City of Whitehorse
 Museum Accreditation Program

Accredited Museum
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1940



1960



1980

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.

