

Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Formerly Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc.

1965 - 2005



NEWSLETTER



A0012235.J

ABN 44 352 041 634

Series 13. No. 5

October 2005

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

From the President

The former "Wisteria Party" has now become the "Let's Go Heritage Day", to be held on Sunday 2 October in the Schwerkolt Cottage grounds. At this free family day, there will be demonstrations by the spinners and weavers, lacemakers, blacksmiths, wood turners and bark artists; an animal farm, a bubble machine, childrens' games, a gymnastics display and events supervised by Nunawading Little Athletics Club. Also In return for a donation of \$2 (to the Society), a valuer from Gryphon & Co. will be here to give you appraisals of any family treasures. Forest Hill Rotary Club will have a sausage sizzle, and free cordial, tea and coffee will be available courtesy of the Whitehorse Historical Society. Hopefully the weather will be kind!

At our August meeting, Joseph Borg from the Maltese Historical Society spoke and showed some fascinating slides on the history of Malta, both ancient and modern. The connection between Schwerkolt Cottage and Malta is our extensive collection of lace. Malta was renowned for its lace, and a common design element is the Maltese Cross and some examples of this motif can be seen in the lace on display.

Members have been very busy working on some profiles of both Whitehorse athletes and sporting administrators to be displayed at Box Hill Town Hall and Nunawading Civic Centre. This project has been time consuming, but if you and other visitors enjoy this exhibition, our time and effort will have been justified.

On Saturday 24 September at 1.30 pm. We will

host the Annual meeting of the Association of Eastern Historical Societies at our Local History Room. Please leave a message if you plan to attend, as numbers needed for catering.

At our December meeting, Saturday 10 December, we will be celebrating the first 40 years of our Historical Society. Keep this date free and join us in sharing memories and the Christmas spirit! I look forward to seeing you on Sunday 2 October!

Judith Fry

All shoebox archivists & Album keepers we want to see those Historical society snaps.

We would like to include some in our celebratory issue, the final newsletter edition of 2005.

We aim to feature some of the many members who over the last 40 years have participated in maintaining our Historical Society.

Please contact us if you can help us out with any images for loan or for donation to our archive.

Deadline for photographs 12th November

Thanks the Ed

Next Meeting Saturday October 8th, 1.30, Local History Room

Our Guest Speaker is
John McKernan on the history of Point Nepean

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.

A walk down memory lane....

Reflections... "walking to school in the winter, galoshes over our shoes, wearing good thick coat, hat and gloves. We walked up Halls Paddock to Walker Avenue then across the Paddock to come out to Premier Ave at Gillows House. They have a white cockatoo on a stand there and when he sees us coming he calls out "Gladys!" "Gladys!" to let them know we are coming. At the end of Premier Ave we walk across a well treed paddock and you can see all sorts of wildflowers growing there. On very cold mornings you can see cobwebs silver on the fences, all glistening beautifully. There are no made roads no footpaths every puddle is deeply iced on frosty mornings"...

My Grandpa Venables lived with us for awhile and used to milk the cow – this was taken over by my Mum when it got too much for him. – Grandpa would take us mushrooming across the paddocks around our place and that was great fun. We also went down these paddocks that had patches of trees; they dropped branches which we picked up and we also gathered the bark to use as kindling for the kitchen stove, the laundry copper and the hotwater heater in the bathroom. I used to like to walk down the bush along the creek especially when the wildflowers were out I remember one day walking along I came to a big patch of blue flowers and in the midst Mr and Mrs Charlie Rooks were standing just looking. Mrs Rooks in her long, old fashioned dress that she always wore – such a lovely picture. I have never forgotten it.

It was a very different kind of life then with no water laid on, just tanks and a small very deep dam my father dug on his own. No electricity, so lamps and candles were the order of the day. Shopping was practically nil as the grocer from the Vermont store came on his bicycle to get your order and then it was delivered by horse drawn wagon. Any extras mum needed, Frances had to get on her bike and cycle to Mitcham – often with a warning from my sister, "Don't be long" – laundry duties awaited my return! Mr and Mrs Rooks were part of my life again when I started work aged 16 at Myer's and I had to cycle to Mitcham station and catch a train.

I needed somewhere to park my bike. For a small fee Mr and Mrs Rooks allowed me to park my bike in their woodshed conveniently close to the station. I have vivid memories of graceful Mrs Rooks and tall Mr Rooks who was a bit of a character, Mr Rooks sister Ina had a similar character and loved to tease. The Rooks were a wonderful couple and some of our earliest Settlers in this area. By the time I was working I had no grandparents who lived close enough to visit easily so when it was time to pay my 'parking' fee I enjoyed visiting the Rooks in their cosy stove-heated kitchen. I was never permitted to visit any other room but this was the same for most people then who in those days usually called in at the back door instead of the front and often lived mainly in the kitchen.

Unfortunately my working life was cut short after developing TB and it took me three years to recover. I virtually had to live on the sleepout part of the verandah for much of this time. I never returned to work instead I married George Warren who I had met at church. There was a group of us who played tennis and badminton. The church socials held in the McKeon Hall were virtually our only chance to get out together, another option was to go down to Box Hill. We had three children, two boys and a girl who kept me busy especially after my husband died when the eldest boy was only 18. Once they had all married. I travelled a little. New Zealand and in 1979 with a tour, visited China as it gradually began opening up to western visitors – it was an amazing experience so many people in their towns compared to Australia.

I was also a member of the congregation at Christchurch Mitcham and it was there that I had met Valda and Ted Arrowsmith and with their support I joined the Historical Society fairly soon after the new museum had been completed. At that time we just had the kitchen and the first half of the meeting rooms. I loved the interest in all things historical and it was great to offer the local knowledge I had gained from living through much of the development of our local area – looking back I enjoyed sharing this lived history and I also loved learning to catalogue the collection. It was lots of fun to work with a friendly group of people with common interests.

Frances Warren (nee Martin)

WHS Dates for your Diary

Remaining meetings in 2005

10th December - Christmas meeting special lunch at 12.30 followed by the meeting .

Working Bees for remainder of 2005
Normally 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

- Saturday 10th September
- Saturday 12th November

Annual Meeting of The Association of Eastern Historical Societies
At

**Local History Rooms
Schwerkolt Cottage**

Saturday 24th September 2005
At 1.30pm

Dates for your diary

The City of Whitehorse
Take A Trip down memory lane
During 2005 heritage week :

Saturday 1 October – 8th October

Here At Schwerkolt Cottage –
Let's Go Heritage Day,
With a sporty theme

Sunday 2nd October 2005
12 noon – 5pm

With many old favourites :

- Animal Farm
- Lace makers
- Parchment craft
- Blacksmiths
- Bark Artists
- Spinners and Weavers
- Little Athletics

Heritage week closes with the
Whitehorse Spring festival, on
Sunday 9th October.

Membership

Renewals & Subscriptions-

Just a reminder to make sure that you have renewed your membership for 2005-2006

Most members have paid their subscriptions but this is a gentle reminder to those who have not yet made sure of their membership for the coming year.

Membership Fees:

- Household \$25
- Single \$18
- Newsletter only \$12

You can pay at the next meeting or
Please send your subscription to

Whitehorse Historical Society
PO Box 272
Mitcham 3132

Barbara Gardiner,
Membership Secretary

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3689	tems catalogued
Documents	5351	Items catalogued
Photographs	3215	Items catalogued

REMEMBER

Whitehorse Historical Society
Local History Collection & Place Of Deposit

*open 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Wednesdays. Visitors welcome.
Ring 9873 4946 for an appointment at other times.
or email us, see back page for web site based
contact details.*

Box Hill Cemetery Records & Nunawading Gazette

THANKS!

Tremendous support has been given by
Penguin Dry Cleaners

Tunstall Square, 59 Tunstall Rd
Ph: 98426642

www.penguindrycleaners.com.au

President
 Judith Fry 9874 4220
 Secretary
 Peter Simmenauer 9877 0141
 Asst. Secretary
 Vicki Jones-Evans 9873 3383
 Treasurer
 June Ventouras 9878 1659
 Editor - Jay Miller 8344 7158 (bh)
 Email: jmil@unimelb.edu.au

Distribution Barbara Gardiner /
 Fred Smith / Ian Nethervote

Our Society on the Internet.
www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/
 Local History Room 9873 4946



Melway Ref. 49 D7



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



accredited
 museum

ISSN 1328-2395

Sharing Australia's Stories - An Update
 Members may recall the launch of the program for *Sharing Australia's Stories* by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell at the Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum complex just prior to the last Federal Election.

The minister launched the project with \$5million available in grants (over 3 years) to be used for creative projects that 'tell the story of the Australia we all love.'

With the enthusiasm of the Minister ringing in our ears we applied for a \$6000 grant to record oral histories, but most particularly to transcribe stories already on tape as well as new oral histories.

We are sorry to report that the WHS was not fortunate enough to receive a grant*. We understand applications will again be called for in 2006 and hope with the support of our Federal Representative, Mr Philip Baressi that we may be successful next year.

* (A list of unsuccessful groups is available to interested members)

Do you know them?



Two still typical photographs - car or public transport?
 Both are from the McDonnell family archive, several of which have been recently donated to the WHS photographic collection. We need some help however with identifying the people featured in these two photographs. NB we know that there is a McDonnell in the bus photo. Please give us a call if you can help.

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



Mrs. Judith Fry
 10a Alexander St
 Mitcham
 3132

