

# *Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.*

*Formerly Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc.*

## **NEWSLETTER**



A0012235J      ABN 44 352 041 634  
Series 13. No. 6      December 2005

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

***The President & Committee  
of the  
Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.  
Invite you to the join in the Celebration of the***

***40th Anniversary***

***of the establishment of the Society***

***at  
The Local History Room,  
Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex,  
Deep Creek Road, Mitcham***

***1.30pm on Saturday  
10th December 2005***

***Speakers on the history of the Society,  
Conversation & Birthday cake!***

**Please RSVP by 3 December, to WHS PO Box 272 Mitcham  
or  
Telephone: 9873 4946**

### **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 President

The *Let's Go Heritage* day 2005 was a wonderful success with 500 visitors. Nunawading Little Athletics Club, the animal farm and all attractions were much enjoyed. Our display of sport memorabilia in the museum was and is still being viewed with much interest. Thank you to all Historical Society members for their invaluable help on this day.

At the October meeting John McKernan in his talk on Point Nepean noted that this was the "birthplace of Victoria". In 1802 the surveyor Grimes during a detailed survey of the area stated "...this is a place for a village." A quarantine station, small hospital, a school and farm were all set up in 1852 after an outbreak of Typhoid. According to John, Point Nepean was the best defended area in the British Empire. Between 1840-1900, 26 shipwrecks were reported along the dangerous piece of coastline. Until quite recently the Point Nepean was closed to the Public.

In 2006\* at our first meeting in February, on Saturday 11th, Ms Lindsay McKirby will deliver a talk on the history of the Deaf and Dumb School on Centre Rd, Blackburn, now known as the Adult Deaf Mute Society.

In December we look forward to celebrating with you a busy 40 years of collecting and documenting the history of the City of Whitehorse. Your invitation is on the front page of this newsletter and we hope you can join us at the December meeting. To assist with catering we have asked for an RSVP. A number of people have promised to tell us of their memories and achievements of the Historical Society over the years and instead of our usual Christmas lunch there will be a splendid afternoon tea with birthday cake. Please note the time of 1.30 for the start of the meeting. I am very much looking forward to meeting up and talking with both old and new friends. I wish all our members a safe and happy festive season.

*Judith Fry*

*\*Don't forget to check on page 4 of this newsletter for more diary dates in 2006*

## ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

### - INTERVIEWERS NEEDED

We are very pleased to report the Department for Victorian Communities has funded the WHS to undertake a project to record the stories of local people and their families who immigrated to Australia in the post-war period.

The Local History Collection housed at Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex includes many oral histories recording the recollections of Australian born residents, these accounts and memories tell us a lot about the development of social, working and religious life in the Nunawading area.

Oral histories are particularly valuable, as they recall events and experiences which have often not been written down.

Further material about immigrant families is needed to fill in the picture up to the present day. More than a quarter of Whitehorse residents were born overseas.

We believe that it is important that the contributions of post-war immigrants to the area should be recognised and that their respective stories be made available to future generations.

We need volunteers who are able to contact suitable people to record their stories. Full costs of training volunteers and expenses of conducting the interviews will be covered by the grant, just a little time is needed.

Anyone who would like to take part in this very interesting and important project should contact:

Valda Arrowsmith – ph 874 1414 or  
Peter Simmenauer – ph. 9877 0141

My sincere apology to Frances Warren author of  
*A Walk down memory lane...*  
which originally appeared on page.2 of the previous issue of the WHS Newsletter. Some corrections due:

Hall's paddock should read **Hall's parade**  
Gillows House should read **Gillans house**  
Last but not least the author's name is of course  
Frances Warren *nee* **Johns** ( not *nee* Martin)

Confusion due to a combination of human error and  
technological crossed lines! *Jay Miller, Ed*

## City of Whitehorse Heritage Week 2nd - 8th October

A week to focus on the heritage of the City of Whitehorse commenced with our Open Day, the theme being *Sporting Endeavours* in recognition of the approaching Commonwealth Games to be held in March 2006. Exhibitions were held respectively in the Box Hill Arts space and the display case at the Whitehorse Civic centre featuring our "Local Sporting Heroes". Our Society and the Box Hill HS contributed histories and photographs of residents who had made a significant contribution to sport in Whitehorse. The Box Hill HS conducted tours of the Box Hill cemetery and the Burwood History Group had tours of the Burwood cemetery. The heritage programs officer, Ms Julie Jones, organised and co-ordinated the week long program. We thank her for her efforts and hope that Heritage week will become an annual event.

*Valda Arrowsmith*

## Whitehorse Council Sport Awards 2005

Ray and I had the pleasure of representing the WHS at the 2005 Sports Awards, at the Box Hill lower Town Hall, 28th October. Brooke Hanson our local Olympic swimmer made an enthusiastic and amusing speech and then presented the awards to winners. Cr. Bowie assisted Brooke and was Master of Ceremonies for the evening. We were pleased to see that all the hard work of the Whitehorse and Box Hill HS members in preparing information about our sporting identities over the years was prominently displayed at this function. The photographs were inspected and the written labels read and enjoyed by all present. All the HS members involved in preparing the display are to be congratulated for a task well done.

*Wendy Standfield*

## Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3753	Items catalogued
Documents	5407	Items catalogued
Photographs	3252	Items catalogued

## Forgetting

Forget the hasty unkind word  
Forget the slander you have heard  
Forget the quarrel and the cause  
Forget the whole affair because,  
Forgetting is the only way  
Forget the storm of yesterday  
Forget the knockers and the squeak  
Forget the bad day of the week  
Forget you are not a millionaire  
Forget the grey streaks in your hair  
Forget to even get the blues  
But don't forget to pay your dues!

They were due in August and I was afraid that "Just Like me" you may have forgotten!

The above verse should be ignored by all those conscientious members who have already sent in their subscription.

## Membership Subscriptions

If there is a 08/05 number on your address label (p.4) your subscription for 2005/06 is now overdue. Your help is much appreciated and needed to ensure our local history is preserved.

Rates are:

Newsletter only	\$12
Single	\$18
Family	\$25

Subscriptions can be forwarded to the Treasurer, June Ventouras at P.O.Box 272, Mitcham 3132. Please ring 9873 4946 if you need a renewal form sent out.

## THANKS!

Tremendous support has been given by  
**Penguin Dry Cleaners**  
Tunstall Square, 59 Tunstall Rd  
Ph: 98426642  
[www.penguindrycleaners.com.au](http://www.penguindrycleaners.com.au)

## REMEMBER

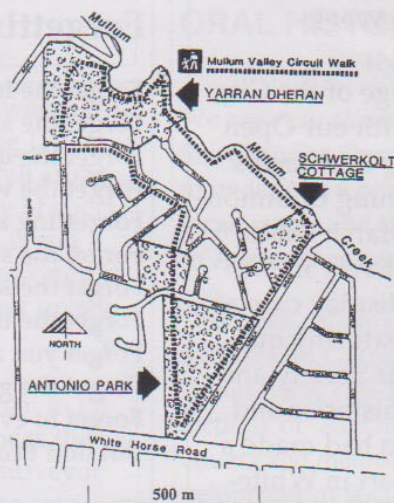
Whitehorse Historical Society  
Local History Collection & Place of Deposit (POD)  
open 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Wednesdays. Visitors are very welcome. Ring 9873 4946 for an appointment at all other times.  
Box Hill Cemetery Records & Nunawading Gazette for 1964-1974 available on microfiche for research.

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Melway Ref. 49 D7



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

**m A p**

accredited  
museum

ISSN 1328-2395

### **WHS Dates for your Diary** **Working Bees for 2006**

(these dates allow for holiday weekends)  
From 9.30 am – 12.30 come for 1-2 or 3 hours\*

**Saturday 11 March Saturday 13 May**  
**Saturday 8 July Saturday September –9**  
**Saturday November –11**

\*Remember...Pest control and cleaning is very time consuming but vital for care and accreditation of the collection. The more hands here at Working Bees the sooner we finish the job!

**First Guest Speaker in 2006** on 11 February will be Ms Lindy McKirby who will speak on The Deaf & Dumb Institute, Blackburn

*More 2006 Speakers – to be listed in the next February issue.*

### **City of Whitehorse Summer Events**

**Sunday 18 December 2005 (Free \*)**  
Carols by candlelight, Civic Centre, Gardens, Nunawading Carols, 8 pm.

\*Small charge candles & programs. BYO chairs.

**Thursday 26th January (no pets please!)**  
Australia Day Twilight Celebrations  
Concert at 6.30 pm, Fireworks at 9.45 pm  
Guest stars – Wilbur Wilde, Debra Byrne  
Wendy Stapleton & Niki Nicholls with the Peter Sullivan big band, BYO picnic or try food on sale

**Whitehorse Summer Music Series 2006**  
**5 February** at Blackburn Lake 4–8pm  
*Musical Theatre & Swing* Free  
**12 February** at Box Hill Gardens 4-8pm  
*St Valentine's day Big bands* Free

### **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

