

Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Formerly Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc.

1965 - 2006



NEWSLETTER



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May-June 2006

From the President

President's Report

Joan and George Henwood have been longstanding active members of the Society. Many of you will recall the wonderful vintage car displays organised by George and his son and the fascinating display from the Fire brigade at one of our heritage days. You will be sad to hear that George has been desperately ill for many months now enduring surgery, and a coma and is currently in intensive care. He still has a battle ahead of him supported as ever by Joan and we wish them both the very best.

Since I last reported we have also had a number of other members on the sick list Barbara Keen and Dorothy Meagher. To these members and any others not feeling well we wish you a speedy recovery.

At our April meeting Ray Meagher told us of his extensive collection of Disston Saws. Ray's love of the Whitehorse area began, when as a boy he spent time with relatives at a weekender in Thomas Street, Mitcham. Later as a carpenter he built houses in Mitcham, Nunawading and other suburbs.

Volunteers are very important to the Society and from time to time we need people with special expertise. At the moment we have a need for a person(s) experienced with computer systems, to give of their time one day per week, possibly on a Wednesday. I can promise a warm

welcome amongst a friendly group of people.

At a forthcoming event planned for all our costume fans on Saturday July 8th we have booked Anne Dixon to deliver one of her very popular and memorable presentations on costume and customs details on page 3.

We hope you and your friends will be able to attend and support this special event.

Please note that due to the Queens Birthday Weekend on the second weekend in June our Society meeting will be a week earlier, on Saturday 3rd June. Speaker details below.

Judith Fry



A wedding photograph NP609 from the Collection of the WHS

*Charles & Edith Toogood
Married on 16th of April 1912*

Next meeting of the Society

Saturday 3rd June 2006

date adjusted for long weekend

1.30 pm

Guest speaker: David Best

on the

**History of the establishment of the
De Stoop and Best dye & mattress ticking
factory, in Joseph St,
Blackburn North**

All mail to be addressed to P.O. Box 272 Mitcham 3132 - Museum 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 Archives

Two extracts from the April- May issue of the Nunawading Historical Society newsletter 1972 .

"How history will view the 70s was the title of the talk given by the Mayor of Nunawading Cr D. Gawler when he and the Lady Mayoress visited our Society ... This proved to be a very interesting talk, ... through the ages from the stone age, when primitive people had no security and few problems, to today when with advanced knowledge, we have the problems associated with modern living to contend with. These are mainly, population, traffic and living congestion, pollution of air and waterways, noise levels and encroachment on man's own privacy. Cr. Gawler expressed his hope that the 70s will be a turning point in history, when man will face these problems, overcome them and so protect our environment, in this age of modern living, ... This certainly inspired each of us to think about our present way of life, in view of the fact that, with each new device there can be a threat of danger to the things we have learnt to value. In question time many interesting views were expressed, including one lady's opinion of the new computer's handling of the rate notices." (!)

"Anyone having visited the Royal Historical Society at 19 Queen Street, their home until recently, would have noticed the highly decorative green tiles on the walls throughout the building. Thanks to the successful negotiations and perseverance of Mrs Martingley and Mrs Field, and the manual labour of George Cox and Ian Barker, we now possess a very handsome collection of these tiles. We are grateful to these members, and to the owners and the caretaker of the building, who made their (removal) possible prior to demolition. These tiles were probably imported towards the end of last Century (19th), and we hope, when Mr Walker * visits us at our next meeting he will be able to identify them. Together with the photos taken inside the building, by Mr Chatwin, we feel we have a valuable addition to our own collection of locally made tiles.

*Eds note: *(Walker family associated with the local Australian Tessellated Tile company)*

Holidays and Heritage – Peter Simmenauer visits Mallacoota

A VISIT TO "THE BUNKER"

A holiday at Mallacoota gave me the opportunity to visit the Mallacoota Historical Society and RSL display. Open on Tuesdays, it is located in a restored World War II communications bunker, one of several built along the Victorian coast for monitoring of transmissions and as communications links.

Initiated by the local RSL branch, The Bunker is ran by a group comprising representatives of both the RSL and the Historical Society. An enormous amount of work has been done to restore the building to the point that it can house displays and act as a base for the Society. The bush that had grown up around it had to be cleared, a new floor built, internal cladding installed against the flaking concrete and lighting and a security system installed. The result is a large, attractive and uncluttered area suitable for displaying the sizeable collection of photographs, documents and equipment collected by the RSL, and the growing collection of artifacts belonging to the Historical Society. Their collection, which will illustrate the maritime and agricultural history and development of the area, is in the process of being organized, and volunteers are currently being trained in museum techniques.

Well worth a visit, for an insight into the role and operation of a fascinating but largely overlooked aspect of Australia's wartime activities as well as an insight into the history of the Mallacoota area.

Peter Simmenauer



WHS Dates for your Diary

2006 meeting dates and guest speakers

Saturday 12 August AGM

address by the Mayor Cr Sharon Ellis

Saturday 14 October

Margaret Rackham History of Nunawading
Community Gardens at Forest Hill

Saturday 9 December

Christmas Celebration
Singing Group and afternoon tea.

2nd Saturday of alternate months are set
for our Working Bees.

Everyone welcome - morning tea included!

Did You Know?

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children and last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it hence the saying "Don't throw the baby out with the bath-water"!

Contributed by Geoff Inskster

THANKS!

The WHS appreciates the support given by
Margaret & John Skey
with clock repairs and with the
laundering of textiles

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3813	Items catalogued
Documents	5470	Items catalogued
Photographs	3282	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.
Box Hill Cemetery Records & Nunawading Gazette
for 1964-1974 available on microfiche for research

Collaboration has not gone unnoticed.....

The Box Hill Historical Society Newsletter * carried a report recently highlighting the words of praise given by Mayor Sharon Ellis in her speech on the occasion of the Queen's Baton leaving Box Hill Town Hall on 15 March 2006. Commenting on a project which involved researching an exhibition on local Sporting Heroes and shown at three main venues across the Municipality the article quotes the Mayor thus:

"Thanks must go particularly to our two historical Societies, Box Hill and Whitehorse. The research, dedication and hundreds of hours of work have all been provided on a voluntary basis. The collaboration of the Historical Societies and Council has not gone unnoticed, and the Office of the Commonwealth Games has highlighted his project with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria as an excellent example of Historical Societies and Councils working together"

** (BHS newsletter, Vol 17 issue 1)*

The Whitehorse Historical Society Invites you to

A presentation of costume and
customs of bygone days
By Anne Dixon



"The Three Bells"
Birth Marriage Mourning

2pm on Saturday, 8th of July 2006

Forster hall,
Christ Church Anglican Church
Cnr of Whitehorse Road & Edwards
St
Mitcham

Donation \$8
Includes refreshments

All Enquiries
9874 4220 or 9874 1414

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from the
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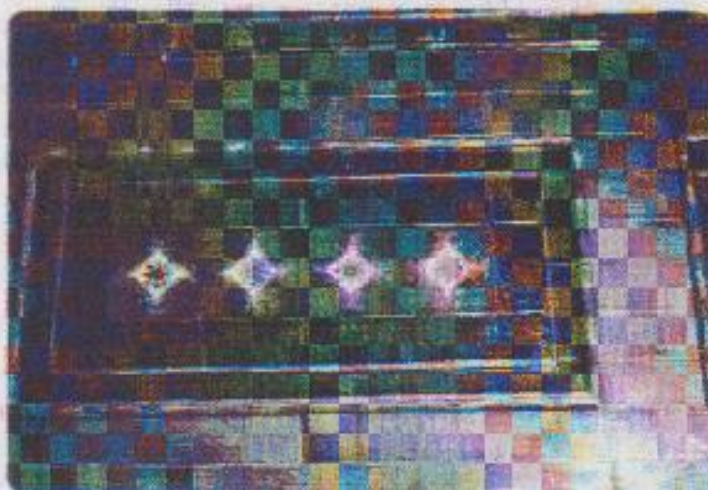
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accredited
museum

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*As mentioned in the 1972
 Newsletter (see page 2)
 A photograph taken in
 situ in 1972 at 19 - 25
 Queen St. Melbourne
 showing a sample of the
 tiles now in our collec-
 tion. One of the decora-
 tive tiles shown here is
 on display in the Museum*

(Image NP161)



*Deadline for notices relating to heritage or any other activities for inclusion in the newsletter need to
 be supplied to the editor usually by the 12th of the month preceding the next meeting.*



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