

Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Formerly Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc.

1965 - 2007



NEWSLETTER



A0012235J

ABN 44 352 041 634

Series 15 no 2

March / April 2007

From the President

As predicted in our last issue of the newsletter 2007 is already turning out to be very busy for the Society. We have attended a number of meetings already this year concerning the building of a new Implement Shed. The site for this new building is in the old orchard and plans are progressing. (see pages 2 and 4 for a brief report - ed)

We have recently taken receipt of a collection of papers and belongings that virtually document the life and times of the Till family. It doesn't seem as though they threw anything away! You will be hearing more about this significant donation as we work on sorting and cataloguing everything.

A grant from the City of Whitehorse has funded skilled treatment by a Conservator who will work on restoration and conservation of gowns in the collection which date to the 1800s. The long term aim being to display them in our museum.

In February of this year we hosted a visit by a number of first year students from the Museum Studies course at Deakin University. They were very interested and appreciative of all the work undertaken by the volunteers.

At the February General meeting the speaker, Margaret Rackham presented us with a History of the Nunawading Community gardens. An initiative of Nunawading Councillor Gavin Oakley he was inspired by the system of community Allotment gardens developed in urban areas of England. There are 127 plots in Jolimont Road, Forest Hill and 42 plots at Slater Ave, in Blackburn, and it seems there are always people on the waiting

list. Members are welcome to visit the two sites and see the diversity of plants and vegetables being grown.

Our thanks are also due to Wendy Standfield and Vicki Jones-Evans who have worked very hard to produce an excellent display which went on show at the Nunawading Library. The display is focussed on the "1907 Inaugural Exhibition of Women's Work at the Royal Exhibition Buildings, in Melbourne". The display is on for the whole of March so it may be worth a special effort to visit.

A big thank you to all those who volunteered to assist with the sausage sizzle at *Bunnings* on March 10th. A holiday weekend, this was for both *Bunnings* and our stall unfortunately an "unusually quiet weekend" but at least a small profit was achieved to reward our efforts.

We would like to notify members that this year the Historical Society's Constitution is being reviewed by a sub-committee in association with the Incorporations Act (1981) and we intend to put proposed changes to the general meeting in June 2007.

In the meantime we look forward to seeing you at our meeting after Easter. *Judith Fry*

Next Meeting
Saturday 14th April 2007
1.30pm
Speaker: Kaele Way
will speak on
Women in Local Government

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.

An Index to our Newsletter

The Society's Newsletter commenced publication in 1967, and contains a great deal of interesting Historical material, some of which is not yet in the collection held in the Local History Room. Until now there has been no easy way to locate such material.

Lyn Athan has just completed an *Index to the Newsletter, May 1967 to December 2006*. In addition to her cataloguing of documents on Wednesdays Lyn has done most of the work on the index at home.

Copies of the index are available for use in the Local History Room and copies can be borrowed by members.*

We don't know how many hours Lyn has spent on compiling this invaluable research tool, but it is a lot! Thank you Lyn, for all your work, it will greatly improve research access to our document collection.

Peter Simmenauer

** A big well done from me too! This will also make it much easier to include a variety of items for our "From the archives" column. Perhaps one day this can also be made available through the website - Ed*

The New Equipment Shed

This will be a very exciting month. Construction is expected to commence on the new equipment and implement shed, for which Council has approved funding in the budget for this financial year.

Society members have been engaged in discussions to finalise the design with Council officers Mary Likas and Mark Fawcett, and architect Robyn Riddett of Lovell Chen. The shed is expected to be completed by July. The shed will be built on the "Orchard" and will hold the Society's collection of orcharding machinery, donated to us by various local orchardists. The display will

Cont ... page 4

BONNETS: A

Tribute to female Convicts & an invitation

Christina Henri in conjunction with the Female Factory in Hobart is planning to stage four installations as a tribute to women, and especially to the approximately 25,000 convict women who were shipped to "parts unknown" and became the back bone of contemporary Australian Society. The first installation, *Roses from the Heart*, was shown this year on the 8th of March.

The Bonnet installation, the second of the installations, is to be shown on *International Women's Day 8 March 2008*.

Christina would like 25,000 women to make a woman's cloth bonnet decorated with hearts and roses. These bonnets will be displayed at four venues in Australia and in the United Kingdom.

If you have a female convict ancestor the bonnet can be made in her name. If you do not have a convict ancestor you can "adopt" a convict.

Tasmanian convict names are available on the Female Factory website:
www.femalefactory.com.au

The bonnet pattern and instructions are also available on the website or you can contact Vicki Jones-Evans (9873 3383) for more information.

Vicki has made a bonnet honoring her great, great grandmother, Sarah Nielson who was sent out on the "Woodbridge" from Glasgow on 25/12/1843 to Hobart.

Diary Dates

Working Bees for 2007

A small but enthusiastic group worked very hard on a 30 degree day on Saturday 3rd March.

Many thanks to those willing workers.

The dates for future working bees will be as follows - starting time at 9.30 am

Saturday, May 12th

No working bee in July

Saturday, September 8th

Saturday, November 10th

For information ring Ian Nethercote on 9725 9163

Speakers for General Meetings

Saturday, April 14th

Kaele Way - Women in Local Government

Saturday, June 9th

Ray Peace - History of Wattle Park

Saturday, August, 11th

Dorothy Bullen - T. T. Morton

Saturday October 13th

Pat Richardson -
Orcharding Family Ancestors

Saturday, December 8th

To be announced

Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3936	Items catalogued
Documents	6006	Items catalogued
Photographs	3361	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

Outing news

Tuesday May 29th at 10am

Visit to

The Costume Collection,

39 Greenaway Street

Yarra Park

Admission \$5

At the next General Meeting in April some car pooling will be organised or you can ring Barbara Gardiner for more information about transport. Call: 9874 6592

Your Donations have bought....

Since the Society was approved as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Australian Taxation Office, your donations have been well used to buy some essential pieces of equipment for Society use.

These include:

- * a replacement photocopier, used for administration, research and newsletter production;
- * two computers and a screen, used for research, administration and cataloguing;
- * two scanners, used to digitise photographs in our collection for inclusion in cooperative databases;
- * a speakers' lectern and a (2nd-hand) whiteboard for speakers at meetings, and an additional work table for the Local History Room..

The total value of these purchases is about \$5,000, which just would not have been possible to find without your generosity.

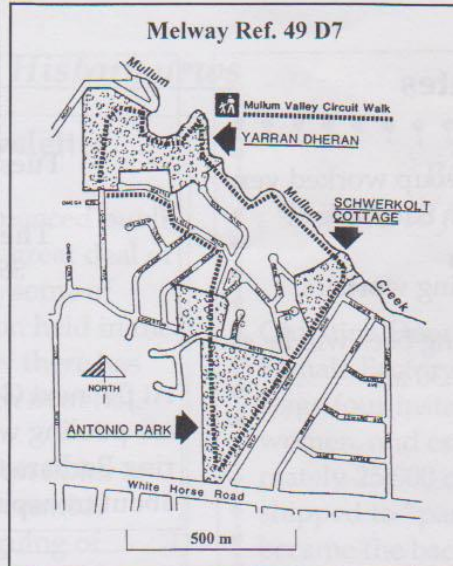
We hope that you will continue to support your Historical Society by donation or bequest



Don't forget that, because of our taxation status, any donations of \$2.00 or more are now tax deductible. This also applies to bequests made in a will.

Thank you all very much.

Peter Simmenauer

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




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

 accredited museum
 ISSN 1328-2395

also include a restored 1920s Fordson tractor currently in storage and owned by the Council.

The Equipment shed will be open to the public for the same hours as the other buildings in the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex throughout the year.

The vacated area at the rear of the Museum will remain part of the Museum and eventually will be re-designed to improve our displays and storage space.

Watch the newsletter for more progress reports on this exciting development.



*Coolstores packing sheds – Livermores orchard
 WHS image collection – NP 586*



Sender: 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