

# Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Formerly Nunawading & District Historical Society Inc.

1965 - 2007



## NEWSLETTER



A0012235J ABN 44 352 041 634  
Series 15 no 3 May / June 2007

### From the President

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, our Constitution has been under review. The Committee has been working closely with Kaele Way to upgrade the Society's Constitution, now to be known as:

*"Rules of the Whitehorse Historical Society"*.

We thank Kaele for her substantial input, time, reams of paper and her expertise in guiding the committee in the process of updating the Rules.

The Committee is working towards presenting the changes at the next meeting and we encourage members to attend as we need to put the proposed changes to the vote.

The new Rules of the Society can be previewed at the Local History room on Wednesdays during working group hours of 10-2pm or by appointment.

At the April meeting Kaele Way, a local Councillor for six years, was our speaker on the topic of the role of Women in local government. In 1919 Councillor Bean became the first female councillor in Victoria and although women have served on Councils ever since it seems that women are still under-represented in local government. The point was also made that no government could pay for the volunteer hours that so many women have given to the Community.

The Whitehorse Historical Society congratulates Dr Stanley Cochrane Kindergarten on their 50th Anniversary of continuous service to the pre school children of Mitcham and an article on Dr Cochrane is included in this newsletter.

Plans for the new Implement shed are still being finalised but hopefully work will be commence in the near future.

In this digital age our Historical Society has a desperate need for some volunteer computer expertise. If you do know of anyone with such skills please point them in our direction, or invite them to either one of our Saturday talks or our next public day.

This year our Heritage Day is on Sunday the 9th September and I hope everyone who can, will come along as a visitor or volunteer supporter, it is a busy day for us all. More about this event in the next newsletter.

Welcome to new member Robert Hunter of Watsonia. We hope he enjoys his time with us.

At our next meeting on the 9th June we look forward to seeing you all at a talk on Wattle Park presented by Ray Peace who has written a fascinating history on the subject.

*Judith Fry*

**Please note Date  
Next Meeting  
Saturday 9th June 2007  
1.30pm**

**At which a vote will be taken on the  
proposed amendments to the Rules of  
the Whitehorse Historical Society**

**Followed by  
A talk by Mr Ray Peace author of a  
history on Wattle Park**

**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 – Stanley Warrender Cochrane 8 Nov 1880– 25 May 1950

By Yvonne Fitzmaurice

Stanley Warrender COCHRANE born in London, lived at 22 Alwyn Square, Islington, which is close to and south of the present day Canonbury underground station.

The Cochrane family of nine, plus two nurses and a cook were sole occupants of the house. The children, five girls and two boys were aged between 9 years to the baby, Stanley who was five months old at the time of the 1881 Census.

His father, Robert was born in Dublin, Ireland c 1843 recorded his occupation in the Census as 'Australian Merchant'. The mother of the family was Frances nee LUKE and she was born at Islington c. 1845.

Both parents died in Melbourne, presumably at their home, 'Edlington', Hawthorn. Cochrane's five sisters were unmarried and were still living there until the mid 1900s.

The family sailed to Melbourne as Cabin Class passengers on the 'Sussex', a 1620 ton ship, which departed London on 2 November 1883. The manifest lists the family as being Mr Cochrane, eight children, a governess, a nurse and a maid. Strangely, there is no mention of Mrs Cochrane but subsequent birth records prove her existence in Australia.

Stanley W. Cochrane was educated at the Camberwell Grammar School and later at the University of Melbourne. Although he completed his medical training at the Royal Melbourne Hospital he returned to Britain to gain his qualifications at both Glasgow and Edinburgh in 1913. This was followed by a one year hospital residency in Hastings, Sussex before returning to Australia.

In Melbourne in 1915, Stanley married Edith nee COLLIS, the daughter of Frederick COLLIS and Frances Sarah nee TIGHE. There were no children born to Stanley and Edith and she died aged 88 at their home in Mitcham.

On 4th of March 1918, Stanley joined the Imperial Forces Medical Corps and on the 25th of May that year at Broadmeadows he was examined and passed medically fit for service. He was described as being of 37 years of age; 5 feet 10 inches tall; weight 162 lbs, and had 5/6 vision with spectacles. Physical marks were three inoculation marks from infancy and a small scar on the tip of his left index finger. His pay book stated also that his home



*Studio portrait  
WHS archive NP1792*

L.R.C.P., L.R.S. et Edinburgh; L.R.S.P.S., Glasgow 1913 (Melb)

6/1/1843, Hon Captain 3rd Military District 1917.

Captain, 1921.

Transferred to R.A.M.C Reserve 1923.

Placed on reserve list 1941.

Active Service

Captain Australian Army medical Corps, Imperial Forces  
1918 – 1920

Decorations: WWI Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

address was 80 Vale Street, of East Melbourne, his religion was Congregational.

On the 19th of June 1918, he embarked at Sydney and sailed on the 'SS Field Marshall' for London disembarking on the 26th of August 1918. On the 14th of September 1918 he he was posted to France via Southampton with the rank of Captain to join the 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen.

His next postings were as Captain, to 32nd Australian Division, 6th Australian Field Ambulance; Temporary attachment as Regimental Medical officer to 22 Bn, France and 4th Australian Field Ambulance Brigade; rejoined the 4th Field Ambulance & 20 Casualty Clearing Station. Cochrane returned to England where he was granted four months leave based with the AIF at Folkstone. During this period, May to September 1919, he was allowed to perform non-military post-graduate work in the Ear, Nose and Throat hospital in London. He sailed for Australia on the Aeneas departing on 22 November 1919, arriving 9th of January 1920.

In 1920 Dr Cochrane commenced his practice in Mitcham, in a small shop on the south side of Whithorse Road, next to the plumber, Mr Grey. During this time Dr Cochrane and his wife took board and lodging at rooms just south of the railway line.



About 1929, Dr Cochrane bought two blocks of land in Mitcham Road which were separated by a narrow lane. On the block at the corner of Harrison and McDowell Streets was a house, the other was vacant, Both had belonged to Dr F.J. Drake who specialized in tuberculosis at the sanatorium where White Friars College now stands.

On the vacant block at 109, now 333 Mitcham Rd where it intersects with Harrison St - Dr Cochrane built "Warrender" his new home which had a surgery attached. The older house that had been Dr. Drake's home was retained as a hospital for maternity and general patients This building was sold to the Mitcham RSL in 1950 and used as their club rooms; it was demolished in 1984.

Stories abound about Dr Cochrane, his willingness to make house visits at all hours, his social visits 'just for a cuppa' and he is still fondly remembered by his past patients most of whom are now quite elderly. They recall his speech as concise and clipped, but they "were not intimidated by him because they knew him as a very kind man, with a very warm heart."

One patient's mother had cause to remember the Doctor's care of her 6foot 2 inches tall son who had a nasty leg after a football injury. That night at midnight Dr Cochrane arrived with his bag of tools and an extension he had made for the lad's bed! The same lady remembers that during the Great Depression Dr Cochrane had left himself only one pair of shoes. From those comments it would appear that he gave not only medical help but also material assistance to his patients. Further anecdotal evidence suggests that his surgery was always open with the result that his wife had to insist that his meal breaks were observed.

In the late 1920s before he bought his car, a single-seater Chevrolet, he usually made his home visits on a large black English bicycle, with his black medical bag on the straight handle bars. He rode in stiff upright position and to onlookers he appeared very dignified in his formal morning suit, which consisted of striped trousers, black jacket, bow tie, bowler hat and bicycle clips, the latter he often wore during his house visit.

For his entire life he was particularly interested in the welfare of all returned soldiers. In 1920 he was second President of the Mitcham RSL,

## Diary Dates

### Working Bees for 2007

*No working bee in July*

**Saturday, September 8th**

**Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

For information ring Ian Nethercote 9725 9163

### Speakers for Saturday General Meetings

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** Ray Peace - History of Wattle Park

**August, 11<sup>th</sup>** Dorothy Bullen - T. T. Morton

**October 13<sup>th</sup>** Pat Richardson -

Orcharding Family Ancestors

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** To be announced

## New Record of service data from the National Archives.

For members who are seeking to do some research on the records of relatives who enlisted in the ADF in WW1 a new research tool was recently launched by the National Archive. Available via the internet, Service records (up to 30 pages in some cases) and wherever possible images, can now be accessed online. A warning though, response has been huge, even with broadband there may be a bit of a wait to download information. The Shrine provides access for those who do not have internet at home or you can try through your library.

## Your Donations

Don't forget that, because of our taxation status, any gifts of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.

### Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status

Artifacts	3952	Items catalogued
Documents	6030	Items catalogued
Photographs	3389	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



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and in 1925 was on the Mitcham Memorial Hall Committee. His wife supported him by being on the Ladies Committee of the RSL.

Dr Cochrane was also a member of the Christ Church Anglican Church, Mitcham where he occasionally played the organ at services. The Sanctuary lights there were given to the Church in his memory. He had been in General practice for approximately thirty years when he died at his Mitcham Road home on 25 May 1950 aged 69 years and 6 months. On the following day his funeral service was held at the Crematorium, Fawkner Cemetery.

Cochrane Street which runs south from Whitehorse Rd under the Railway bridge to Orient Avenue, Mitcham is named after this much loved and very respected man.

Another tribute to his life and care of the community is the *Dr Stanley Cochrane Memorial Kindergarten Inc.* at 257 Mitcham Rd where in 1957 a plaque to perpetuate

his memory was donated by Dr Twiddy who was both a friend and colleague.

Dr Cochrane's practice was taken over by Dr Threlkeld who in turn retired and sold the land by auction. The auctioneer was Drake's Real Estate, established in 1914 by the brother of Dr Drake from whom Dr Cochrane had bought his practice.

*NB Author's note:* The Death notice (1950) gives the street number as 121 Mitcham Rd. This road was however re-numbered in the 1960s which helps explain some date difference on the records.

#### Key References:

- WHS archive files
- Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne
- University of Melbourne Archives
- Camberwell Grammar Archives

IDS resources

- 1881 Census (UK)
- Shipping lists, Public Records Office, Victoria
- Australian War Memorial Archives, Canberra



**Sender: Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. & Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex,**  
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