



# The WHS NEWSLETTER

Series 16 no 1 January– February 2008

## The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Formerly Nunawading & District HS. Estab. 1965

ABN 44 352 041 634  
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### 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.

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Victoria

## 204 hours later...Some wonderful volunteer WHS Inc workers take a break from their hard work!



Back row l-r: : Bob Gardiner, Margaret Eklund, Yvonne Fitzmaurice, Barbara Keene, Wendy Standfield, Ian Nethercote, Peter Simmenauer, Front row: Barbara Gardiner, Valda Arrowsmith, Ted Arrowsmith, Vicki Jones-Evans, June Ventouras. Photo: Steve Lane, Heritage Victoria Volunteer. See inside on page 2 Barb Gardiner's big re-paint diary

### Collection news: An addition to the Schwerkolt Cottage story

Recently we received a donation of interesting documents about the near destruction of the Schwerkolt Cottage when purchased by the then City of Nunawading. The Housing Commission wrote a threatening letter stating that since as current owner the City had not demolished the cottage (by then in a very poor state), then the Commission would attend to the demolition forthwith! This gem of a letter and other treasures were donated to WHS by the retiring President of the Ringwood Historical Society, Mr Richard Carter. Richard's father Allan, who owned a real estate office kept these precious docu-

ments for twenty five years, they then languished for the same number of years in a filing cabinet in Richard's shed, finally unearthed when he made plans to move house. This discovery and experience was noted in the September, 2007 issue of the Ringwood HS newsletter thus: "What is the lesson here? So much is lost when people move homes " If in doubt chuck it out" has meant the loss of much valuable documentation over the years. Perhaps we should say "If in doubt chuck it our way". Our sincere thanks to Richard for remembering us and for the quote. The donation can be inspected on Wednesday or by appointment.

**Next meeting Saturday 9th February 2008 1.30 pm  
Pat Richardson on the Course family of Forest Hill**



## **From the WHS President – Judith Fry**

The re-painting of the cottage and museum complex is now complete and both buildings look wonderful both inside and out. The Wednesday working group and helpers had a mammoth task packing and storing everything from both buildings. A big thank you to all for their time, commitment and hard work. In her adjacent article Barbara Gardiner gives us some insight into the process involved for all the project team.

An apology is in order to our December speaker. Mrs Dorothy Hall who is a member of the Salvation Army and of their Historical Society not the Box Hill Historical Society. She is the researcher and collator of the book *Where a City Grew* which tells us that the Salvation Army has been in Box Hill since 1891. Dorothy also provided a delicious sponge cake for our afternoon tea.

At our next general Meeting on Saturday 9th of February Pat Richardson will speak on the Course family, pioneers of Forest Hill and her ancestors. I will also look forward to catching up with everyone.

### **A Cottage & Museum re-paint = 204 hours of volunteer teamwork: A Diary**

#### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2007**

First day of the pack up for the painting of the cottage. The painters have already started on the outside of the cottage and the history room/museum building. Nine helpers today who worked very hard, wrapping, packing and moving boxes. It is good exercise walking up and down from the cottage to the history room – Steve, our Heritage volunteer, transported the heavy items by trolley. It is organized chaos inside, so we enjoyed morning tea and lunch under verandah. All wall hangings had to be moved from the walls and protected.

#### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2007**

Twelve helpers today (fantastic!). We attacked the museum today as we have to keep ahead of the painters. The large shopfront display cases had to be emptied and all the movable artifacts against the walls had to be moved. We had a festive morning tea and lunch under the verandah (shortbreads, chocolates and strawberries with our sandwiches) as we had thought this would be our last day before Christmas. Ian has done great work in cleaning the cottage fireplaces and Bob handled the vacuuming of very high show cases, you need to be multi-skilled, here! We have found many items that needed laundering and these have been distributed amongst our expert volunteers – the larger items to the dry cleaners.

#### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2007**

The painters have finished so on Tuesday, we spent the morning at the cottage – airing mattresses, hanging curtains, dusting furniture and vacuuming and mopping floors in the bedrooms.

#### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2007**

Eight helpers today and we all felt a sense of achievement as most of the artifacts have been returned to the cottage. An empty table enabled us to have morning tea and lunch inside. Judith and Yvonne very methodically washed and dried the china and glass items. Peter, Steve and Ian got plenty of exercise returning the items to the cottage and placing as directed by Vicki, June and I. Pleased to see the cottage looking so orderly again.

#### **January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Monday 11 helpers, Tuesday 12 helpers**

Back after Christmas/New Year break and after seeing the weather forecast, a quick ring around decided us to work on Monday and Tuesday to avoid the very hot days. The days have blurred into one – busy and tiring but we managed to finish all but a couple of small jobs. My memories are of Vicki, June, Wendy and Co. replacing the costume display. Barbara Keene and Margaret Eklund cleaning the kettles from the cottage fireplace and Valda and Ted doing a great job hanging them up. Peter, Ian, Bob and Steve moving the heavy items and hanging the highly placed wall hangings. Yvonne, Judith and I helping wherever we were needed. We had morning tea and lunch under the verandah – very pleasant. We managed to change the History Room from a disaster area with two people pushing vacuum cleaners around and others replacing the table arrangements and all back to normal for our next working Wednesday! Well done Team!

[NB *Our volunteers worked a total of 204 hours in all, a good demonstration of the teamwork and dedication of volunteers to the aims of our Historical Society.*]

#### **Sincere & special thanks are also due to:**

**Penguin Drycleaners, Tunstall Square** for their generosity and care of the hand-knitted and crocheted bedcovers from the children's room.

Also our sincere appreciation to:  
**John & Rose of D.C. Framing, of Springvale Road, Nunawading** who generously restored two of the wall hangings from the cottage, ready for re-hanging in time for our re-opening.

B. Gardiner



***A few more snaps from the gang at work Christmas  
and New Year 2007-2008***



***The workers at rest this time with  
Steve, a Volunteer with Heritage  
Victoria, in the picture  
(back row far right)***

***Photographer Ted Arrowsmith***



***Inspecting packing .... Now  
where does this go??***



***Some nice heavy sewing  
machines to move – okay !***

***Barb and Bob Gardiner,  
Steve Lane and  
Margaret Eklund  
devise strategies!***



## **The Centenary of Women's Suffrage.**

In 2008 the City of Whitehorse Council will recognize an important event in the history of Australian women, the right to vote. For many years the women of Victoria demanded that they be given the right to vote for the Parliamentary representative of their choice. Finally after nineteen private members bills submitted from 1889 onwards it was not until 1908 that Victorian women gained the right to vote in their State elections.

Victoria was the last State in Australia to legislate for women's right to vote, and it was not until 1924 that women were allowed to stand for Parliament in Victoria. Of the few courageous women who stood for Parliament none were successful until 1933. Between 1933 and 1979, no more than two women were members of the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) at any one time. Prior to 1979 no women had ever been elected to the Legislative Council (Upper House).

Women repeatedly faced opposition from men in their ambitions to be involved in the decisions which affect the lives of all people. Further significant progress was only made when women formed together in the 1970s to achieve their goals. Groups such as the Women's Electoral Lobby and the Women's Action Alliance still met with much opposition. Gradually however, with the support of such groups and improved political acceptance women have achieved the right to represent their communities of interest. There are presently: thirty-eight women members of the Parliament of Victoria, twelve are Legislative Councillors and twenty six are Members of the Legislative Assembly. Four women hold positions as Ministers in Cabinet.

The WHS is pleased the City of Whitehorse Council has produced a poster marking the long struggle. This poster is included in the 2008 calendar which is distributed to all residents. Over the next twelve months, there will also be a regular page in the Whitehorse News. This will be devoted to exploring the contributions made by women to the local and broader community. Each month will cover a different field of endeavour, appropriately as Schools get under way again the February focus will be Education.

I hope you will enjoy with us the tracing of the historical record of the respective success of dedicated women.

The Victorian Government will also sponsor various events throughout the year.

It is important that we continue to pay tribute to the many women who have given much to gain the right to participate in our government at all levels.

V.Arrowsmith

### **Cataloguing the Collection - Current Status Limited activity during December 2007 and January 2008 due to re-painting.**

Artifacts	3981	Items catalogued
Documents	6112	Items catalogued
Photographs	3429	Items catalogued

### **Vale. Val Riches**

**It is with great sadness that we report the death of long time member, Val Riches. Val helped with the mail-out of the newsletter for many years and will be missed.**

**Our sympathy to her family.**

### **Membership news**

Just a reminder that all members are welcome to come along to the Wednesday working group. This is also a good time for people to drop in for self directed research questions.

### **REMEMBER**

#### **Whitehorse Historical Society Local History Collection**

*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**

### **Budget crisis?**

A recipe for shampoo if you happen to have some of these ingredients to hand.

**WARNING – AN ADULTS ONLY MIXTURE!**

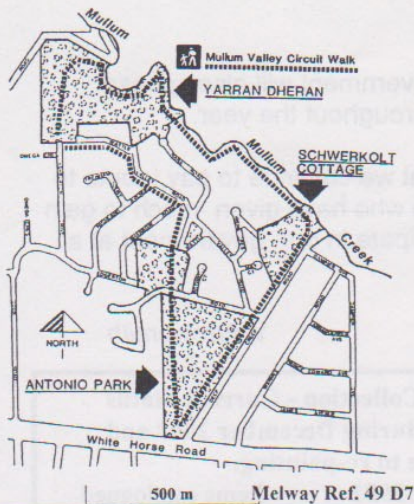
- Carbonate of potash – 1 ounce
- Water of ammonia – half a fluid ounce
- Alcohol – 4 fluid ounces
- Water sufficient to make 8 fluid ounces.

And presumably shake it all together !

Wet the head pour sufficient of the solution to raise a good lather . Then rinse with lukewarm water.

(NB. A conditioner after this process may also help!)





Whitehorse Historical Society, Inc. acknowledges the support of the City of Whitehorse



## WHS Dates for your Diary

### 2008 meeting dates & guest speakers

**Saturday April 12. 'Anzac Day'**  
Peter McPhee, President of Mitcham RSL.

**Saturday June 14. 'Helen Hart – Pioneer of Suffragist.'**  
Councillor Helen Harris O.A.M.

**Saturday August 9. AGM - to be finalised**

**Saturday October 11. - to be finalised**

**Saturday December 13. – to be finalised**

On alternate months our important Working Bees co-ordinated by Ian Nethercote take place. Everyone welcome

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#### Message from the editor:

We welcome your comments on the new format for our newsletter please contact me directly or via any of the people listed on the side panel. We will adjust things with each of the next few issues of 2008.

**Please note that copy deadline for newsletters this year is the first Saturday of the month preceeding our meeting month, e.g for next issue (April) copy should reach the editor or the Society by the first Saturday in March 2008.**

Thanks J. Miller

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



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