



The Whitehorse Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Series 16 no 3 May -June 2008

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The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

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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The following article from our collection was of interest to Pat Richardson as her mother was born in Forest Hill and in 1930 she contracted polio. How fortunate we are today that medical science can prevent the serious illnesses a family experienced in the early 1900s.

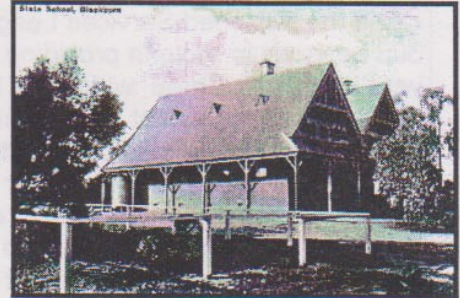
Shire Health Officer's Report for 1931. Blackburn and Mitcham Reporter – Friday 4th May 1932.

The report of the medical officer in the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham (Dr. S. Cochrane) for the year ended December 31st 1931 reads as follows:- Infectious diseases:- 44 cases of notifiable were reported during the year. And are classified as follows:- Diphtheria 20; scarlet fever 7; poliomyelitis 8; puerperal fever; encephalitis; lethargica 1.

The incidents of diphtheria were almost three times as numerous as in 1930. In view of the number of cases occurring amongst the Blackburn schoolchildren it was decided to obtain swabs from all the scholars of that school.

This, with the assistance of the shire inspector, members of the school staff and two senior scholars was carried out on April 8th, 9th and 13th. The result was the discovery of five diphtheria carriers among the scholars, four of whom were referred to their family doctors for treatment and the fifth was sent to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The only other disease to show a large increase over the previous year was poliomyelitis, commonly known as infantile paralysis, of which there were unfortunately eight cases against one in 1930. The publicity



Blackburn State School c1911 (built 1889)

given to this disease, especially as regards to early manifestations, has quickened the anxiety of parents, and has thus caused the infected children to be treated more promptly with gratifying results.

Of the non-notifiable disease small epidemics of mumps, chicken pox, measles and influenza, no figures however being available as to the incidence. The first two named appeared to be the most numerous.

Inspections: - The drain between the footpath and the road at the entrance to Ashleigh Street, Blackburn, was inspected and a report submitted to the council. Action was subsequently taken by the council, and a suitable covered drain laid down, which did away with the nuisance.

Infant Welfare Centre: - This activity is reported on by the sister in charge. The increasing number of attendances attest to its usefulness, and appreciation of mothers. The only comments are praise for the efficiency of its management and the gratitude towards those who were instrumental in establishing such a necessary institution.

Next meeting Saturday 14th of June 2008 – 1.30pm

Cr Helen Harris OAM on Helen Hart, Pioneer Suffragist

A note from the President – Judith Fry

At the April meeting Peter Mc Phee from Mitcham RSL was our speaker and amongst other interesting facts revealed that Ted Arrowsmith's grand father was a foundation member and secretary of the "Fathers' Association" which subsequently became the Returned Services League. There are 306 Leagues in Victoria providing \$60 million a year in welfare. Three widows of WW 1 soldiers still reside in the district. Peter also mentioned the well known local identity Dr Twiddy, who served in the RAAF and shared with former Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam the memorable experience of their plane being under fire. It was also noted that Mitcham RSL has one of the best collection of war memorabilia in the State.

A big thank you is owed to all who helped with the very successful sausage sizzle at Bunnings and especially Bob and Barb Gardiner who organised everything so efficiently. We made \$1720.

We have had some good press coverage in the *Leader* press and no doubt by now many will have seen the photographs and articles. featuring Vicki Jones-Evans with some of our collection of undergarments and Bob and Barb Gardiner with Mrs Hooke's bicycle. This is a significant gift and more about the bike and the Hooke family is included in this newsletter.

Another display at the Nunawading branch of the Eastern Regional Library service will be installed by our Historical Society. The dates are 30 July – 26th August. Please take some time to have a look.

This year Mitcham Primary School is 120 years old and accordingly there will be celebrations on Friday and Saturday 17th and 18th of October so mark your diary now! The organising committee are also seeking Mitcham Primary School photographs and memorabilia for loan and would appreciate any contributions. Contact the School direct or Judith Fry at the Historical Society if you have any to offer.

Lastly we offer hearty congratulations to members Joan Henwood and Robert Hunter who were recently married.

President Judith Fry & Mr Peter McPhee, speaker at our April Meeting with some of the medals he brought along from the RSL Mitcham memorabilia collection



Mrs Hooke's Bicycle

Wheels & Wandinong

A fascinating treasure trove of stories was revealed to our Society when grandchildren of Mr & Mrs A. Hooke, Bill Ellemor and Christine Pinniger visited us to hand over custody of their grandmother's touring bicycle.

In 1914 Mr & Mrs Arthur Hooke purchased a bush property in Canterbury Rd., Blackburn and named it *Wandinong*.

Arthur, a local property valuer, never owned a car, and was a familiar sight throughout the district riding his bicycle on business and for recreation until well into his eighties.

At holiday time the trusty bicycles would transport them to their destination and take them sightseeing around the area.

On longer journeys, the bikes would accompany them on train or boat to be ridden around many distant parts of Australia, eventually exploring much of our country by bicycle.

When their children were teenagers, the family took the train to Wangaratta and cycled across the Australian Alps, returning by train from Bairnsdale.

In 1972 a large part of the natural bush property was bequeathed to the City of Nunawading, creating the ***Wandinong Bush Park***, so people "could enjoy the peace and quiet among the native birds and bush-land".

Grandchildren Christine and Bill recalled many memories and told some lovely stories and very generously offered access to the fascinating diaries recording the many family adventures.

The whereabouts of Mr Hookes bicycle is still a mystery waiting to be unravelled, and the society would greatly appreciate any information regarding this historic artefact.

Bob Gardiner

All Members & Friends Welcome

On Saturday 9th of March the scheduled working bee was attended by a team of WHS members led by Ian Nethercote. It was not just any Saturday morning Working Bee but also the birthday of volunteer Vicki Jones-Evans.

A freshly baked birthday cake was produced courtesy of Valda, a candle lit, flowers presented, and Vicki celebrated with us on her special day.



L-r June Ventouras, birthday girl, Vicki Jones Evans, Ian Nethercote and Valda Arrowsmith

In addition to this enjoyable morning tea break the cleaning and maintenance of the History room and the museum displays was undertaken.

These working bees are most important to the functioning of the Whitehorse Historical Society. Members who would like to assist the Society in a practical way, are invited to join with other members on the following working bee Saturday mornings:

- 6th of September
- 8th of November

The Saturday Working Bees start at 9.30am and conclude at 12 noon. Tasks include: dusting, vacuuming, maintenance or minor repair jobs and general tidying up.

A morning tea is enjoyed by members on each of these occasions and are an opportunity to catch up with news and happenings at the Society.

It is a great way to volunteer some hours to the community (especially if you cannot make it on Wednesdays). It also helps us preserve this wonderful Whitehorse Historical Society amenity.

If you would like to offer some assistance on any of the working bees dates this year please contact Ian on 9725 9163.

Whitehorse Historical Society Dates for your Diary

2008 Meetings

Meetings are held at the Local History Room
Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex

Saturdays – 1.30pm

14th June.

Speaker Councillor Helen Harris OAM.
Helen Hart Pioneer Suffragist.

9th August. Annual General Meeting

Speaker Lyn Ford
Mitcham Primary School

11th October

Speaker: Linda Collier
The Collier Family

13th December

Speaker: Harold Walker The Walker family

2008 Events & Activities

Whitehorse Historical Society Displays 2008 Whitehorse Manningham Library Corporation

- Nunawading Library – 30th July – 26th August
- Vermont Library 27th August – 30th September

Our Heritage Day - 14th September
Heritage Week– 14th to 21st September
City of Whitehorse Spring Festival
19th October

Cataloguing Statistics

Photographs	-	3437
Artefacts	-	3999
Documents	-	6115

Membership news

The President and Committee extend a warm welcome to Cheryl and Colin Mullens of Ringwood East and hope they enjoy their time with the Society.

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

**Whitehorse Historical Society
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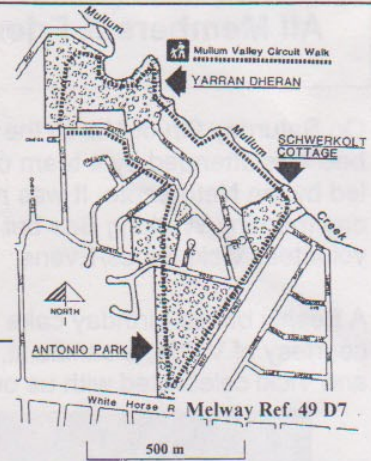
Newsletter support group:

Yvonne Fitzmaurice
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Internet:

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Local History Room: (03) 9873 4946



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

Art in Bark inspiration

(NP 217) Blackburn Railway Station circa 1918

A new addition to our collection and to our Local History Room is our art-in-bark painting of the Blackburn Railway Station c. 1918. The artist is Jan Robertson, from the Art in Bark Association. Members will recall their work featured in displays at our Open Days.

Jan used a photograph from our collection to create her work of art. It was agreed that purchase of this work by the Society would enhance the Collection holdings.

Next time you visit the Local History room remember to take a look.

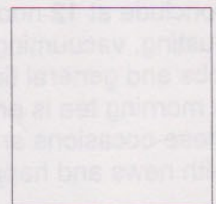
Vicki Jones Evans



**Copy deadline for WHS Newsletters
is the first Saturday of the month
preceding our meeting month.
Next deadline :
Saturday 7th of July 2008**



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