



The Whitehorse Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Series 16 no 4 August—September 2008
ABN 44 352 041 634 A0012235J

The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

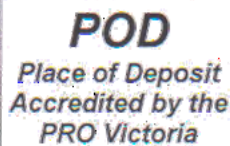
Mission Statement

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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CITY OF



WHITEHORSE

The Public Records Office Victoria.

Report of a seminar by Pat Richardson

On Thursday 8th of May, Ian Nethercote and I attended a free Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) seminar presented at the Ringwood Council Chambers. We were given a taste of the immense variety of records held in the PROV climate—controlled premises in Sheill St, North Melbourne*.

The PROV collection of records comes from both State and Commonwealth sources and covers birth, death and marriage registers, criminal trials, local directories, Treasury correspondence, probate and administration of Wills, material on inquests, land selections, assisted immigration, schools, maps, plans, photographs glass negatives, an extensive library and so much more. The range of material is similar to our own collection but on a massive scale.

You can view indexes to the PROV collection by going to their webs site at:
www.prov.vic.gov.au

If like me, you find the web site initially overwhelming, never fear, by ringing the toll free number 1800 657 452 you will be able to talk with experienced volunteers. " (They)... have been there a lot longer than we have and know exactly where everything is and how to access it!" said our presenter. Years ago, when I was using the

PROV shipping indexes it meant a trip into the city to find the information in a catalogue or on microfiche, then back again when the item had arrived at PROV from their stores ready for me to read. Now by perusing the indexes on the web site, you can ring up and order the item(s) and they will be ready for you to study by the next working day.

The other interesting venture is the PROV's new Indigenous Section. At present there is some information on the website www.prov.vic.gov.au/about/kru/

or through the normal web site. We were told that at the moment, most of the collection is on paper in a series of boxes. Aboriginal people were subjected to, and subject of, huge amounts of paperwork. Forms for everything: leaving and entering an area or institution, food and clothing vouchers, school or police records. They could hardly move without it being noted down.

Volunteers are presently sifting through this information in order to collate each aboriginal person's documents. Obviously this initiative is aimed primarily at those aboriginals who come from the stolen generation and who are trying to contact family, but this information will aim to

Next meeting: Annual General Meeting (nomination form inside)
Saturday 9th August 2008 – 1.30pm

Speaker Lyn Ford on Mitcham Primary School

From the President – Judith Fry

Yes, it's Annual Meeting time again!

All Committee positions are vacant and a nomination form is enclosed in this Newsletter. The Committee meets monthly to attend to the business of the Society and to various sub Committee activities.

The Speaker at the June General meeting Cr Helen Harris, OAM spoke on Helen Hart a little known woman before her time in the 1800's. She was the first woman to speak out on women's rights.

In 1892 she lectured in Mitcham and owing to her outspoken ideas she survived numerous insults.

How sad that after such an adventurous life she is buried in an unmarked grave at the Kew Cemetery. For your diaries please keep Heritage Day Sunday the 14th September and the Whitehorse Spring Festival Day Sunday 21st October free as your help will be very much needed.

Have you checked the Societies web site lately? Thanks to Kaele Way you will find interesting reading.

The speaker for August is Lyn Ford who will speak on 120 years of the Mitcham Primary school. Lyn wrote the book "Queuing for Cocoa" for the schools centenary. Her Mother was an active Mother's Club member and Lyn and her siblings attended the school.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Special Items

The Age Small Homes

The City of Whitehorse Heritage Architect, Ms Samantha Westbrooke is requesting information on homes built in our Municipality using 'The Age' Small Homes' plans available in the 1950's. If your home, or any you may know of, was built using these architect drawn plans, Samantha would like to hear from you. Phone 9262 6333 or samantha.westbrooke@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

*Mitcham Primary School

*Mitcham Primary School is celebrating their 120th Anniversary on Saturday 18th October from 10am - 3.00pm. The invitation to attend is given to all former students and parents. If you have photographs or stories to tell the school would be pleased to hear from you on 9873 1551 or mitcham.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

In Search of Mr Hooke's Bike

The Story continues.

In the last WHS Newsletter the report on Mrs Hookes bike included the appeal to find where Mr Hookes missing bike may be.

WHS member George Cox has revealed that he was the custodian of the much travelled bike until it was displayed in the barn next to the Buggy.

George relates that the bike mysteriously disappeared at the same time as a much valued saddle was removed, following a break in at the barn. Neither item has been seen to this day.

So, the mystery continues. if our members and friends can cast some light or share some information on this mystery we would be pleased to hear.



Cont... from page 1

eventually form the information for a database that all can use, similar to the Pioneer Index.

The PROV also has exhibitions at the Sheill St premises. At present they are concentrating on the Centenary of Women's Suffrage. They are the keepers of the huge roll of 30,000 signatures made by Victorian Women determined to get the vote. We have been doing our bit locally in promoting this Centenary and I hope you have been reading the articles prepared by Valda Arrowsmith and myself for the Whitehorse News.

I didn't know that Historical Societies could make use of PROV's exhibitions free of charge. All we have to do is collect them, display them and return the exhibitions in good order. On my wish list is for a lovely big open room behind the Museum where we can put on special exhibitions and have school groups in for study. Maybe sometime in the future.

We were given various handouts at the Seminar and I have filed these in our own archive for the use of members and visitors.

* A very large free car park adjoins the PROV complex and food and refreshments are available nearby

**Museum & Cottage Complex—
News and Member activities**

Some good visitor feedback !

There have been good attendances at the Museum and Cottage this year especially since the publicity in the Whitehorse Leader. It is very satisfying to hear this especially after all the good work with the displays which has been done this year to mark the 100th Anniversary of Female Suffrage in Victoria.

The Museum and Cottage are certainly looking spick and span since the painting at Christmas/New Year. Attendance numbers have been increasing and it will be interesting to see what influence the opening of Eastlink will have on the numbers of visitors in the future. Some of the encouraging comments in the visitor's book are listed below..

*Spent hours here – Lovely!
Marvellous collection! Very impressive!
Amazing – place is immaculate!*

So thanks everyone let's keep up the good work!

A Big Thank You to Pat

Our thanks are due to our regular Wednesday member, Ms Pat Richardson who has done a terrific job creating for us an index to the "Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter" newspapers in our collection (1932, 1934, 1935 and 1936). They include reports on activities and events in the City of Nunawading and also happenings in the Box Hill and Doncaster areas. It will be an invaluable local resource for our researchers and local historians.

A visit to the Shrine

On Wednesday 4th of June 2008, Valda and Ted Arrowsmith attended the opening of an exhibition on Commemorative stained glass windows, at the Eastern visitor Centre of the Shrine, St Kilda Rd, Melbourne. The exhibition focuses on the work of William Montgomery between the years 1915 and 1927. The exhibition was curated by Dr Bronwyn Hughes, who has recently completed her doctorate on stained glass and in particular the work of Montgomery. The exhibition includes sketch designs, photographs, watercolour and a short AV overview. The exhibition examines the range of memorials that have been created in the medium of stained glass, often commissioned by the families of the lost servicemen and women of the First World War. Valda and Ted recommend a visit to see this exhibition which closes on September the 8th.

**Whitehorse Historical Society
Dates for your Diary**

2008 Meetings

Meetings are held at the Local History Room
Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex
Deep Creek Road, Mitcham

Saturdays – 1.30pm

9th August. Annual General Meeting

Speaker Lyn Ford
Mitcham Primary School

6th September

Working Bee 9-30am-12 noon
All members assistance welcomed

11th October

Speaker: Linda Collier
The Collier Family

**Family Heritage Day 2008
Sunday 14th September**

Make a note in your diaries and do not miss out on this wonderful day.

With a variety of activities, -the Animal Farm, Face painting, afternoon tea, sausage sizzle, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. The Lace Guild of Victoria, the Box Hill Spinners & Weavers, Yarra Valley Machinery Preservation Society, Melbourne Meccano Club and K.O Blacksmiths will be there.

A special treat will be the Working Dogs Demonstration throughout the afternoon.

There will be a great variety of activities for the children to enjoy, with face painting provided by the Vermont Lioness Club, entertainment and games

Afternoon tea will be available and a great family Day is assured.

Cataloguing Statistics

Photographs	-	3437
Artefacts	-	3999
Documents	-	6115

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
Committee Contacts**

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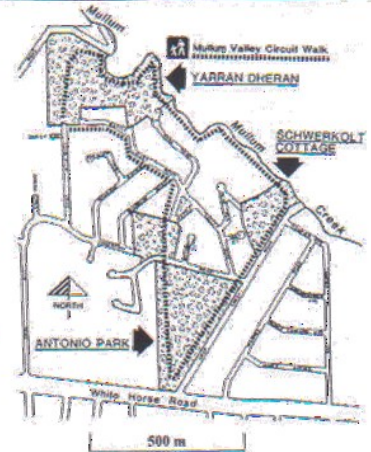
Newsletter support group:

Yvonne Fitzmaurice
Kaele Way
Peter Simmenauer
Wendy Standfield.

Internet:

www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/

Local History Room: (03) 9873 4946



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

**Treasures of the lace
collection**

One of the treasures in the collection is the Princess wedding veil (NA 3495) and featured in the lace display. The veil was made with homemade tape and cotton embroidery in 1912 by Marjory (Madge) Brydon for her marriage to Edward Sprunt at Carag Carag, Victoria. The veil was worn by fifteen other brides in the Rushworth area, including Marjory's daughters Mary and Lyn.

You will also find in our collection some exquisite examples of Maltese, Battenburg, Tenerife, and Guipure Lace, with interesting examples of machine lace and crochet fillet lace.

On your next visit to the museum, make sure you spend some time viewing our fine display of lace.



This photograph of a piece of lace worked in a floral design is just one example from the collection which is regularly displayed and maintained by the members of the Wednesday working group.

Cat no NA 659

Copy deadline for WHS Newsletters is the first Saturday of the month preceding our meeting month.

**Next deadline :
Saturday 1st September 2008**



ISSN 1328-2395



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