



# The Whitehorse Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Series 16 no 6— December 2008

ABN 44 352 041 634 Inc A0012235J

## The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

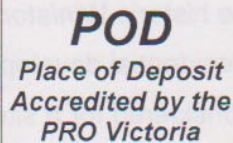
### Mission Statement

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.

### INSIDE

- ◆ *The Winlaton story*.....1 –2
- ◆ *Presidents report*..... 2
- ◆ *Diary dates*.....3
- ◆ *Membership & news*.... 3
- ◆ *From the Collection*.....4



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

## The Winlaton story

The *Winlaton* gates, now in the possession of Whitehorse Historical Society, originally guarded the entrance to a grand home of the same name. *Winlaton* was built by **J.T. Tweddle** in 1909, who named it after his hometown in England. The property was located on Springvale Road near the former Tunstall Railway Station .

A council report on *Winlaton* produced in 1993 suggested the original building had architectural significance due mainly to its interior design, characterised by: expressions of Japanese influence, the use of natural finishes, and use of interconnecting living areas.

Mr Tweddle, a wealthy middle-aged Englishman, was an importer based in Flinders Lane. He had also secured extensive pastoral interests. Moving into this area in 1909, Tweddle was active in the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church community. He had become a trustee by 1913 and helped to finance the building of a new church to replace the older deteriorating chapel. The foundation stone for this church was laid by Mrs. Isabel Tweddle in January 1916.

Isabel was a well known member of Melbourne's artistic circles in the 1920's and 30's and noted for her modernist painting. Mr. J.T. Tweddle served as a trustee and benefactor to a number of local galleries and artist's societies.

J.T. Tweddle also established the 'Tweddle Hospital for Babies and the School of Mothercraft', Footscray. In 1920, it was a pioneering institution and is still operational today. The Tweddle family removed from our area in 1919, settling in Hawthorn. In 1954 *Winlaton* was converted to *Winlaton Youth Training Centre*. (Cont...)

**Next meeting : Saturday 13th of December 2008 – 1.30pm**

**Harold Walker on the Walker family & the Tessellated Tile Company.**

**Carols led by Lyn Athan and Co before afternoon tea**

Hello Dear Members

“Once upon a time...” or “I remember when...” is a familiar start to a story. As a historical society and as custodians of a museum and significant pioneer cottage this is our reason for existence.

Linda Collier at our October meeting, with infectious enthusiasm told us the story of her family, the Colliers of our district. The little anecdotes she included brought the characters in her story to life. If you have a story of your life lived in our district please write it down or talk to us so that we can share it.

The Committee shall soon be welcoming the new City of Whitehorse Councillors to our Complex to see for themselves the need for a Museum extension so that we will be able to share more stories.

In December we will conduct a Visitor Survey with a view to improving our visitors' enjoyment of the Complex and presentation of the Schwerkolt story.

At our next meeting Harold Walker will speak on his family and the Tessellated Tile Company. As a Christmas special Lyn Athan (Wed Working Group) and some members of her singing group will also bring us some Christmas entertainment and we can have a sing-a-long with Carols.

Thank you to all our members for their support of our Society and a special thank you to our Wednesday Working Group, our Editor and our Committee for their dedicated work for this year. Thank you also to the City of Whitehorse for their continued support.

Christmas time is a time for stories – the story of Jesus and of Father Christmas and of families and is added to each year. I remember as a young child in the late fifties a song (my apologies to the writers – I was too young to remember who wrote it) from the “Ban the Bomb “ era. *Last night I had the strangest dream.....that all the world agreed to put an end to war*”. Stories are also about hope. I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Vicki Jones-Evans

The institution housed girls aged between twelve and twenty-one who were either wards of the state or sentenced detainees. *Winlaton* was the only Youth Training Centre in Victoria specifically for females. In 1956 a school was also opened on the site. A number of additional buildings were erected for administration, medical and educational purposes and to accommodate girls in various stages of detention. The original *Winlaton* house became *Leawarra Hostel*, a low-security, open-living environment for girls nearing the end of their stay at the Training Centre and preparing for re-assimilation into the community.

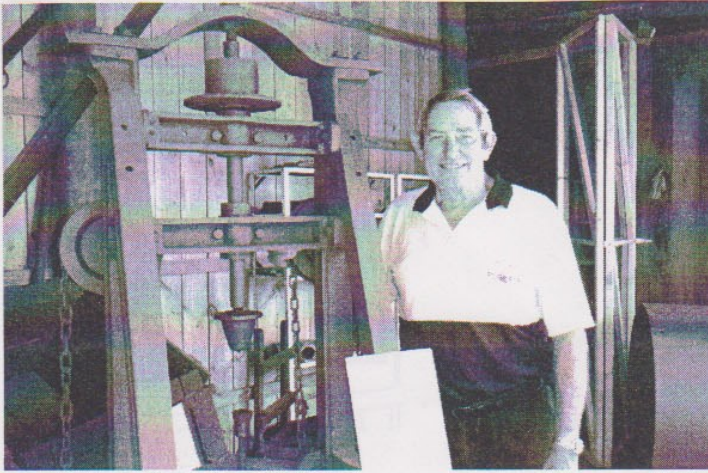
In 1991 young sentenced boys aged ten to fifteen were introduced to *Winlaton*. Wards of the state, who comprised the majority of inhabitants at the time, were removed to community residences.

This was the result of a child welfare review conducted by the state that distinguished between offenders and non-offenders for the first time. The *Winlaton* centre was eventually renamed as *Nunawading Residential Youth Centre*.

By June 1993 declining numbers of young offenders led to the Centre's closure. Six months later the entire site, including the historic *Winlaton* house, was bulldozed for residential development. Although the house was considered for a site-specific heritage control, the proposal was denied due to Council fears that a heritage overlay would limit development of the surrounding land. The old *Winlaton* gates were saved from the demolition site and placed in the care of the Whitehorse Historical Society. \* *compiled by Jenny Walker*

References from WHS files, and other sources by:  
John Lack - *Australian Directory of Biography*,  
Nathan Paramanathan - *The Melbourne Modernists*

\* *The gates can be seen in our Museum shed*



**Introducing Maurie Wyatt  
Volunteer  
Heritage Care (Vic)**

Another volunteer with a long way to travel is Maurie who lives with his wife Di, in Narre Warren South. We do appreciate Maurie's contribution to the Society. In his early years, Maurie gained experience in various industries before spending twenty years in Townsville, working as a truck driver. Maurie's handyman skills have been invaluable in assisting Bob Gardiner with the following jobs:-

- Internet Research on the implement collection
- Completed labels for the orchard display shed
- Re-organised the clay machinery display
- Installed a clear door in storage area, keeping out the wild life but allowing in natural light.

**Development Update 435 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham**  
At our last meeting, members were very interested in the proposed development in Mitcham. Whitehorse Council have rejected the proposal so the developer will need to change the design or go to VCAT

**New Members**

A warm welcome is extended to two new members, **Louise Frost** of Mt. Waverley and **Keith Hancock** of Kew. Louise is a member of the Stacey family, who were well known in Mitcham.

Keith's family lived in McDowell Street and were builders of many houses in the district. We are pleased that Keith has joined our Wednesday Group and is able to give us much information regarding our photos of Mitcham.

**Whitehorse Historical Society  
Dates for your Diary**

**2008 Meetings**

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

**13th December 1.30pm**

Speaker: Harold Walker grandson of E.E Walker will speak on The Walker family & the Tessellated Tile company.

**Speakers to note for 2009**

**14th February 1.30pm**

Speaker: Dorothy Browne, OAM  
Women in Athletics

**18th April 1.30pm**

Speaker: Samantha Westbrook, Heritage Architect on Post-War Housing

Note: 3rd Saturday, because of Easter

**Special Notes:**

***Are you unable to attend meetings or help out due to other commitments?***

***You can still help support the Whitehorse Historical Society***

**Contact the Secretary for if you require a form**

***Donations and Bequests to the Whitehorse Historical Society***

**Cataloguing Statistics**

Photographs	-	3507
Artefacts	-	4119
Documents	-	6115

**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**

## WHS Committee Contacts

**President:** Vicki Jones-Evans  
9873 3383 - [vicki@xi.com.au](mailto:vicki@xi.com.au)

**V. President:** Valerie Marshall  
9803 4434

**Secretary:** Peter Simmenauer  
9877 0141-[pcsm@iprimus.com.au](mailto:pcsm@iprimus.com.au)

**Treasurer:** Bob Gardiner 9874 6592  
[bobnbarb@melbpc.org.au](mailto:bobnbarb@melbpc.org.au)

**Local History Room: (03) 9873 4946**

## Newsletter

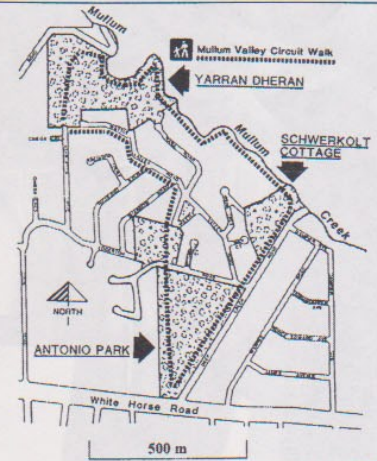
Editor: Jay Miller 8344 7158 (BH)  
email: [jmil@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jmil@unimelb.edu.au)

## Newsletter support group:

Yvonne Fitzmaurice  
Kaele Way  
Wendy Standfield  
Peter Simmenauer

## WHS internet site:

<[www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/)>



Melway Ref. 49 D7

**Copy deadline for WHS Newsletters first Saturday of the month preceding the meeting month.  
Next deadline : week of 5th—10th January 2009**

From our collection -The Bisque Doll (C1920's)  
is located In Display Case.07.12 which  
contains part of the extensive toy collection.

Other interesting dolls on display in the museum are;-

1960's Walking Doll with blonde ponytail and red tartan skirt

1930's Celluloid Doll with blue gingham dress

1949 Plastic Doll with straw bonnet and floral dress

1850 Doll with wooden body

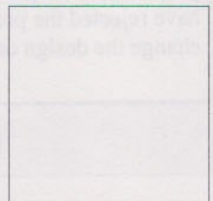
1850 Doll with leather body



Cat no 267



ISSN 1328-2395



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, Vic 3132,