



# The Whitehorse Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Series 18 no 2- March-April 2010

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.

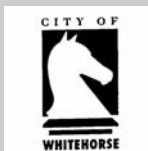
To collect, document, research, preserve and exhibit items that show how people have lived and worked in the development of the Whitehorse area from human settlement to the present day.

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

## "The Man with The Donkey"

*The original article appeared in the Box Hill Newspaper in 1918*  
Every Australian who was at the Anzac landing knew "the man with the donkey", and when he died by machine-gun fire his last resting place was pointed out to late-comers with a thrill of admiration. The donkey fell almost beside its master. The man's name was John Simpson Kirkpatrick, though few knew his full title. He enlisted in the Australian Medical Corps, and was one of the ambulance bearers. On the day of the landing Kirkpatrick did his duty, forgetful of shot and shell and his own safety: all he thought of was the relief of sufferers in Shrapnel Valley and Monash Gully.

A Turkish pack donkey came wandering into the Australian lines, and Kirkpatrick "commandeered" it. That was how Kirkpatrick (Simpson as some called him) came to be known as the "Man with the Donkey". All that day and the next he gave the wounded drink and attention, and carried them astride to the beach. Then he was killed.

Kirkpatrick has not been forgotten by his townsmen of South Shields, although he served with the Australians. The following appeared in the "Newcastle Daily Journal" (England) of 17th May 1918;- "There was a large gathering in the Free Library, South Shields, to witness the presentation to that institution of a bronze statuette in memory of the late "John Simpson Kirkpatrick" a native of the town. Executed by Mr Bertram Pegram, the statuette, which was exhibited in the Royal Academy last year, represents Kirkpatrick, who was a member of the Australian Field Ambulance, bringing in a wounded soldier on his donkey. After a ceremony the Mayor handed to Mr James Walker a large framed photograph of the hero, to be hung in the Tyne Dock Masonic Club. Mr D. McNeill presented to Mrs Kirkpatrick a framed picture of the statuette, and the Mayoress pinned on her breast a gold Australian Military badge, which has been procured by the Lady members of the library staff by means of a shilling subscription, at the same time handing her a bouquet of roses."



Simpson and his Donkey  
Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne

**Next meeting : Saturday 10th April 1.30pm**

**Speaker: Pam Chambers**  
**The History of Australian Red Cross**  
**Blackburn Unit**

## **From the President - Vicki Jones Evans**

Dear Members,

In the last Newsletter we reported the attainment of the re accreditation and the favourable comments in the report, describing the WHS as being a very good role model for volunteer run museums. It also made a good start to 2010.

In keeping with our status as a role model we have been featured as a case study, in the Heritage Victoria publication, Victoria's Framework of Historical themes . Dr Linda Young from Deakin University's Museum Studies program nominated the Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex case for the study.

For the last three years Dr Young's first year students have started their course with a visit to our complex. We welcomed them once again this year on March 8<sup>th</sup>. (photos of the visit below)

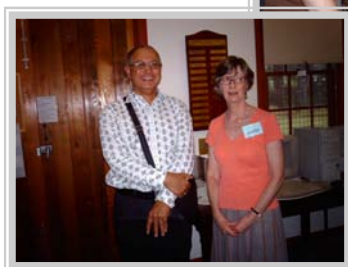
On March 19<sup>th</sup> Museums Australia had a group tour to the Victorian Jazz Archive in the morning and visited the Schwerkolt Complex in the afternoon.

Our newsletter editor, Jay Miller, retired from the position at the end of the year and our Secretary, Kaele Way has taken over the position.

Vicki Jones-Evans  
President

### **Visitors to the History Room**

Deakin University  
Students visited  
WHS in March.



## **HOME THOUGHTS**

*A contribution from Barbara Gardiner's research*

Nunawading! Nunawading!  
Many thousand miles away  
From the scenes of Freedom's triumph,  
Still I think of you each day:  
And you gardens by the Koonung.  
Red and gold in summer shine.  
How I long once more to see them,  
Nunawading, home of mine!

Nunawading! Nunawading!  
A score years it seems ago  
Since I left your gums and wattles  
With the boys to fight the foe  
Kings have gone and empires fallen  
Since we reached the battle line  
Now the transport's in the offing  
Nunawading. Home of mine.

Nunawading ! Nunawading!  
Have your sons not played the game?  
They who fell by Somme and Ancres  
Sure have earned undying fame.  
Now the clash of arms is over,  
For our homeland we all pine.  
Don't you hear the boy's returning?  
Nunawading , home of mine!

*This poem was printed in the Box Hill  
Newspaper dated 16th December, 1918  
( I hope the young writer got home safely)*

### **Best wishes to Ted Arrowsmith**

We are delighted to hear that Ted is making a good recovery after a sudden illness.

We extend to Ted and Valda our very best wishes for the coming weeks.

## Whitehorse Historical Society Dates for your Diary

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

**Saturday 10th April 1.30pm**

### Special General Meeting

Speaker: Pam Chambers

The History of Blackburn Red Cross

**Saturday 12th June 1.30pm**

### Special General Meeting

Speaker: Richard Carter

From Horse Shoes to High Heels

Ringwood Shopping Centre & Eastlands

1858-2008

**Saturday 14th August 1.30pm**

### Annual General Meeting

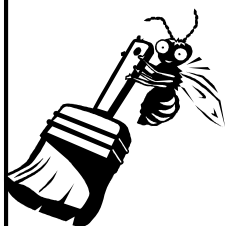
45h Birthday Celebration Special Guest

City of Whitehorse Mayor Cr Bill Pemberton

## Coming News Event

In future editions of the Whitehorse Historical Society Newsletter excerpts from the soon to be published work of Yvonne Fitzmaurice "research on Alwyn Till will be featured.

The WHS Committee will be publishing this excellent research in April for more information please contact Secretary Kaele Way on 9877 1901.



**WORKING BEES—2010**  
Please make a diary note and  
join us on the day.

May 8th Saturday

July- No Working Bee (too cold!)

September 11th Saturday

November 12th Saturday

Working Bees commence at 9.30 am and finish around 12 noon with a great morning tea. Please come and help even if you can only offer an hour of your time.

## Can you Support the WHS?

We are asking you to consider donating to the Society, and assist us to continue to maintain our services and collections at least to our current level.

Our membership subscriptions are deliberately kept as low as possible, used for unavoidable expenses such as insurance, postage, administration and a few purchases for the Local History Collection.

Donations of documents, photographs or artifacts for the collection are evaluated for suitability and accepted if they meet the acquisition criteria.

Cash donations are also appreciated – don't forget that we have "Deductible Gift Recipient" status with the ATO, so that amounts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

We are also asking you to consider making a bequest to the Society in your will. This could be an item of value, a sum of money or the interest derived from a trust fund established for the purpose.

Provision in a will is a good way of ensuring that your wishes are carried out. Please let a WHS Committee member know if you are considering such an intention. Below is a suggested format only – but discuss your wishes with your legal adviser:

*"I.....(name) give devise and bequeath unto the Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. for its general purposes free of all duties the following (as applicable).....% of my Estate or from the residue of my estate*  
- the sum of \$.....  
- property (details).....  
- other (details).....

### Cataloguing Statistics

Photographs	-	3651
Artefacts	-	4272
Documents	-	6140

**Museum Attendance Jan—Feb 2010 - 286**

### 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)

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

**Secretary:** Kaele Way AM JP  
9877 1901 [kaeleway@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kaeleway@bigpond.net.au)

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

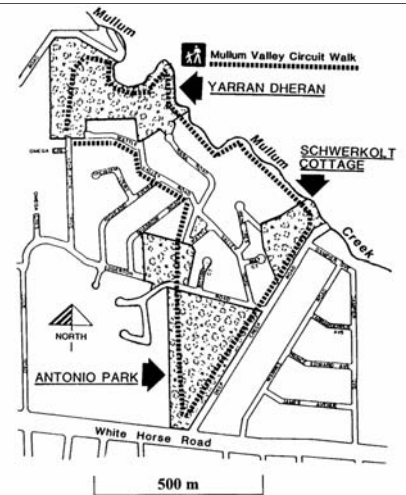
**Local History Room: (03) 9873 4946**

## Newsletter support group:

Kaele Way AM JP  
Yvonne Fitzmaurice  
Wendy Standfield  
Peter Simmenauer

**WHS internet site:**  
[www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/)  
**Email:** [whitehistory@hotmail.com](mailto:whitehistory@hotmail.com)

**Postal Address:**  
P.O.Box 272  
MITCHAM Vic 3132



Melway Ref. 49 D7

**Copy deadline for WHS Newsletters first Saturday of the month preceding the meeting month.  
Next deadline : Wednesday 28th April 2010**

## From the Collection



*Left — War Memorial  
located in Whitehorse  
Road, Mitcham, C:1950.*

*Right — Now located in  
Halliday Park.*



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