

# The Whitehorse Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Series 18 no 5 September-October 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.

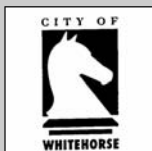
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The Whitehorse  
Historical Society, Inc.  
acknowledges the support  
of the City of Whitehorse

## Heritage Open Day 2010 - Fun for all

Open Day on Sunday 12th September was a great day for all attending. The Museum display, children's entertainment, the craft displays and the Animal Farm were highlights of the day. The WHS gratefully acknowledges the support received from the City of Whitehorse in assisting to make this a great Open Day.



### Next meeting : Saturday 9th October

Special General Meeting commencing 1-30 pm

**Speaker: Richard Carter**

'From Horse Shoes to High Heels'

Ringwood Shopping Centre & Eastland 1858-2008

## From the President - Vicki Jones Evans

Dear Members,

Our Heritage Open Day was a great success with approximately 1000 visitors.

I would like to thank Barbara Gardiner for organising all the attractions and a special thank you to those members who worked hard in preparation at the working bee the day before and on the day.

It was a pleasure to have the Mayor Cr Bill Pemberton, Cr Philip Daw and Cr Raylene Carr attend and draw the raffle. I would also like to thank Harvey Norman for their donation of the first prize of a DVD mini player and would like to thank those who contributed to the purchasing of our two gift voucher prizes. The Committee appreciates the support provided by the City of Whitehorse. The \$1,500 Community Grant ensured a variety of attractions. In addition the Council provided the musical atmosphere with the Crescent City Serenaders.

Thanks also to Julie Jones, Heritage Program Officer and the parking attendants and Bill and Irene, Museum attendants for their valuable contribution.

The AGM in August to celebrate our 45<sup>th</sup> birthday was a happy and entertaining meeting. The Mayor Cr Bill Pemberton as our special guest, gave us a glimpse of the role of mayor and with ceremony cut the birthday cake.



Our other special guest was Valda Arrowsmith OAM, who until a year ago was our representative speaker to community groups. At her talks to groups such as Rotary and Probus she informed people of the history of our city. We had invited Valda speak so that we could record her speech, to hear the history for ourselves and to inspire a member to

step into her role. We achieved all this and Barbara Rogalski has volunteered to be our community speaker.

I wish to thank Keith Hancock for his work in the last year on the Committee. Keith did not stand again for election but continues to help on a Wednesday. All other Committee members remain the same and we look forward to serving the society for another year. There are two vacant Committee positions and I would encourage members to consider joining the Committee. Please contact our Secretary Kaele Way to discuss the responsibilities and nomination procedure. You would be most welcome.

Vicki Jones-Evans



I am saddened to advise members that on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September Ian Nethercote passed away peacefully at Caritas Christi in Kew.

Ian was a dedicated member of the Whitehorse Historical Society and served as a member of the Committee of Management for many years.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Ian's family.

He will be sadly missed.

Vicki Jones-Evans

## August Meeting

The 2010 Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August and a large number of members attended the meeting and celebration of the Society's 45<sup>th</sup> year.

Mayor Bill Pemberton was a Special Guest and assisted President Vicki Jones-Evans in cutting a delicious birthday cake which was enjoyed by all.



The Election of Office Bearers for the 2010-2011 term was conducted and the following members were elected.

President Vicki Jones-Evans  
Vice President Valerie Marshall  
Secretary Kaele Way AM JP  
Treasurer Bob Gardiner  
Committee Members  
Valda Arrowsmith OAM  
Judth Fry  
Barbara Gardiner  
Peter Simmenauer  
Wendy Standfield



Cr Philip Daw and Cr Raylene Carr (pictured with Cr Pemberton & President Vicki Jones-Evans) attended the meeting and enjoyed the celebratory afternoon tea.



# WORKING AT TURNER INDUSTRIES/STANLEY

## by Ray Standfield

(excerpts from an oral history)

"I started work in March 1959 at Turner Industries at 400 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. It was a public company when I started working there.

It was started as a private business in the 1930s by Ren Turner in South Yarra. The business grew and moved to Nunawading in the early 1950s. In 1959 when I started it employed about 400 people. Many of the 400 were immigrants from the hostel in Rooks Road, which is now the Eastern Mail Centre.

The company was a typical Australian one, with high volume production lines. In the 1960s a large factory was built in Lilydale and there were more than 1,000 people working at Nunawading and Lilydale.

In about 1970 Turner Industries was sold to Stanley Titan which was jointly owned by BHP and Stanley Tools of America. Gradually we were importing more, and more, and making less at Nunawading. BHP then sold its share to the American Stanley Tools and they purchased Sidchrome, which was another successful Australian company.

The Nunawading operations were moved to their Heidelberg facilities in 1992 and the Whitehorse Rd site was demolished. I chose to retire in 1993."

### Turner Industries Products

The products were originally frames for ladies' handbags, plastic and metal cabinet handles and then door furniture, screwdrivers, trimming knives, carpenters' planes, spirit levels, scissors, measuring tapes, hacksaws and blades, rotary mowers and the Turner Sapphire washing machine.

"It also made the Turner Sapphire washing machine, which was one of the original spin-drier machines made in Australia. It had to be bolted to the floor and if the floor was not very strong the vibrations from an out-of-balance load could shake the house. They sold thousands of them. It was advertised on the "I Love Lucy Show" television show which was very popular back in the 1960s."

## From the Factory to the Shed- Tools from Nunawading

August-September

In celebration of the theme of Heritage Week 2010 "Whitehorse@ Work Celebrating Our Industrial Heritage" the Whitehorse Historical Society has created a display in the Museum featuring tools from the days when Turner /Stanley tools were made in Nunawading.

The display is on loan from Stanley Works Ltd . Our thanks is extended to Mr Michael Kirkham, CEO of Stanley Works Pty Ltd for his assistance with this excellent display.

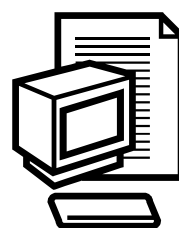
Sincere thanks is extended to Mr Graham Plaw, for the loan of the tools from his collection, and his advice.

The tools will be on display until the end of September. Entrance to the Museum is free.

The Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum complex is open Saturdays and Sundays and Public Holidays from 2pm to 5pm.



*Universal Adjustable Rebating/Moulding Plane No 55  
with boxed set of shaped blades*



### Can You Help?

Our Newsletter is a very important part of the societies activities, informing members and communicating events and news to the community. We are seeking assistance with the layout and general preparation of the bi monthly publication and a volunteer with MS Publisher skills would be greatly appreciated. to assist the Editor. If you can help with this please call Kaele on 9877 1901

# Vitclay

*This informative article relates to the current display in the Museum. The research and article was provided by Jenny Walker.*



In the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century the White Brothers pottery was established in Blackburn by the White family. They had learned their trade in their native England, and manufactured hand made bricks, garden edging, agricultural pipes and coffee jugs. Around 1910 or 11 the white family sold their business to the Commonwealth Insulator Co, an operation of the pottery fell to a family of brothers named Dee. At this time the company primarily manufactured insulators and bottles of for ginger beer, however it wasn't until 1932 that younger generations of the family began making clay pipes at the pottery. By that time the pottery had changed its name to Commonwealth Pottery, and in 1936 it was sold to the Commonwealth Art Tile Brick and Pottery Works Pty Ltd, with the Dee family continuing in its employ. The pottery closed during World War 2 due to labour shortages.

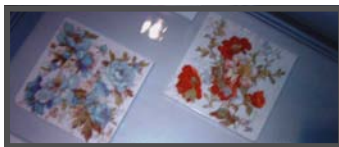
From the time it reopened in 1946 the company began to expand rapidly, so that in 1960 they were the largest manufacturers of clay pipes in the Melbourne Metropolitan area.

The company was growing at such a rate that in 1961 it was sold to Brick & Pipe Industries, to allow its continuing expansion. The installation of two tunnel kilns in 1969 greatly increased production to the point that Brick and Pipe Industries held 60% of the Victorian Market for sewer and storm water pipes and were the largest clay pipe manufacturers in Australia. Around 1970 the company merged with two others based in Campbellfield to become Vitclay Pipes. In 1992 Vitclay closed down, a victim of the introduction of PVC Pipes and large parts of the Blackburn site were subdivided for residential development.

## Whitehorse @ Work

From the 7th September until the 5th November, the Art Space at the Box Hill Town Hall is featuring an exhibition entitled Whitehorse @ Work-celebrating our Industrial heritage. Entry is free, and the times of opening are Tuesday and Friday from 10-00am-3pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9-00am-5-00pm and the last Saturday of the month.

The exhibition is the culmination of the contributions from the Whitehorse Historical Society, Box Hill Historical Society, the Burwood History Group and the Whitehorse Art Collection. The display features a wonderful history of Clay manufacturing in the Whitehorse area with items representing the Australian Tesselated Tile Co Ltd, Daniel Roberson Brothers Ltd, Wunderlich Ltd and many others. A great display not to be missed



The WHS has contributed some of our lovely tiles, terracotta pots and photos from our collection. We have featured Stanley Tools based on Ray Standfield's oral history and Turner Industry photos courtesy of Mr Graham Plaw. Another contribution has been on the history of the De Stoop factory with photos courtesy of Mr David Best. Agfa cameras from our collection contribute to the mention of Agfa in the exhibition. We have no information on Agfa's forty year presence in the municipality but we have recently been in contact with the company and hope to obtain some information. The same applies to Holeproof's presence in Nunawading and we hope to gain information on their history shortly.

*Contributed by Vicki Jones-Evans*



## Whitehorse Historical Society Dates for your Diary

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

### **Sunday 3rd October– Bunning's Nunawading 8-30am-4pm**

Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser at Bunning's Store Nunawading  
8-30am-4pm Helpers needed. Contact Kaele on 9877 1901

### **Saturday 9th October 1-30pm Special General Meeting**

Speaker Richard Carter "Horse Shoes to High Heels"  
Ringwood Shopping Centre and Eastlands 1858-2008

### **Sunday 24th October**

City of Whitehorse Spring Festival  
Civic Centre Nunawading

### **Sunday 31st October**

**Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum History Week**  
**Open Day 2pm-4pm**

#### ***A Glimpse Behind The Scenes***

In celebration of History Week the WHS will provide a glimpse behind the scenes at the Local History Room, displaying the work of the Society. New memberships will be accepted on the day and afternoon tea provided.

### **Saturday 13th November Working Bee**

Please join us for the morning. A delicious Morning Tea provided

### **Saturday 11th December 1-30pm Special General Meeting**

Speaker: Ian Moodie, Parkside City of Whitehorse  
Christmas Meeting & Celebration



**HAPPY 60th ANNIVERSARY**  
*WHS Members extend Congratulations to  
long time members Ray and Dorothy  
Meagher OAM on their recent  
Wedding Anniversary*

## **FREE SAFETY KITS FOR VICTORIAN FAMILIES**

*Mr. Tony Robinson MLA has forwarded the following advice for WHS members*

*Victorian Families can now get a free blind and curtain safety kit to keep dangerous cords out of the way of babies and small children, as part of a new Victorian Government safety campaign.*

*Blind and curtain cords can be dangerous as they get tangled around a child's neck, injuring or even strangling them. To prevent further tragedies we are providing a free safety kit to all Victorians so that blind and curtain cords can be kept safely out of the way.*

*For your free safety kit please call me on 9878 4113.  
I'll have one posted out to you as soon as possible.*

## **REMINDER**

### **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*

### **Cataloguing Statistics**

<b>Photographs</b>	-	<b>3656</b>
<b>Artefacts</b>	-	<b>4291</b>
<b>Documents</b>	-	<b>6149</b>
<b>Visitors to Museum August 983</b>		

### **Membership Fees**

WHS Members and friends are advised that subscription fees for 2010—2011 are now payable.

### **Acquisition Committee Activities**

At the September meeting of the WHS Executive Committee the Acquisitions Sub Committee Convenor Wendy Standfield advised the Committee that the Society had recently acquired twenty-nine items. Amongst the items is a 1930's wedding gown (pictured) with some associated items including shoes and a good luck horseshoe. Most of the items received will add to the textile collection.



## WHS Committee Contacts

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

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

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**Treasurer:** Bob Gardiner  
9874 6592  
[bohnbarb@iprimus.com.au](mailto:bohnbarb@iprimus.com.au)

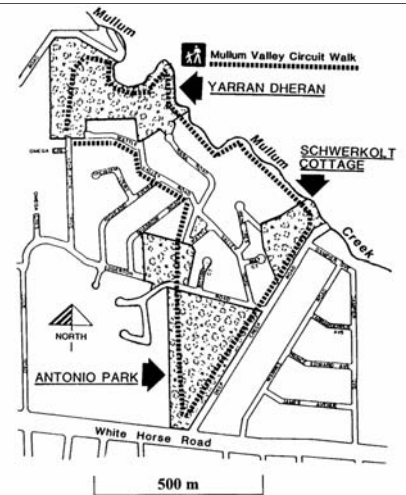
**Local History Room:** (03) 9873 4946

## Newsletter support group:

**Editor:** Kaele Way AM JP  
Valda Arrowsmith OAM  
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)

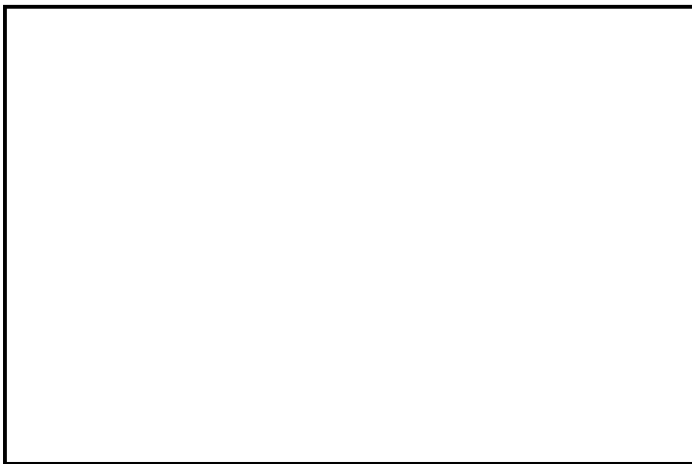
**Postal Address:**  
P.O.Box 272  
MITCHAM Vic 3132



Melway Ref. 49 D7

**Copy deadline for WHS Newsletters first Saturday of the month preceding the meeting month.  
Next deadline : 3rd November**

## From the Collection



2283

The Whitehorse Historical Society has an extensive collection of tools and implements which have been donated over the years.

This photo is of a clamp which has been used in c1920, possibly by a wheelwright

The display Committee has a case in the Museum allocated for tools from the collection to be on permanent display.



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