



# The Whitehorse Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Series 20 no 5 September–October 2012

ABN 44 352 041 634 Inc AO 012235J



2012



## HERITAGE OPEN DAY SEPTEMBER 16



**Next meeting:**  
Saturday, 13 October 1.30 p.m.

**Please RSVP**

Speaker: Anne Dixon

**'HISTORY OF COSTUME  
1820 -1980'**

As a particularly high level of interest is expected,  
attendance will need to be booked in advance.

**RSVP by phoning 9873 4946,**

**or emailing**

**whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com**

**by Wednesday 10 October.**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT – VICKI JONES-EVANS

*Dear Members*

Thank you all members for your contributions to the Open Day. Everyone had a good time. I would particularly like to thank Barbara Gardiner and Rachael Cottle for their organisation of the day, and to Bob Gardiner for his assistance. Julie Jones, Heritage Programs Officer with two Council officers assisting, did a wonderful job managing the car parking. The attendants on duty on the day, Liz, Irene and Caitlin, also were a great help in assisting visitors.

The official attendance figure is 663 visitors through the car park and 770 through the museum, so we can estimate up to 1000 visitors throughout the day. This year the turnover was continuous.

The City Of Whitehorse contributed the Brumbies Bush Band to the activities and they were very popular, with spontaneous barn dancing taking place outside the orchard shed where the band was playing. The valley in which the shed stands makes a natural amphitheatre, providing wonderful acoustics that enable the music to be heard throughout the grounds.



For our October meeting we have a special treat in Anne Dixon speaking on The History of Costume. Please let Rachael know if you will be attending the talk after the meeting. Anne will be giving it in the Visitor Centre and we need to know how many members will need seats so that we know how many visitors can fit in. For costume enthusiasts like me, it will be very exciting.

*Vicki Jones-Evans*



## HERITAGE OPEN DAY 16 SEPTEMBER

The Whitehorse Historical Society conducted another successful Heritage Day with a large attendance enjoying themselves – some with the animal farm, some with the sausage sizzle, some dancing to the music of the Brumbies Bush Band, some with the lacemaking and woodturning – as well as the many other different activities available.



Our sincere thanks to our volunteers who worked so hard, whether ensuring that our stallholders had food and drink or with one of the many other tasks needed to make the day such a happy one for all.

The City of Whitehorse Officer, Julie Jones, assisted with her helpers in the success of the day, both in the planning of the event and on the day itself, and we thank them very much.

Barbara Gardiner

### Cataloguing Statistics

Photographs	-	3942
Artefacts	-	4520
Documents	-	6444
Visitors to Museum July/August	-	218



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[www.facebook.com/schwerkoltcottage](http://www.facebook.com/schwerkoltcottage)

## August Meeting:

Guest speaker at the 47th A.G.M., 11 August 2012, was Gerry Robinson; his topic . . .

### THE VALUE OF HISTORY

Well done Gerry, considering the title of your talk, which was such an abstract concept! As you stated, 'History is all-important to the present.' What we the people decide is history comes in and out of fashion, and contemporary history rarely mentions dates. The past that we remember is very selective. It reinforces tribalism.

But of what sort of history can we speak? Political, economic, social, cultural, religious, international, technological, biographical – all have their particular importance and positive values. History is not science, but humanity; it cannot come up with straight answers. You cannot escape yesterday – it is how we learn.

The answers in technological changes, such as those in medicine, come out of previous attempts, through perspective. The methodology of all studies includes the imperatives: examine, analyse, seek evidence, doubt, be inquisitive and '*suspend judgment in favour of understanding*', and deals with relatives, not absolutes – as in life!

History is a good story – 'The French Revolution, is a wonderful narration if told effectively.' Lots of people in the past have done things that we can learn from today. We join and unify, on celebratory days such as Anzac Day, also with our heroes and villains; this can even apply to sport, which then becomes a tradition.

Change (not 'progress'!) is unstoppable – it happens. A bit scary at times, it can upset us, but we have to manage as best we can. So is continuity. It teaches us about ourselves. Insight governs how we function. History, like the arts, adds an enhancing dimension. It enlarges our horizons, provides perspective and illustrates our human potentials.

*Man knows the past, the present is fleeting; the past is always something we all have.  
History is for time as Travel is for space*

(John Steinbeck *The Grapes of Wrath* end of ch.9)

How can we live without our past? Perhaps now is a good time to read (or reread) *The Grapes of Wrath*.

## NOTICE

Owing to the damage to the ground outside the Local History Rooms and as a courtesy to the residents of Irene Crescent, we ask that (mobility issues excepted) members attending meetings please use the car park off Deep Creek Road.

## IN MEMORIAM

It is our sad duty to report the deaths of two of our members.

### SHIRLEY MILL

Shirley joined the Society after retiring from Vermont Secondary College, becoming a part of the Wednesday Working Group.

### GORDON BATE

WE appreciate the contribution Gordon made in cataloguing items and placing the information on the computer database.

**We extend our sympathies to both their families.**

## CAN YOU HELP WITH BACKYARD PHOTOS?

The Whitehorse Historical Society intends to commemorate the 150th anniversary, in December 2011, of Schwerkolt's purchase of land in Mitcham by celebrating 'The Suburban Backyard' of the 1950s and 1960s.

We are asking for your help by contributing your memories of the period — family photographs (either donated or lent for copying), together with a short paragraph about your memories of your own backyard. These will be presented in a slide show in the museum.

Photos can be emailed (minimum 300 dpi JPEG) to [whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com](mailto:whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com). Alternatively, contact Rachael Cottle on 9873 4946 to arrange to have your photos scanned. We will be most grateful for your help in commemorating this very significant event in the history of our community.

**LAST CALL**

## Remembering Dorothy Meagher OAM

The WHH Society acknowledges the contribution Dorothy has made to the Whitehorse community.

Dorothy became involved in her local community after marrying Ray and moving to the house wherein their three children were born.

When her daughter wanted to join Brownies, she was told no places were available because of a lack of leaders. She immediately started training to be a leader of the Forest Hill Guides, beginning a life-long involvement with the Girl Guide Association.

A very 'hands-on' parent, she supported the local schools attended by her children as well as being secretary at her husband's building company.

Through taking her Brownie Company to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary (BLS) for nature and environmental studies, she became interested in, and joined, the Committee of Management at the Lake.

Other groups, both adults and students, wanted to visit the BLS, so in 1985 the committee established the Blackburn Lake Interpretation Centre, and an education program in which Dorothy was heavily involved, meeting visitors and giving and promoting the programs. She was a leading member of the Committee that lobbied Council and the Rotary Club to provide funds for a purpose-built Education Centre.

In recognition of her contribution to the community, Dorothy was made Citizen of the Year in 1984, and subsequently awarded the Order of Australia.

By Valda Arrowsmith



## Working Bees 2012

### **ONE TO GO!**

**Please make a diary note and join us on the day.**

- ◆ November 10 – Saturday

Working Bees commence at 9.30 a.m. 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.**



## RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners  
of the Open Day Raffle:

- ◆ Valda
- ◆ Tony
- ◆ Roy
- ◆ Edith
- ◆ Jane
- ◆ Richard
- ◆ Bree

... and thanks to the businesses who  
generously supported us ...



**DEE RYALL M.P.**

## Whitehorse Historical Society Dates for your Diary

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

**Saturday, 13 October, 1.30 p.m.**

**General Meeting**

Speaker Anne Dixon – 'Costume Parade'

**Saturday, 8 December, 1.30 p.m.**

**General Meeting**

Speaker Dr Linda Young – 'House Museums'



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# Excerpts from a traveller's diary

## (Part the Third)



Jabez and Emily  
Edwards  
(date unknown)

In March of 1877, 25-year-old Jabez Edwards (cousin of Arthur Edwards of Forest Hill) boarded the ship 'Northumberland' to make the eight-week journey from England to Melbourne. In this issue of the newsletter we present the final of three extracts from the diary he kept on the voyage.

**Friday 25th** – A very bright day a good wind but cold sea much rougher than yesterday but we are running very well we are 12 O'clock to day 770 knots from Cape Otway the first land we expect to see the side of the ship near dips in the water every now and then. So we have to hold on the best way we can we went for our grocery to day and only got four days which I suppose will last till we can shift for ourselves on land it is the question of the day when we shall sight land there is a deal of speculation and betting on it Distance 167

**Sunday 27th** – A very bright day the wind increased in the night and the sea rose higher than the vessels side the beautiful crests on the waves look grand in the bright sunshine we are going very fast to day two men at the weel to keep her on course if the wind keeps up 24 hours longer we are in full hope of seeing land went to service in the saloon heard a sermon from an aged minister that is going to take charge in Melbourne one would never think of a grey headed man going to take charge of one of the finest chapels in Melbourne in afternoon very squaley which made her pitch and toss a good deal we are obliged to hang on to anything we can catch hold of to save ourselves at night the wind increased and she shipped several heavy Seas I was caught in one which I did not return thanks for it sent boxes in all directions when she gave a heavy lurch the

cry went up for all hands to take in all sail when they were taking the top galant it sounded like thunder the wind beat it up so I got a good tossing in the night Distance 291

**Monday 28th** – Wether very squaly and a good deal of Sea coming over we are in high spirits about seeing land so we pass it off as a joke about ½ past two o'clock took in mainsail while sailors were up lashing the sail to the yard arm the Boatswain Hollowed out Land on the Lee Bow but a good many thought it was a farce. So I went up to the forecandle and saw a real piece of land with my very own eyes. My uncle said I could not see land but the sky cleared a little and he soon saw it we came in sight of Cape Otway light house about five o'clock and as we passed it being dark they fired rockets up that they might telegraph to Melbourne We sighted two vessels outward bound Just before dark the first since leaving the Cape we run to within some miles of the entrance to the bay and burned Blue Lights for a pilot to come and Board us the greater part of the passengers on deck till about 12 O'clock we could see the lighthouses along the land very plain they burned a good number of lights but we could get no pilot. So the captain had the ship turned round against the wind and we laid to for the night Distance 247

**Tuesday 29th** – All hands astir very early packing up Boxes & carpet Bags putting on their Sunday go meeting clothes a grand sun rise over the Bay we can see vessels lying about the heads the entrance to the Bay but where is the Pilot all eyes anxiously looking out at last we see him Batling towards us against a head wind about 8 o'clock he came opposite us and put in a small boat to come on Board we received him with an English cheer and was soon on our way through the heads we waited of queenscliff for the quarantine doctor to inspect us we could see the sand on the shore and the Bathing Boxes and the homes on the hill side there are 3 piers for pleasure packets in the summer to land at, we have land on both sides of us, on the right it is very wooded and some nice houses studed here and there. It is a grand bay we get very near out of sight of land going through it a thick mist came on when we sighted Williamstown which is opposite to Sandrige pier but soon cleared of with a good sharp shower of rain the light was lovely with williamstown on the left of us and Melbourne stretching away of to the right of us as we drew near to the pier we had to land at. We saw the Santiago a Liverpool steamer that came out in February and she was covered in people to see the vessel and along the pier were a great number of people it was quite a sight as they were hauling us alongside to see people on Shore recognising their friends with a wave of the handkerchief I looked very anxiously for my uncle and aunt but it was some time before I could make them out as we got very close to the pier I spied him looking for us, I took my handkerchief out and shook it at him and he recognised me and took of his hat when we got pretty close to the pier he pulled out some oranges and threw them at us, we were soon close enough for them to come on Board he did not wait for the gangway to be lowered but jumped over the Bullwarks to us he brought a lot of sausage cakes with him for us and a bottle of Colonial wine.

Edited by Pat Richardson

(Thanks to Mrs Adrienne Brewer for permission to use the photo of Jabez and Emily Edwards)

## WHS Committee Contacts

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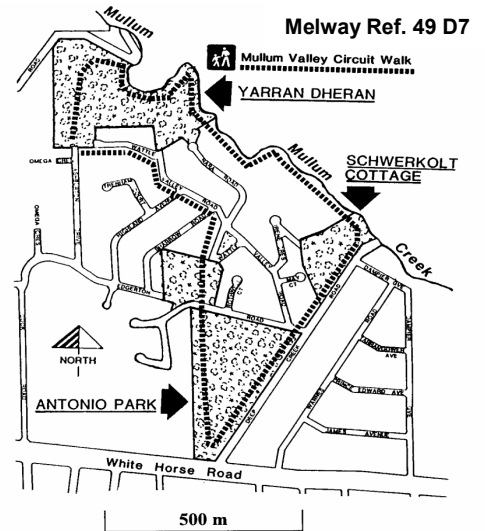
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**Copy deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 7 November 2012**



### 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.

**POD**  
Place of Deposit  
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CITY OF



WHITEHORSE

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



## REMEMBER

**Whitehorse Historical Society  
Local History Collection & Place of Deposit**  
Open 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. 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.

*Sender: Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. & Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex  
Deep Creek Road, Mitcham, VIC 3132  
If undeliverable, please return to P.O. Box 272 Mitcham, VIC 3132*

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