



IVY IN A LEAGUE OF HER OWN

There is probably no better model of foresight and dedication than Ivy Lavinia Weber, the first woman elected to the Victorian parliament – a woman who campaigned tirelessly for a better life for Australian women and families. Born Ivy Filchie in 1892 at Captain's Flat, New South Wales, she was the only girl in a family of five children. In 1915 she married Tom Mitchell, but was widowed when her husband was killed in France during World War I.

Left with a small child, Ivy moved to Melbourne to be with her parents and it was here that she met and married Clarence Weber, a widower with seven small children of his own; together they had another three. Clarence was the principal of the renowned Weber & Rice Health and Strength College, and Ivy assisted in the running of the college while commencing her vocation of driving social change by becoming actively involved with the Women's Temperance Union. It should be said that she was not against alcohol, but in those days many men were paid on Thursdays and drank their wages away by Friday morning. This left the wives nothing with which to purchase food, clothing and other essentials for themselves and their children. With typical zeal and courage, Ivy set about addressing the problem through the Temperance Union.

Ivy didn't just join organisations, she drove them. Owing to her tireless energy and vision, she became known as a 'woman of immense vitality'. She also became a key member of the National Council of Women and the Australasian Women's Association.

Clarence Weber died in 1930, leaving Ivy with 11 children and the need to earn a living to support her family. She gained a position with Berlei, the corset maker, and drawing on her experience with her husband she began lecturing women on health and figure control through diet and exercise, being almost a century ahead of her time.

The period between the wars was a time of great social dis-

tre, particularly for housebound, impoverished women. There was no social welfare, and many were living in slums. Women and children had very little social voice and there were certainly no equal rights for women.

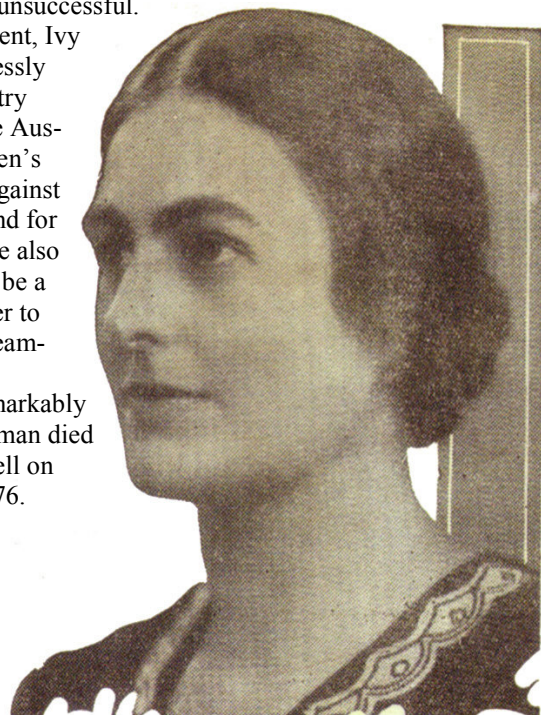
In 1937, harnessing her drive and dedication, Ivy became one of three candidates endorsed to stand as an independent for state parliament. Running on the 'Mother, Child, Family, Home and Health' ticket in the seat of Nunawading, Ivy won, and became the first woman ever elected to the Victorian Parliament in a general election.

Her platform was built on the belief that a true democracy should provide economic security, so she proposed systematic national health and insurance schemes, free education, the removal of slum dwellings and the construction of government-funded housing for the needy. She also lobbied for female representation on government boards, councils and juries, and advocated a homemaker's allowance for women with families.

She won her seat again in 1940 and 1943, then resigned from state parliament to contest the federal seat of Henty, but this was unsuccessful.

Post-parliament, Ivy worked tirelessly for the Country Party and the Australian Women's Movement against Socialism, and for the blind. She also continued to be a loving mother to her cricket-team-sized clan.

This remarkably effective woman died in Camberwell on March 6, 1976.



Extract from: *Australian Unity and You*, July 2007 pp22-23

Next meeting: Saturday, 10 August
1.30 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: Gerry Robinson,
"Local Shopping Centres"

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FROM THE PRESIDENT – VICKI JONES-EVANS

Dear Members,

At our meeting on Saturday in June we were pleased to welcome Dee Ryall, the Member for Mitcham, to our meeting. Our society had received a grant for \$3000 for our digitisation project and Dee presented the certificate from the Public Records Office of Victoria for this grant.

Our first part of the project is to have digitised the set of debutante photos we have from the 1940s to the 1950s, and one from the 1930s.

Dee also explained the process that the Nunawading Primary School building and site are going through, although she was not able to tell us which part of the process they are at.

Our speaker, Elizabeth Banham, provided a wonderful collection of handkerchiefs and facts concerning them during her talk. Please see more on page 7 of this newsletter.

As our next meeting is our Annual General Meeting, please consider joining our committee as we have some committee members retiring. Meetings are held once a month and it is not necessary to be able to attend on Wednesdays or for Saturday General Meetings.



On the last Saturday in June four society members attended the Association of Eastern Historical Societies Conference. We listened to a number of very interesting speakers and we will be sharing our information on Mechanics Institutes in our area with Jim Lowden, who spoke on the Mechanics Institutes of Victoria. The Karralyka Centre is a very comfortable venue for the conference and thanks go to Russ Haines and his helpers, who organised a very informative and entertaining day.

Vicki Jones-Evans

AGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGM

It is time once again for our
WHS Annual General Meeting.

If you would like to join and assist on the
committee, please fill in a
Nomination form (enclosed), which is to be
returned by

10 August 2013.

For more information contact Rachael Cottle, Secretary.

Statistics

Photographs Cataloguing	-	3955
Artefacts Cataloguing	-	4547
Documents Cataloguing	-	6508
Visitors to Museum May/June	-	421



Facebook 'Likes' to June - 231

WHS Members and friends are advised . . .

that subscription fees for 2013–2014
are now payable. Fees are
unchanged.

Kindly complete the Application
Renewal form enclosed with this
newsletter
and return it ASAP to our
membership secretary,
Rachael Cottle.

I was visiting Sale in March for a lace-making weekend with the Sale Lace Makers group. The weekend is held in the Sale City Band Hall, next to the Sale Museum. Usually the museum is open on Sunday afternoon and we are travelling back to Melbourne; this time the door was open on Saturday afternoon, so we asked if we could have a look around. Craig, the one-person working bee, invited us in.

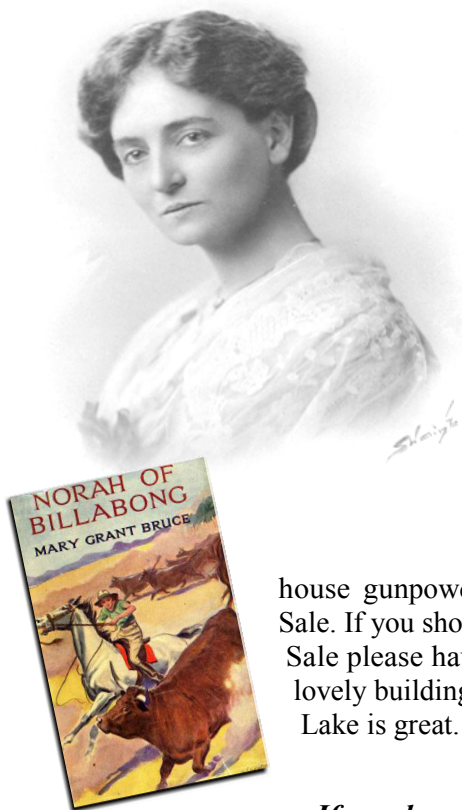
EXPLORING SALE MUSEUM

by Vicki Jones-Evans

The Sale Historical Society's museum is in a building the core of which made up the original council offices, built in the 1860s. It houses the council table, chairs and mayoral robe, and is a lovely room with black swans (the Sale emblem) highlighted on the cornices and in relief on two of the walls. Another room is set out as a Victorian drawing room, and they had to have a big clean-up of this room recently as a possum had got in and run amok.

Significant milestones in Sale's history were showcased well and I learned that Mary Grant Bruce was born there. Sale also used to have a migrant hostel/camp, and this made a very nice display, with some great photos and

Mary Grant Bruce, and one of her 'Billabong' books



just a few artefacts against corrugated iron sheets. A model of their swing bridge (see below: built in 1883 and restoration completed in 2006), along with its history, was also featured, as well as the history of the Port of Sale. I also found out that Graham Kennedy did his National Service in the 1960s at the Sale RAAF base. Outside, sheds housed the museum's machinery artefacts. The Historical Society also looks after the Gunpowder Store, situated by one of their lovely lakes a 5-minute walk away. It was built in 1864 to

house gunpowder for the gold mines north of Sale. If you should have the opportunity to visit Sale please have a look. The city has some lovely buildings too, and the walk around the Lake is great.

If you have visited a good exhibition or museum lately and would like to share your experience with other members, please send details by hand, post or email to our editor.



Sale swing bridge today

Commemorative bobbins have a long history in lacemaking in England. Early ones were issued for public hangings, and people also commemorate births, deaths and marriages. The Sale Lace Makers sell commemorative bobbins at the weekends. These are the ones I have collected.



Bobbins from left to right

2008 flower

2009 RAAF plane

2010 swing bridge (2 bobbins) – it was restored

2011 clock tower

2012 gas platform, Bass Strait

2013 Pearson's Crossing Bridge – new pedestrian bridge with the highway duplication under construction

NEW FEATURE

Your Committee in Action

We decided people might be interested in being informed about the monthly committee meetings. To this end, the newsletter will henceforth include a brief summary of the main topics discussed over the previous two months. Here is the first crop of items.

- ◆ The long-considered merger of photographs and document databases into one Heritage Database has been realised.
- ◆ Management and committee review has commenced.
- ◆ The Digitisation Project of photographs and documents for archive and display is in progress. A government grant for this purpose has recently been received and is being utilised (see the President's Report in this issue for an update).
- ◆ A history of Whitehorse Historical Society is in the process of being researched and compiled for the 50th anniversary in 2015.
- ◆ Preparation is under way for the Heritage Family Day on September 15.

HERITAGE FAMILY DAY 2013

Sunday 15 September, 12noon to 5pm

Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex
Deep Creek Road, Mitcham (Melway 49 D7)

View our museum display
'Splish Splash'.

Special Attractions:

Tip Top Tom's Magic (1pm-3pm)
Old-fashioned picnic races (3pm)
Sausage sizzle (Rotary Club of Forest Hill)
Guided tours of the cottage
Animals of Oz – Native animals

Tea, coffee and cordial available
from Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Other attractions:

Jamieson's Run Animal farm
Face painting
Meccano Club
Fun with Bubbles
Games for Children
Electric model trains
Art in Bark
Blacksmiths
Lacemaking
Spinners and Weavers
Koorung Wood Turners
2nd-hand book stall

Yarra Valley Machinery Preservation Society

From the Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter

Friday, 8 July 1932

Whitehorse Historical Society
presents

A new "snapshot"
of how we used to live...

Price \$5.00
(plus \$2.00 p & p)

Available from
Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex
Deep Creek Road, Mitcham
or contact Whitehorse Historical Society
Phone: 9873 4946
Email: whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com



Whitehorse Historical Society Dates for your Diary

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

Saturday, 10 August 2013, 1.30pm

Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Gerry Robinson

'Local Shopping Centres'

Saturday, 12 October, 1.30pm

General Meeting Speaker: T.B.A.

Saturday, 14 December, 1.30pm

General Meeting

*Speakers: Paula Herlihy, Karen Phillips and Ian
James (from Mt Evelyn HS)*

*'Aborigines in the Yarra Valley
and Northern Dandenongs'*

Working Bees 2013

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

Working Bees commence at 9.30am and finish
around 12 noon with a great morning tea.

**Saturday, 7 September (to prepare
for Heritage Day)**

Saturday, 9 November

Please come and help even if you can only
offer an hour of your time.

TUNSTALL.

—:0:—

ANNUAL MEETING OF MISSION LEAGUE.

The annual meeting of the Tunstall
League of the Mission of St. James
and St. John will be held at the re-
sidence of Mrs. Peake, Springvale
road, on Thursday afternoon next at
3 p.m.

BOY SCOUTS.

Owing to the departure of Mr.
Rigby, who has returned to New
Guinea, the Tunstall group of Boy
Scouts is without a permanent scout-
master. The work is being under-
taken temporarily by Mr. Mann, of
Mont Albert group, and Mr. C.
Crooks, of Vermont group.

RAILWAY STATION BROKEN INTO

Another attempt to burgle the
Tunstall railway station was made
on Friday night. The doors of the
offices on both the "down" and "up"
sides were forced, but the thieves
were evidently disturbed by a gentle-
man who resides nearby, and who
was aroused by the noise. Nothing
was stolen. Some months ago a few
pounds in money was stolen from the
station, when thieves forced an en-
trance to the office on the "up" side."

A Trip to Nethercote Orchard

Healesville Freeway Reservation Community Day, 26 May 2013

The Society was invited by the organisers to participate in the day, and a small marquee was made available to us for the morning.

While Peter and Bob were answering questions and seeking information at the Springvale Road end of the Reservation, I was visiting the Boronia Road end to take photographs of the two properties behind the Nethercote Orchard gate. The property farthest from Boronia Road is being used by Box Hill Institute for equestrian studies and the house is in reasonable order. I spoke to the manager, who is very keen to have the property continue under Box Hill Institute and would be happy to see the properties repaired by Institute students as part of their studies (in the relevant trades and under supervision).



Equestrian centre



The house nearest the road, at 142 Boronia Road, was known to us as the Goodwin house, or Greenways. On my photographic tour around the house I met some nearby residents who informed me that in the 1990s it was leased from VicRoads by St Luke's Church and was known as Westonfavell.

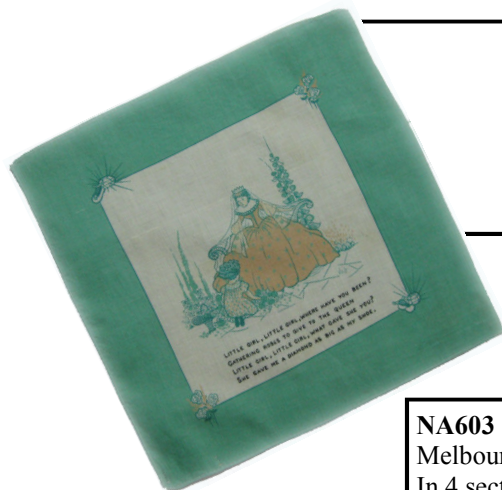
The photo below shows this house is in very poor condition. It is listed in the City of Whitehorse Heritage Overlay, so it is very disappointing to see it in this state. Tim Shambrook (author of *This is Vermont* and a member of our society) has been researching information on the property and has been able to date it to 1876 from the shire rate books. It is listed as 'House and 20 acres land' for George A. Goodwin on Delaneys Road (Canterbury Road), which will be the Boronia Road property, as rate books then were not exact with location. The 1875 rate books show land only. The VicRoads plans for the Reservation are expected to be made public around August.

Vicki Jones-Evans



142
Boronia Rd





NA1384 Child's cotton handkerchief with green border. Centre has an illustration of a queen and child kneeling. Words of a poem at base.
*Little girl, little girl, where have you been?
 Gathering roses to give to the Queen.
 Little girl, little girl, what gave she you?
 She gave me a diamond as big as my shoe.*

NA603 Lawn Handkerchief - Memento of Melbourne 1956 Olympic Games.

In 4 sections:

- (1) Map of Melbourne,
- (2) Picture of Melbourne Cricket Ground,
- (3) List of Events and Venues,
- (4) Map of Australia, Olympic flame



FROM THE COLLECTION

June Meeting: 'The History of Handkerchiefs'

On 11 June 2013, guest speaker at Schwerkolt Museum Visitors Centre was Elizabeth Banham.

'Sarah Jane, you are sentenced to seven years transportation to New South Wales for stealing a gentleman's handkerchief.'

Such a decision is frankly almost impossible to believe in this day and age. But sadly, it happened quite frequently in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Handkerchiefs have been around since Roman times for decoration or display, and were originally made of the grass or flax that grew freely on the banks of the Nile. Later, noblemen carried them on their sleeves as a love token (wearing your heart on your sleeve!). These were usually made of silk and perfumed by the lady involved. They were also used when sniffing snuff, when they needed to be a dark colour to hide the resultant stains.

In Victorian times young girls were taught to embroider them in preparation for when they married. Queen Victoria was depicted in paintings holding one very daintily; often having two, a fancy one for show and one to use. Girls were practised in using them to flirt with at balls and other social occasions; certain gestures indicated interest in a young man, who was expected to understand the signals.

Many hapless 'criminals' were transported for stealing these valuable items, the size of which varied from 60cm in the 17th century to 10cm in the 20th; the latter may have been due to lack of available

cotton during World War II. During the 1920s, men started to wear folded hankies in their top pockets. Then the need developed for somewhere to keep them, so along came elaborate boxes and sachets.

Often department stores had special counters for the sale of the item. Various types appeared, including ones printed for children. Walt Disney used them to advertise films, such as *Bambi*. Black was popular for mourning, and brides on their wedding day carried fancy ones with crotched edges down the aisle. Tourists purchased handkerchiefs depicting flowers or things they had seen on their travels: thistles in Scotland, the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne. Most states in the USA had printed ones for sale at petrol stops. Commemorative ones included the Boer War, jubilees and the coronation of King George VI.

Not really hankies as such, but an interesting side-line to our story, were the rayon maps that RAF pilots carried rolled up inside a hollowed-out pencil, enabling them to find their way home in the event of being shot down over enemy territory.

Handkerchiefs have the longest history of any item of a personal nature, but today we are edging towards disposable paper ones instead.

by Valerie Marshall

WHS Committee Contacts

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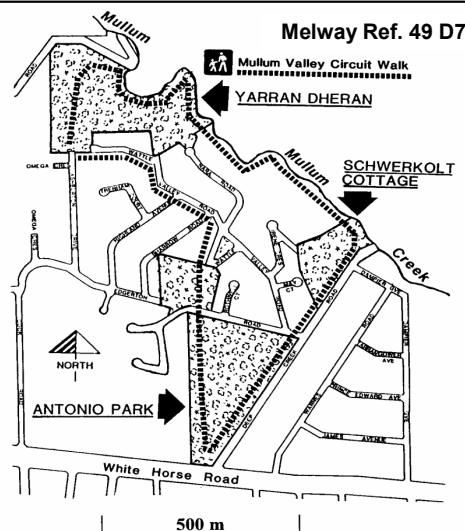
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facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

Email:

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 272
MITCHAM VIC 3132



Copy deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 11 September 2013



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
Accredited by the
PRO Victoria

CITY OF



*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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