



SIXTY YEARS AN ATHLETE

OUR treasurer, Bob Gardiner, was born in Preston in 1936. He joined Collingwood Harriers Club in 1953, following Scouting friends and because they held great dances. Bob's father, Bert, was a leading administrator in Australian Athletics, and was an Australian Racewalking Champion in the 1920s.

In 1964, Bob was selected for the Australian Olympic team to compete in Tokyo, where he finished in fifth place in the men's 50 kilometres walk. The Mexico Olympics in 1968 proved a tough race at high altitude, and although selected for Munich in 1972, Bob had to withdraw because of injury.

At the 1970 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games, he finished second to his teammate and good friend, Noel Freeman.

Bob has won many Australian walking championships – from two miles to 50 kilometres – and currently holds Australian Masters walking records and Victorian Masters steeplechase records.

This track season begins his 60th continuous year of competition, and over these many years he has formed many long-lasting friendships.



Bob's father Bert becomes 1925
Australian 7-Mile Champion in Adelaide

Harry Summers, from whom Bob took over as President of the Victorian Racewalking Club, joined the same year, and they are still training mates.



Bob, Ted Allsopp and Ron
Crawford
Tokyo 1964



Bob
Albert Park 2013

Next meeting: Saturday, 14 December
1.30 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING

Speakers: Paula Herlihy, Karen Phillips and Ian
James (from Mt Evelyn High School)

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT – PETER SIMMENAUER

Dear Members,

Many of us will shortly be welcoming Christmas, but for different reasons.

Never mind about Santa's stockings (except for grandchildren, of course) – members of the Wednesday Working Group and of the many subcommittees and working parties will be very glad of the break.

These groups include the Committee of Management, which meets monthly, and the standing subcommittees, which meet as needed – Accreditation and Review, Acquisitions, Display and Grants. Short-term working parties are set up for the formulation of recommendations to the Committee on problem and development areas, and a meeting of committee officers deals with everyday matters needing investigation and coordination. In addition, members represent us on the City of Whitehorse Volunteer Network and the Association of Eastern Historical Societies.

After the very successful Heritage Family Day, a quieter event was our participation in the City of Whitehorse Spring Festival, and a couple of our members attended the Wandinong Centenary celebration (see article on page 4). Note that the very interesting talk by John Payne on Melbourne theatres (see page 3) was recorded and is available for anyone who missed out to listen to. Our last General Meeting for the year will be at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, 14 December.

Other ongoing activities that keep us out of mischief include oral history interviews with long-term Whitehorse residents, which have resumed, and work on the history of the Society, which we hope to have ready for our 50th anniversary in 2015.


The Local History Room will be quiet after 11 December until 15 January, when it reopens to the public for enquiries and research, although of course the Cottage and other buildings will still be open as usual on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and on public holidays except for Christmas Day.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome two new volunteers to our Wednesday Working Group: Rosalie Whalen, a great-grandchild of August Schwerkolt, who has been a Society member for many years and has helped us greatly with the history of the family, and Dan Jones, who has also been a member for a long time, but was previously not available to volunteer. Both are currently undertaking basic skills training preparatory to taking on ongoing responsibilities.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas to you all from the Committee and myself.

Peter Simmenauer

Statistics

Photographs Cataloguing	-	4053
Artefacts Cataloguing	-	4585
Documents Cataloguing	-	6546
Visitors to Museum July/August	-	412
(Open Day excluded)		
 Facebook 'Likes' to November	-	289

Can you support the WHS?

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

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

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

Cash donations also are 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 please 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 proportion (as applicable) of my estate or from the residue of my estate:

- ♦ *the sum of \$.....*
- ♦ *property (details)*
- ♦ *other (details)*

Your Committee in Action

To keep people informed about the monthly committee meetings the newsletter each issue includes a brief summary of the main topics discussed over the previous two months.

- ♦ Acquiring a signal panel from the old Mitcham Station was considered and rejected as being of insufficient interest (and incomplete).
- ♦ Digitising of VHS archive discussed, and quotes sought.
- ♦ Oral histories proceeding – most recent interview currently being transcribed. Interviews planned to provide information in preparation for the 50th anniversary of WHS.

October Meeting Report

WHAT WAS THAT THEATRE?

John Payne spoke at the History Room, Mitcham, on Saturday, 12 October.

As a boy, John's parents took him to the theatre as often as possible, as he had developed an enjoyment for the ambience of the theatre.

John has undertaken to research all known theatres of Melbourne since 1841. One of the earliest, the Royal Pavilion Saloon, was built on the site of the present-day David Jones Food Hall in Bourke Street. Nearby was the Melba Theatre (1911), which earlier had been used as a boxing stadium and was in time to become a silent-movie house. It closed in 1938 and was replaced by the Liberty Theatre, which burnt down in 1950 (many theatres suffered this fate owing to the flammable nature of nitrate film stock prior to that year). It was rebuilt as the Odeon, eventually giving way to the Centrepoint in the 1970s.

Another, Astley's Amphitheatre (1854) was a roofed-over circus venue modelled after Astley's of London and built in Spring Street at the south corner of Little Bourke Street. The original building was not well constructed, and was rebuilt in 1886 to become the Princess Theatre of today.

The Capitol Theatre in Swanston Street is one whose history is varied and interesting. Its site, bought in 1837 for £120 at the first land sale in Melbourne, was filled to lift the level to the height required to line up with the new Princes Bridge. This would have put the original land level at least four feet below the current level, and would concur with the tree-stump problem at the building of the Times Newsreel theatre below the Melba Cinema in Bourke Street. During the construction of this Walter Burley Griffin-designed theatre and office building, the theatre was given a number of names, such as Central Theatre and Town Hall Theatre, but opened as the Paramount Capitol Theatre five years before talkies came to town. It is now owned by R.M.I.T., which is restoring it to its former appearance. A Victorian electric supplier subsidises the power consumption needed to illuminate the magnificent ceiling for special occasions.

These are but a few of at least seventy-plus theatres that have entertained the people of Melbourne during the past 180-odd years.

Valerie Marshall



FROM THE COLLECTION

NA4535.1-3

Bell & Howell TQIII 16mm sound film projector
Machines such as this were used throughout the 1950s, 60s and 70s by schools and other organisations. I remember in 1959 sitting on the wooden floor of the Blackburn Hall watching "Bush Christmas", projected using a similar machine.



Remembering Wandinong

A Centenary Trip to Wandinong Sanctuary: 27 October 2013



ILLUSTRATIONS
LEFT: Photo of what was first a girls' sleepout, then Mr Hooke's office (with attached bike shed)
CENTRE: Janet Hooke's bicycle on display
BELOW: 'Pans of Fire' entertain
BOTTOM: Plaque informing visitors of the trees planted by Mrs Hooke to commemorate the birth of each of her 20 grandchildren



The Wandinong Sanctuary Advisory Committee held a celebration for the 100th Anniversary of the Sanctuary, which was attended by Society members Rosalie Whalen and Peter Simmenauer.

Vermont Lions provided a sausage sizzle, the band 'Pans on Fire' entertained the visitors and an information tent was provided by Blackburn South Bendigo Community Bank. Janet Hooke's Kew Flyer bicycle, donated to the Whitehorse Historical Society in 2008 by the Hooke Family, was on display.

The house and land, owned by Arthur and Janet from 1913, was gifted to the Nunawading Council by them on their death as a permanent bush area open to the public in the heart of the Bellbird section of Blackburn, bordered by Canterbury Road and Ronley Street. They lived there for almost 60 years and this is where they raised their six children. The area includes a circular walk through beautiful native bushland. The Hookes were also well-known cyclists, making long trips all around Australia over many years.

Mrs Elizabeth Guy, Arthur and Janet's daughter, travelled down from her home on the South Coast of New South Wales to attend the ceremony, and happily recalled growing up and playing on the land as a child. As many as 80 family members attended and several of them shared their cherished



memories of living and visiting there over the years. The house no longer stands, but there was an interesting photographic display throughout the area of various photos taken in times gone by.



From the **Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter**

Friday, 23 December 1932

Have you paid your subscription fees?

2013–2014 are now payable.

Fees are unchanged.

If you haven't paid yet, please
forward to our
membership secretary,
Rachael Cottle ASAP.

Thanks from the
WHS team.



Whitehorse
Historical Society

Dates for your Diary

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

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 2014

**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, 8 March

Saturday, 10 May

Saturday, 13 September

Saturday, 8 November

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

VERMONT.

—:0:—

SCOUT NOTES.

The scouts wound up the year on Wednesday night with a games evening and pound night. On Friday Charles Philpot was invested as a cub and Eric Webb was presented with his first star. The cold evening apparently affected the crowd at the annual bon fire on Saturday last, although the dance which followed was well attended, and an enjoyable evening was spent. A balloon blowing contest for children was won by Vi Thompson and Dick Anderson and a lucky spot dance by Miss N. Thompson and Charlie Bain. A ballet performed by a number of the scouts caused a good deal of amusement. The ladies' committee was in charge of supper, and Mr. J. Willis was at the piano; Mr. Het Morrison acted as M.C., and Douglas Armstrong had charge of the ice cream and soft drinks.

DRINK VICTIMS CURED

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London Stores Buildings, Elizabeth
Street, Melbourne.**

Washing Day

Until the late 1950s and early 1960s, when automatic washing machines became more common, washing the family clothes and linen was a heavy task. Monday was traditionally washing day, and hopefully the weather was fine.

Step 1: The copper was filled with water. If you were lucky, it was a gas copper; otherwise you had to light a fire underneath it to heat the water, and keep it stoked.



Step 2: You put the washing in the copper, with some washing powder, keeping your whites separate from the coloureds. The dyes in coloured clothes were often not 'fast', and could put unwanted stains on white items. If you wanted your whites extra white, you added some 'Reckitt's Blue' to the wash.

Step 3: After half an hour's boiling, you pulled the items out of the copper with a stick and put them into one section of a double trough filled with water to rinse the soap out (the pot stick also served to discipline unruly children!) Early troughs were made of wood; later they were concrete.



Step 4: A wringer was mounted on the divider between the two troughs. The washing was wrung through it for its second rinse in the next trough. You emptied the first trough, then wrung the washing back into it.

Step 5: You put the washing into a basket and took it outside to

hang it on the washing lines to dry. For many years, washing lines were simply lines of wire, raised by means of a prop after the washing was hung so that it would catch any breeze that was blowing to dry it

faster. Later, rotary lines were used, raised or lowered by a hand-cranked spiral screw. The 'Hills Hoist', an Australian invention, became a feature of most back yards.

Step 6: Most linen and clothing was ironed smooth. Some items, such as lace and shirt collars, might be starched. Early flat irons had to be heated on the stove; later ones might be heated by burning kerosene, before electrically heated irons were invented. Before steam irons, clothing usually had to be damped before ironing.

Step 7: A cup of tea, a 'Bex' and a good lie-down!

ILLUSTRATIONS

ABOVE: Metters Fuel copper NA2656

LEFT: Mangle NA1428

BELOW: Metters Gas copper NA2714



The traditional means of washing clothes meant using a washboard to scrub them to remove dirt and stains. As with all menial tasks, the old way was ripe for improvement, and saw the invention of . . .

Washing Machines

A variety of hand-operated 'washing machines' were developed, which used some form of 'agitator' to do this, such as possets or finned rotating wheels, which were easier on the clothes and did not require one's hands to be constantly immersed in water.

Mangles or wringers were used to remove most of the water from the washed items before hanging them out to dry. These were gradually combined with the washers, and eventually powered with electric motors. Later models used a spin-dry mechanism, which did away with the wringers altogether, and then, the only time wet clothes had to be handled was when they were hung on the line, or put into electrically heated driers.

RIGHT: Simpson electric washing machine with wringer NA4481

BELOW: Hoover twin-tub electric washing machine with spin-dryer NA4479



ABOVE: Metal hand washing machine NA2898

LEFT: Wooden tub hand washing machine with wringer NA1442



LAUNDRY DISPLAY

Have you visited our Laundry Display in the Museum Annexe?

Included are early washing machines: one with a wooden tub and attached mangle, probably from the 19th century, and one a metal machine with a conical plunger agitator (1920s?), both hand operated; a relatively modern electric 'Hoover' twin-tub that incorporated a spin-dryer along with a compartment where clothes were washed with the aid of an agitator, and a 'Simpson' machine with a pivoting wringer. All these except the Hoover required clothes to be rinsed in laundry troughs before being passed through a wringer and hung out to dry on a clothesline.

Their predecessors are also represented in the collection, including a fuel heated copper and a gas heated copper, both made by Metters, in which clothes were boiled rather than agitated (complete with 'pot sticks'), a wooden rinsing trough with a wringer or small mangle attached, and two large mangles, probably used in commercial rather than domestic laundries.

The theme is continued by a display of irons in the main museum area, which comprises flatirons of various sizes, which would have been heated on a stove for use, and irons heated with kerosene or electricity. Later electric irons incorporating steam damping as required are also on show.

Peter Simmenauer



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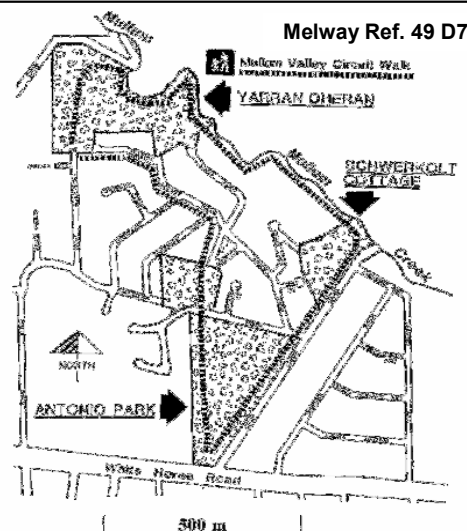
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Copy deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 15 January 2014



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
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