



## WHS Collection makes the grade

At 9.30am on Saturday, April 26, Don Morrison and his mate Geoff Winkler arrived at Schwerkolt Cottage with a truck containing an impressive new addition to our collection. Maurie Wyatt and Bob Gardiner had previously moved the various carts back to the west wall of the shed, leaving most of the north wall available for the newcomer to be displayed. A Daniel Harvey fruit grading, or sizing machine makes an important addition to the story of orcharding in the area. (see story on page 4)

Following the closure of Morrisons Orchard and Nursery, located in Williamsons Rd Doncaster, the Society was alerted to the availability of this machine, and after a visit to inspect its condition, dimensions and so forth, arrangements were made with Don Morrison



for it to be delivered to our Orchard display shed. He also donated a picker's bag to the Society and has some fruit cases of various sizes.

The fruit grading machine is mostly timber, with Daniel Harvey Sizer painted on the front. It is in good working condition and is approximately 5.5m x 1.9m x 1.2m high. The motor and drive shaft attach at one end.

A team of our members, Bob Gardiner, Peter Simmenauer, Chris Gray, Neil Brain and Dan Jones assisted with the unloading and assembling of the very large and heavy machine.

Don and Geoff got the sizer turning over, and we repaired to the Local History Room for a celebratory morning tea furnished by Barbara Gardiner.

*Bob Gardiner*

ABOVE: The grading machine is reassembled in the museum  
LEFT: Don Morrison's truck brings the machine to its final resting place



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### *Dear Members*

**A**t the April General Meeting members put forward a number of suggestions to mark the 50th Anniversary of the acquisition of Schwerkolt Cottage by the City of Nunawading. Our October meeting will be a celebration in the form of an afternoon tea with reminiscences of the Opening Ceremony in 1964.

The Historical Society is once again preparing for reaccreditation under the Museums Accreditation Program and our reaccreditation subcommittee is busy reviewing our documents and procedures.

Our working bee for May had a disappointing number of workers – just five, and in March it was just four people. Cleanliness is an essential part of the standards for the Accreditation Program. If members would be happy to help but find Saturday mornings difficult, please let me know what times would suit and I am sure the Committee would be happy to consider alternatives.

On Saturday, 3 May, I attended the Association of Eastern Historical Societies meeting, hosted by the Surrey Hills History Group. Sue Barnett of the Surrey Hills group inspired all with a talk on their current project of photographing all the houses in Surrey Hills – a very large undertaking that is very well organised and with the help of about 40 volunteers is progressing well. Sue hopes it will be all finished by the end of the year.

The Committee has written to the City of Whitehorse with our concerns about the level of care that the Cottage gardens have been receiving. We are particularly concerned about the pruning of the wisteria on the Cottage and the banksia rose on the Barn.

The April meeting featured a showing of the experimental film *The Wheel* from our collection, featuring scenes set at Blackburn Lake. At fifty minutes I think a few people found it a little long, but it was an interesting dip into the 1950s especially seeing how the scenery has changed and what remains the same.

On Tuesday, 3 June, the Society will be participating in the Whitehorse Volunteer Expo at the Whitehorse Civic Centre in Nunawading.

Two of our long-standing members, Judy and Harley Hall, have joined us as volunteers on a Wednesday. Harley is giving Bob a hand and Judy is at present learning the ropes in the artifact cataloguing and care department.

After six months of patience and perseverance, we have finally achieved ADSL internet service for the Local History Room.

Please come to our next meeting in June for Judith Fry's talk on herbs.

*Vicki Jones Evans*

## Your Committee in Action

- After many delays, the ADSL internet connection is finally operating.
- Plans are proceeding for Heritage Family Day. Council are organising for the return of the popular *Brumbies* bush band. Joining our usual participants will be Little Athletics; and a Chinese brush painter is sure to add a touch of the exotic to the proceedings.
- Vicki is in contact with Council with regard to maintenance requirements for the Cottage garden.
- More oral histories have recently been completed by Peter.

## The Wheel

The “speaker” at our April meeting was, unusually, not actually with us at the time! It was an experimental film, planned and directed by the film unit (media students) at Melbourne University in 1952. It runs for 50 minutes and was directed by Gil Brealey. Another of the students involved, Ian Jones, later rose to be head of production at Crawford Studios.

It will be of interest to our members as parts of the film were filmed locally – particularly around Blackburn Lake. There is a glimpse of Dr Peter Birrell’s house in Gordon Crescent – originally built by the land developer T. R. W. Morton in around 1889; also, a brief appearance of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, known as Mute House. Sound and script were rather primitive owing to the lack of equipment available at the time. The students were learning film techniques and how to direct, and their efforts didn’t always quite succeed; but that is to be expected. Since showing the film, we have unearthed an article by Noeline Egan (*Nunawading Gazette* 20/2/1991) that is worth reproducing here.

### A drama in reel life

TALK about ask the oracle!

A query in this column several weeks ago by historian Mrs Jean Uhl about a film on bushrangers, purportedly made at Blackburn Lake by university students, brought a response from none other than our local authority on all

things theatrical, Max Grant.

Max recalls attending the premiere of the film, entitled *The Wheel*, at the University of Melbourne’s Union Theatre in May 1954, and he has the souvenir program to prove it.

He says the film was made by the Melbourne University Experimental Film Unit with the screenplay written by Wal Cherry – later associated with the Emerald Hill Theatre – and produced and directed by Gil Brealey.

He has good reason to remember the film, as many members of the Mitcham Repertory Group, which he founded, worked on it as convict extras. Two MRG members, Ron Fawell and Daphne Powell’s son, Malcolm Powell, also had feature roles.

As it happens, the film plot didn’t involve bushrangers, but rather an intellectually handicapped boy thrown into society with no ability to support himself.

The program notes say it was made for the modest cost of £500, compared with the more than £10,000 it would have cost had it been made by a commercial company.

In a prophetic remark in the notes, Gil Brealey commented: “As I see the film for the thousandth time I cannot help feeling what a beautiful country Australia is and how many hundreds of films we could make right here”.

The program also gives some amusing insights into the “on location” aspects of *The Wheel*.

(continued on page 7)



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**Whitehorse Historical Society  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP  
CATEGORIES**

<b>Individual</b>	\$20.00
<b>Household</b> (2 adults + children under 18)	\$30.00
<b>Newsletter only</b>	\$12.00





## THE FATHER OF POWER FARMING IN AUSTRALIA

by Frances Warren

I became interested in doing a study on Daniel Harvey after I had been on a Box Hill Cemetery walk.

I talked to my brother-in-law, Stan Finger about this, as Daniel Harvey was his uncle. The Harvey family and the Finger family had holiday homes next door to one another at Seaford, where we all had great summer holidays. Little did I know how clever and well-known Uncle Dan was, and how important a man he was to become in the scheme of things in Box Hill.

Daniel Harvey was born at Mysia, in the Mallee, on the 8th August, 1876; his father was a farmer. Dan, the fifth of eleven sons, must have had an early interest in farming and farm implements. He trained as a blacksmith and served his time as an apprentice in Korumburra. When he came to Melbourne he worked for a Mr Kurt Hillman in Doncaster, then the main fruit-growing centre for Victoria, and later managed the business when Mr Hillman died. The business was located opposite the Doncaster Hotel on the corner of Wetherby and Doncaster Roads, where Dan became the local blacksmith and farrier.

He began to forge more implements for the orchardists, who were not too keen to venture into that kind of work themselves. Daniel moved to Union Road, Templestowe, where he set up his own business. It was here that he met Maud Adams, whose father, Mark Adams, was a carpenter in the Templestowe area. He and Maud were married and had two sons, one of whom died at an early age; the other son, Hugh, later came into the business.

In 1911 Daniel moved his business to Box Hill and set up a foundry in Whitehorse Road, on the site where Le Pine Funeral Parlour now stands. The family lived opposite the factory in Whitehorse Road, one block west of Graham Place. An empty corner block was utilised for storing the steel used in manufacturing the implements.

The factory site comprised offices (on the Linsley Street corner) and the iron foundry. Behind the offices were the blacksmith forges, steel storage racks, the guillotine for cutting the steel and the assembly section for cultivators and the section that made dehydrators. Behind the foundry there was more storage and the grader department (two storeys: the lower floor for cutting up timber for the graders and the upper floor for making and assembling them).

Designed by Dan, the graders were simple affairs, where the apples ran along the top and fell into the appropriate size openings, graduating from small to large. A far cry from the sophisticated machinery that adorns the sheds of today, but they were successful and soon paid for themselves in time saved.

Daniel Harvey was keen to extend his business and became interested in making frames for drying fruit in the Mildura area and for the tobacco industry. He had a permanent stand at the Royal Agriculture Show, where every year he had his inventions on show for farmers to view.

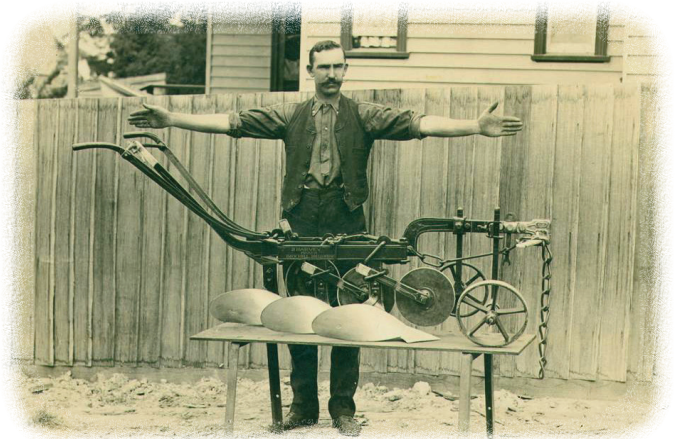
Dan liked nothing better than for someone to come to him with an idea. He would make it up and then sometimes pass it on to Stan and his brother-in-law, Bert Finger, to try out. His first patent, I believe, was a low-slung, sledge-type Spring Tyne Cultivator, which had a single, straight disc cultivator at the front and an adjustable cultivator at the rear. It could be set to run the plough under the branches and up to the butt of the trees, while driver and horse walked in the middle of the row. Horse-drawn implements were built and sold until after World War II, when tractors appeared on the Australian market. It was then Dan developed and patented the first Power Lift Tractor Plough – hence his title “The Father of Power Farming in Australia”.

In 1962 Daniel Harvey Limited was taken over by Gerard Australasia, manufacturing from West Footscray. They in turn were taken over by Horwood Bagshaw, an Adelaide firm that eventually folded in 1972.

The industry became more and more sophisticated and the Harvey implements became obsolete, although there were still a number of small packing sheds using Harvey products at the time of writing in 1995.

Dan died on 22 December 1960. His grave is in the south west corner of the Box Hill Cemetery, 13 rows up the main track from the gate on the left – grave number 712, Roman Catholic Section. The grave stone has a brass plaque with this inscription:

*Daniel Harvey, of Box Hill  
The Father of Power Farming in Australia*



Daniel Harvey with Three-Furrow Plough, circa 1920  
Source: Museum Victoria

(Camberwell, Surrey Hills and Box Hill News.)

# From THE REPORTER.

CIRCULATING IN BOX HILL, SURREY HILLS, CANTERBURY, BALWYN, CAMBERWELL, DONCASTER, BURWOOD, SLACKBURN, MITCHAM AND RINGWOOD  
FERN TREE GULLY, BAYSWATER, CROYDON, MOOROOLBARK, VERMONT, EMERALD, SCORESBY, SASSAFRAS, TALLY HO, BLACK FLAT, &c.

Friday, 21 May 1901

## OPEN COLUMN.

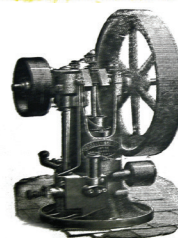
[Whilst welcoming communications from all who consider they have anything of local or general importance to write about, it must be distinctly understood that we are not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents. We must ask correspondents to state their views as briefly as possible, and to bear in mind that any screed of a scurrilous character will be promptly dumped into the W.P.B.—Ed. R.]

### Box Hill Nuisances.

DEAR REPORTER,—In our little community of late some stir has been caused by the public appearance of what a number of our people call a "nuisance," and as there is every appearance of this matter becoming a burning question, it struck me that my short experience of Box Hill nuisances might be of interest to some of your readers. Starting from home one evening to take a quite stroll, an amusement I often indulge in if the weather is at all decent, I proceeded towards the White Horse road from a point in Station street, not very far from the Canterbury road, passing the depression or gully which serves as one of our main drains. I ascended the rise towards the station in the face of a light northerly breeze, carrying a fragrant odour in its train. As I approached the railway the odour became stronger, in fact so strong that one might reasonably term it a smell, and after I had crossed the railway and reached the corner of Bank street it became stronger still, in fact overpowering. Seeking for the cause of this offence I waylaid a passer by, but without success, for the only public establishments in or near Bank street that he was aware of were the Church of England, the State school, and the dwelling of a Nunawading shire councillor. That either of these three could be the cause of offence seemed to me impossible, and being suddenly overcome with a sudden faintness I did not pursue the matter further in this direction, but made a bee-line for the chemist shop at the corner of Station street and White Horse road. Stumbling into the bar parlor I sank exhausted into a chair, and besought the good landlady to supply me with an adult's dose of Mitchell's Scotch germ killer. Recovering somewhat I resumed my stroll, striking in a westerly direction along the White Horse road. For a space it was if anything rather pleasant, but as I commenced the descent towards Elgar road the odour became again pronounced, and as I proceeded it seemed to gain strength until I neared Elgar road, where it was simply abominable. Meeting a lad I enquired if there was a cemetery near at hand where the trustees had the graves kept open for the purpose of airing them. His only re-

mark was "Keep straight on, old party, stop at Kew, big building, free meals;" then he out. Being rather taken back, and not quite seeing the allusion contained in the remark of my youthful friend, I again sought the shelter of a chemist's shop, this time at the corner of Elgar road, where I fortified myself with a dose of Old Tom's fever preventative. Here I received the assurance of the landlord that no cemetery was within a mile of the place, but that there were gas-works and a slaughteryard near at hand. Thinking it unsafe to proceed further in a westerly direction I turned south along the Elgar road, and re-crossed the railway, going in the direction of Canterbury road. The way again became pleasant until I passed a large brick house on my left, when a fresh odour filled the air. Peering through the gloom I caught a glimpse of a large pond, and was struck at the same time by a sudden recollection. Some time ago, having occasion to visit a country town several score miles from Box Hill, I heard a gentlemen discussing the merits of this very spot, and telling of ugly rumors about this pond and old time sanitary contractors. Were they then true? In horror I cleared at a trot, racking my brain trying to think of the nearest chemist in this new direction. A little beyond the waterworks I discovered the shop I sought, and after I had partaken of a good stiff dose of Hennessy's plague resister I wended my way home. When I put in an appearance my wife's first exclamation was—"Good heavens, man, you look as if you had seen a ghost!" I replied, "Say that I have smelt one and you will be nearer the mark." In utter amazement she scanned me up and down for some time, then said deliberately and with emphasis, "If I say you have tasted a ghost I shall have hit the mark without doubt," and I collapsed. As I sneaked off to bed I resolved mentally never to go out again seeking nuisances. How I broke this resolve and discovered a greater nuisance than any of the above I may tell you at a later stage.—  
Yours, &c.,

SURREY HILLS.



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"Leaving your Printing Orders  
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"Reporter" Office,  
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Get Your PRINTING Done  
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**Do  
you  
know  
who  
they  
are?**

**W**e have acquired this photograph of the Shire of Blackburn & Mitcham Debutante Ball – undated and without a list of those in the picture. Some identifications have been made, but there are still gaps in our knowledge. CAN YOU HELP?

Here are the details we have so far:

SHIRE OF BLACKBURN & MITCHAM Debutante Ball 1939? (NP1952)

President: Mr Lawson. Debutantes presented to the president's wife, Dr Amanda Liebert

L to R (back): ..... ; Lucy Brocknell; Nell Forbes; ..... ; ..... ; Elvie Johns; ..... ;

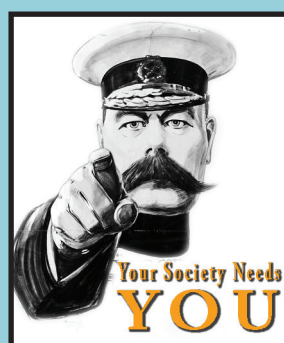
L to R (centre): ..... ; ..... ; Jean Kennedy; Betty D'Arcy; ..... ; Joan Livermore;

L to R (front): Margaret Lawson; ..... ; ..... ; Dr Liebert; Myra Ireland; ..... ; Shirley Walker



## Wanted – slouch hat!

**I**n preparation for a display commemorating the centenary of Gallipoli, Whitehorse Historical Society is trying to find a digger's slouch hat for our collection – preferably one connected to the Whitehorse area. Any other military memorabilia that people may consider donating would be of interest too, and gratefully received.



**T**he Annual General Meeting for election of Committee Members is coming up in August. Please give a thought to contributing to the Society by becoming a member of the Committee. The Committee meets just once a month and it is not necessary to be a Wednesday volunteer. It is not an onerous task and we would welcome some new members to our group.

## The Wheel

(Continued from page 3)

Fortified with donations of food from benefactors – 33 packets of corn flakes, 10 lbs of cheese, a dozen tins of camp pie and six packets of tea – the cast and crew installed themselves at their campsite – the Seventh Day Adventist campsite near the Deaf Institute's farm on the banks on Blackburn Lake.

Their hosts were tolerant and forbearing, they reported, but they found that having their weekend's supply of steak and sausages delivered didn't go down all that well in the vegetarian community. Presenting the caretaker's wife (not a coffee or tea drinker) with a bottle of coffee essence as a parting gift also proved a faux pas.

Attempting to float a raft on Blackburn Lake also proved to have its hazards. Ignoring the jeers of local youths that the craft wouldn't float, the technicians persisted in their belief that it would. It didn't. The lake sequence turned into what the program described as a "glorious shambles of sinkings, duckings and minor underwater explorations to clear snags".

On the final day of filming 30 extras in period costume enacted the convict fantasy sequence. The souvenir program records: "For the scene bold volunteers ferried six horses from a riding school six miles away and thundered through Blackburn bushland in colorful dragoon garb".

If your curiosity is piqued, enquire at the society about the possibility of viewing the film.

## VALE Frances Warren



The Society is sad to record the death of Frances Warren.

Frances grew up in Vermont and her excellent memory of the history of Vermont and Mitcham contributed greatly to the documents in our collection.

As a skilled needlewoman, her contribution to the conservation of items was invaluable. Also, as a member of the Wednesday working group, she managed the catalogue and trained new members. Frances was always reliable, and was willing to offer help whenever it was needed.

We remember Frances fondly and are very grateful for her contribution to the ongoing aims of our Society.

*Valda Arrowsmith*

## Whitehorse Historical Society 2014 WORKING BEES

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

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

*Saturday, 6 September*

*Saturday, 8 November*

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

## Whitehorse Historical Society DIARY DATES

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

**Saturday, 14 June, 1.30pm**

**General Meeting**

*Speaker: Judith Fry*

*(President of the Nunawading branch of the Herb Society of Victoria)*

*'Plants and Potions of the Early Settlers'*

**Saturday, 9 August, 1.30pm**

**Annual General Meeting**

*Speaker: Sharon Ellis*

*(Mayoress of City of Whitehorse)*

*"Twenty Years of the City of Whitehorse"*

**OTHER DATES (Speakers TBA):**

Saturday 11 October – General Meeting

Saturday 13 December – General Meeting

## Statistics

Photographs catalogued	-	4074
Artefacts catalogued	-	4620
Documents catalogued	-	6657
Visitors to museum March/April	-	512



Facebook 'likes' to April - 343

## WHS Committee Contacts

### President

Vacant

### Vice-President

Vicki Jones-Evans

9873 3383

### Secretary

Pat Richardson

### Treasurer

Bob Gardiner

Local History Room (03) 9873 4946

## Newsletter Team

Chris Gray

Bettina Stevenson

Wendy Stanfield

Valda Arrowsmith OAM

## WHS website

[www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/)

[facebook.com/whitehorsehistory](https://facebook.com/whitehorsehistory)

## Email

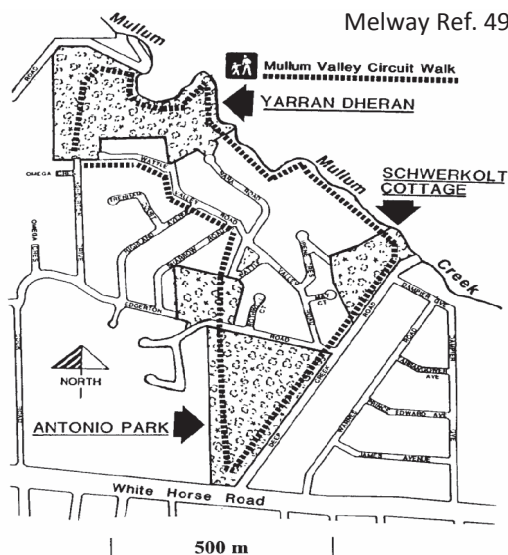
[whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com](mailto:whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com)

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**Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 9 July 2014**

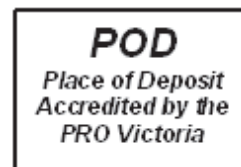
## The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.



### 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.



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.

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



Sender: Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. & Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

Deep Creek Road, Mitcham, VIC 3132

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