



EXPO TIME!

On Tuesday 3 June Whitehorse Historical Society joined the ranks of the organisations attending the Whitehorse Council Volunteer Expo. Run in conjunction with Eastern Volunteers, this was held in the Waratah Room at the Whitehorse Centre in Nunawading. The theme this year was TALK, MEET, EXPLORE. After arriving at around 10.30 we set up our stand, following which a sandwich lunch was provided by the organisers before the Expo opened at 12.30.

WHS was one of the few 100% volunteer-run organisations present. Pat Richardson had made a large and striking Volunteer poster that made excellent use of a number of photographs illustrating the various aspects of

the Society's involvement. This attracted a lot of attention and positive comment.

A handsome, claret-coloured "showbag" consisting of our new colour membership brochure, a Schwerkolt Complex brochure, a Volunteer "Expression of Interest" form, a colour version of the current Newsletter and a business card – and a lollipop – was prepared for handing out to those attending the Expo. Thirty-two of the bags were eventually distributed, plus a further twenty of the membership brochures.

At 4.00pm the well-attended Expo closed its doors, and as a result of it we received four expressions of interest. A satisfying consequence for our efforts!



Vicki looks on as Pat greets a visitor to the WHS stand

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

We have passed the shortest day of the year and are now up to our Annual General Meeting once again. Our guest speaker this year will be the Mayor, Cr Sharon Ellis, speaking to us on celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the City of Whitehorse.

The June meeting speaker, our own Judith Fry – this time wearing her Herb Society hat – entertained us with a very informative and interesting talk about the herbs that our pioneers used and how they used them. We all enjoyed a convivial afternoon tea afterwards.

The Heritage Family Day is also creeping up on us and we would like people to help on the day, Sunday, 14 September and at the working bee in preparation for our big day on Saturday, 6 September. Bob Gardiner, as Coordinator of our Sub-Committee, has been busy organising the day. We will be featuring many of our usual activities, but will be adding some different ones: a demonstration of Chinese Brush Painting by Echo Wu, Little Athletics and the Herb Society. The Whitehorse Council will be providing the Brumbies Bush Band and a marquee for the animal farm. This year we will also have our own stall in the Local History Room. For full details see page 7 of the newsletter.

As this year is our Re-Accreditation year we have submitted our Form to the Museum Accreditation Program Managers and expect to have a follow up visit by them later in the year.

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

We attracted notice with a colourful poster made by our Secretary, Pat Richardson, and gave out 32 “showbags” (shown below) and membership brochures. We had four expressions of interest and look forward to at least one new volunteer.

The Mitcham RSL has closed and Peter McPhee has been working hard to sort out all their possessions in order to find a home for them. Valda Arrowsmith and I have been helping Peter identify those items that will be able to find a home with the Society. Amongst the treasures are Minute Books, a complete set of their magazine *Stand To* and some photos and artefacts for the museum, including a World War One tin hat and some uniforms.

We have received a response from Council concerning the maintenance of the Cottage garden and in particular the pruning of the wisteria and the banksia rose against the Barn. The latter will be pruned and a metal brace will be placed against the wall of the Barn on the inside. The wisteria too, will be pruned regularly. We have also raised with the Council the poor acoustics in the Visitor Centre and they are investigating the situation.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you all for your support of the Society this year.

Please consider joining the committee as we have been working below strength and need new members to keep the Society preserving our history. If you would like to join the Committee please contact Pat Richardson.



Vicki Jones Evans

Tim Shambrook, a member of the Society and author of *This is Vermont* will be speaking at the Vermont South Library on Thursday, 18 September at 10am on the subject. If you would like to attend you will need to book.

Your Committee in Action

- A garden vacuum has been purchased for use at Working Bees.
- As a result of contact with Council regarding Cottage maintenance, a metal brace will be installed to stabilise the barn wall. Undertaking has been received that the rose will be pruned regularly.
- Mitcham RSL have identified items to come to the society. Peter McPhee from the RSL has joined WHS.

June Meeting Report



Good for what ails you . . .

On Saturday, June 14 Judith Fry, a long-time member of our Society who has a special interest in herbs (and, in fact, is President of the Victorian Herb Society, Nunawading branch) graciously agreed to share her knowledge with us at our General Meeting.

Herbs were very important to our forefathers as there were few doctors in the new colony. Many people grew their own or visited the Chinese herbalist in Hawthorn – as did Judith’s own great-grandmother. Indeed the Schwerkolts too, were familiar with herbs that could be found in local paddocks.

In 1865 William Slater had a farm in Springfield Road, Blackburn. He specialised in medicinal herbs, using cuttings and seeds brought out from the Old Country, where he had previously worked for Potter and Moore (of Mitcham, England).

Below, in alphabetical order, is a short compendium of some herbs and their uses, as discussed by Judith at the meeting.

- **Aloe Vera** may be used for cuts and burns. It grows in dry conditions.
- **Apples**, also a herb, are valuable for their A, B and C vitamins and are useful for many ailments. Apple cider, made from fermented apples, was used as far back as 5000 BC. It is useful for adding shine to hair and is also an aid in curing dandruff. It used to be made in Vermont years ago.

- **Bay leaves**, fresh or dry, are used in cooking (dried herbs are stronger than fresh).
- **Comfrey**, which grew wild, can be used to wrap around broken limbs to help healing; also used for arthritis.
- **Fennel** may be used in food for flavour.
- The berries from **Hawthorne** hedges make jam and tea – good for blood pressure.
- For coughs and colds, **Horse radish** (very hot) helps to clear the throat and can be used mixed with butter on vegetables and meat.
- **Lavender** (French) flowers for two-thirds of the year. The aforementioned Slater grew English lavender, which flowers in summer.
- **Lemon balm** is good for a pick-me-up when chopped up and made into tea.
- **Parsley** is good for the kidneys. Just chop it up and use it in food.
- **Rose hips** reminded settlers of “home” and used the hips for jelly and teas. Rose vinegar was used to keep the body smelling sweet in lieu of deodorant. Attar of roses, from Croatia, was very expensive, but a few drops went a long way.
- **Rosemary** is very good for cider vinegar, and is a delicious way of tenderising meat.
- Use **Sage** for sore throats, in cooking and as a garnish; also added to pork to aid digestion.

- **Sorrel** (French) was grown on a farm owned by Dr L. L. Smith in Boronia Road, near the creek. It is good for cows and can also be used as a lettuce in salads.
- There used to be a hedge of **Woodworm** around Schwerkolt Cottage. It was supposed to keep snakes away, as well as insects, and allegedly also got rid of internal worms!!

Judith's talk was a highly interactive affair. She gave everyone the chance to experience the herbs she was describing by passing them around the audience – including creams and ointments that she makes herself for various healthful purposes. There was no opportunity for interest to flag, as one continually had a new herb to smell and feel, as well as having heard of its properties and uses. I doubt if anyone left the meeting without the thought “I must try that” in their mind of at least one preparation mentioned in her talk.

Valerie Marshall



Judith shares the secrets of one of her herbs

The “Tussie-mussie” – a herbal phenomenon

Anosegay, tussie-mussie, or posy is a small flower bouquet, typically given as a gift. They have existed in some form since at least medieval times, when they were carried or worn around the head or bodice. The traditional tussie-mussie is composed of fragrant herbs surrounding one central flower, a rose.

The term tussie-mussie comes from the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901), when the small bouquets became a popular fashion accessory. Typically, tussie-mussies include floral symbolism from the language of flowers, and therefore may be used to send a message to the recipient

In England during Elizabethan times, judges carried tussie-mussies into their courtrooms to protect against “gaol fever.” Today judges at England’s highest court, the Old Bailey, celebrate this tradition by carrying a tussie-mussie into court six times a year. During the Victorian era tussie-mussies were carried close to the nose to ward off the stench in the streets and the plague and were composed primarily of scented herbs such as rosemary, thyme, and rue.



Friday, 26 July 1901

General Items.

The cheek-bone is the most sensitive part of the body.

Rapid growth of the finger-nails is said to be a sign of good health.

A thimbleful of tobacco seed would raise plants for an acre of land.

England and Germany are the greatest egg-eating countries in Europe.

Over twenty members of the House of Commons are total abstainers.

Sixty-thousand people in Ireland speak Irish only.

A Laplander will often skate 150 miles in a day.

Single women on an average live longer than single men.

A Bank of England note costs one halfpenny to produce.

Maiden-hair fern is used as a substitute for tea by the inhabitants of Arran.

The tomb of the Mahomet is covered with diamonds, sapphires, and rubies, valued at £2,500,000.

Coal kept in a dry and airy place will burn longer than coal kept in an un-ventilated cellar.

It is a curious fact that there are no direct descendants of Napoleon, Wellington, Washington, or Walter Scott.

The flesh of alligators tastes very similar to veal, and is regarded as a delicacy by many people in India.

In Siberia, if a man is dissatisfied with the most trifling acts of his wife, he tears a cap or veil from her face, and that constitutes a divorce.

Turkish papers were not allowed to print the news of the assassination of the Austrian Empress. They simply announced that she had died.

Spain has greater mineral resources than any other country in Europe, including iron, copper, zinc, silver, antimony, quicksilver, lead, and gypsum.

The cost of the world's wars since the

Crimean War has been £2,453,000,000, or enough to give a couple of sovereigns to every man, woman, and child on the globe.

Tattooed dogs are now the fashion. A crest or a monogram is marked on the throat or breast of the animal. The process is made almost painless by the use of cocaine.

Lions and tigers, it is said, are powerfully affected by the smell of various perfumes, particularly of lavender-water, under the influence of which they become wonderfully docile.

In Abyssinia it is the law that the murderer be turned over to the relatives of the dead person, they, if they please, to put him to death in the same manner in which the murdered person was killed.

Stockings made from human hair are worn by Chinese fishermen as the best preventive of wet feet. They are drawn over ordinary cotton stockings, being too rough for putting near the skin.

Children from their birth should have as much sunshine as possible; their nurseries should always catch the morning sun. It helps to keep their cheeks rosy, and their bodies robust and full of vitality.

A strange clock was made during the last century for a French nobleman. The dial was horizontal, and the figures, being hollow, were filled with different sweets or spices. Thus, running his finger along the hand, by tasting, the owner could tell the hour without a light.

According to an expert, there is a distinct relation between man's pursuits and the colour of his hair. For instance, it has been ascertained that an extraordinary proportion of men with dark, straight hair becomes parsons; red-whiskered men have strong sporting proclivities; while tall, blonde men contribute a large contingent to travelers and emigrants.

A Herriot Encounter

One day volunteers came to work to find great activity at Schwerkolt Cottage. A pet food commercial was to be filmed.

During a break in shooting, the actor starring in the commercial was shown over the museum and – being very impressed with what he saw – expressed an interest in meeting the volunteers.

Imagine the excitement that ran through the room when the door opened and in walked English actor Christopher Timothy. He was very approachable and easy to talk to, and told us he had just finished filming on the television series *All Creatures Great and Small* (in which he played the part of James Herriot).

We were beside ourselves with excitement, shaking hands with a famous actor, and couldn't wait for the advertisement to come to television. However, to our disappointment, when it finally was shown you would miss seeing the Cottage if you blinked at the wrong moment. Ah well, stardom was not for us!

Barbara Gardiner



These are two short stories of our Society's interesting past, from the memories of two of our members. We are eager to gather more of the same for our 50th anniversary next year, and possibly for gathering together for a future publication.

Have you any anecdotes you can share with us?

If you can help, you can contact us with your contributions via the email, phone or snail mail (see details on the back page).

A matter of CONVENIENCE

In 1988, when the History Room was built, no thought was given to toilet facilities.

Volunteers and members had to use the public toilet off Deep Creek Road – a solid, dark building. This was very inconvenient, especially on wet days, but lobbying the Council for an internal – and more nearly adjacent – toilet fell on deaf ears.

One wet day the Cottage representative on the council came to the History Room to do some research. In the

fullness of time, he felt the call of nature and enquired as to where he might allay the resultant prognostics. It was with some chagrin that he learnt of the distance he needed to travel. The rain was pelting down that day, and he had to borrow a volunteer's umbrella to make the uncomfortable trek up to Deep Creek Road.

Curiously, soon after this plans were put in place for an inside toilet in what is known as the machine area.

Judith Fry

HERITAGE FAMILY DAY

2014
Sunday 14 September
11am to 4pm

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

Special Attractions:

The Brumbies Bush Band
Guided tours of the cottage
Old-fashioned picnic races* (2.30pm)
* with Nunawading Athletics Club
Sausage sizzle (Rotary Club of Forest Hill)
Tip Top Tom's Balloons & Magic (1pm-3pm)

View our museum displays

Other attractions:

Face painting
Meccano Club
Fun with Bubbles
Games for Children
Electric model trains
Chinese painting
Blacksmiths
Lacemaking
Spinners and Weavers
Koornung Wood Turners
Jamieson's Run Animal farm
Yarra Valley Machinery Preservation Society

Tea, coffee and cordial available

Bring a picnic and have a fun day



For more information contact 03 9873 4946
or whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/whitehorsehistory



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, 9 August, 1.30pm
Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Cr Sharon Ellis
(Mayor of City of Whitehorse)
"Twenty Years of the City of Whitehorse"


Saturday, 11 October, 1.30pm
General Meeting

Speakers: Barbara Rogalski, Rosalie Whalen,
"Celebration of 50 Years
of the Opening of Schwerkolt Cottage"

Saturday, 13 December, 1.30pm
General Meeting

Topic: "Pop-Up History"
Bring along your own local historical artifact and be
prepared to share its history with us

Statistics

Photographs catalogued	-	4074
Artefacts catalogued	-	4645
Documents catalogued	-	6686
Visitors to museum May/June	-	475
 Facebook 'likes' to June	-	354

Can you help us with the Heritage Family Day?

Preparation Working Bee (Saturday, 6 September 9.30am – 12noon)

Sunday, 14 September

- Set up tables, chairs and games; erect tents (9.30am – 11am)
- Throughout the day: Serve drinks in the kitchen; supervise games and activities; take photographs (11am – 4pm)
- Pack up (3.30pm – 4.30pm)

Contact Bob on 9874 6592

Nominations are now open for Society Officers and Committee, including the President, Secretary, Vice President, Treasurer, and not more than seven Committee Members.

About the Committee

Elected committee members serve until the following AGM.

Elected Members are eligible to stand for a further term. The President can only serve for three years concurrently.

Currently, the Committee meets in the Local History Room at 1.30pm on the first Monday of each Month to discuss issues and determine policy, although a change to this is possible.

You may nominate yourself or others to be committee members who could assist us in the decision making of the Society.

We are fortunate to receive generous support from the City of Whitehorse.



Wanted – slouch hat!

In 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.



The 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 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.
will be held at the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex,
Deep Creek Road Mitcham
commencing at 1.30 pm on Saturday 9th August 2014

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting August 2013
3. Business Arising from previous minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Presentation of Annual Statement
 - Auditor's Report
 - Appointment of Auditor for 2014-2015
6. Determination of Annual Membership fees
7. General Business
 - Election of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee
 - Nominations are called for the positions of:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary/Public Officer
 - Treasurer
 - Ordinary Members of the Committee (7)
8. Close of Annual General Meeting

Please advise apologies to Secretary Patricia Richardson 9873 4946 or 9803 0807



Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. AGM 2014
Nomination Form

As a financial member of the Whitehorse Historical Society I, _____
Accept nomination for the position of:-

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Ordinary Committee Member (7 positions)

Signature _____ Date _____

Nominated by:- (name) _____ Signature _____
(Financial Member of WHS)

Seconded by:- (name) _____ Signature _____
(Financial Member of WHS)

- Please note all nominations must be signed by two financial members of the WHS and have the consent of the candidate
- As per the Constitution, Clause 22 (6) A candidate may only nominate for one office, or as an ordinary member of the Committee
- The completed nomination form must be received by the WHS Secretary seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 9th August 2014.

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/
facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

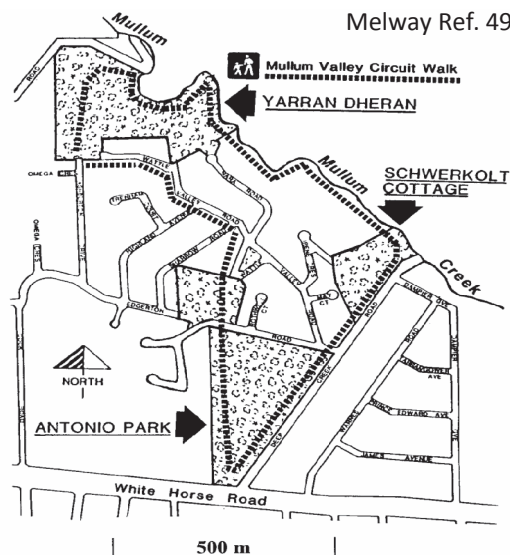
Email

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Postal Address

P.O. Box 272
MITCHAM Vic 3132

Melway Ref. 49 D7



Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 10 September 2014

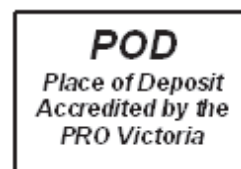
The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.



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
If undeliverable, please return to P.O. Box 272 Mitcham, VIC 3132

