



ANZAC SPECIAL

PARABLES OF ANZAC

I

FROM SHELL GREEN

From a Correspondent in Australian Field Artillery, "Sea View," Boltons Knoll, near Shell Green.

I WAS looking out from the entrance of my dug-out, thinking how peaceful everything was, when Johnny Turk opened on our trenches. Shells were bursting, and fragments scattered all about Shell Green. Just at this time some new reinforcements were eagerly collecting spent fuses and shells as mementoes. While this fusillade was on, men were walking about the Green just as usual, when one was hit by a falling fuse. Out rushed one of the reinforcement chaps, and when he saw that the man was not hurt he asked: "Want the fuse, mate?"

The other looked at him calmly.

"What do you think I stopped it for?" he asked.

II

THE TURK IN THE PERISCOPE

The same Correspondent writes:

I AM sure that wherever the old 5th Light Horsemen, who put in such a warm spell at "Chatham's"* some time ago, congregate after this war the following incident will be told and retold:

Bill Blankson was a real hard case, happy-go-lucky, regardless of danger. Bill was put on sapping for over a fortnight, and at the end of that time had a growth of stubble that would have brought a flush of pride to his dirty face if he had seen it. But he hadn't seen it—one does not carry a looking-glass when sapping.

At the end of the fortnight he was taken off sapping and put on observing.

* Chatham's Post at the southern end of the line was attacked by the Turks for several days in November.

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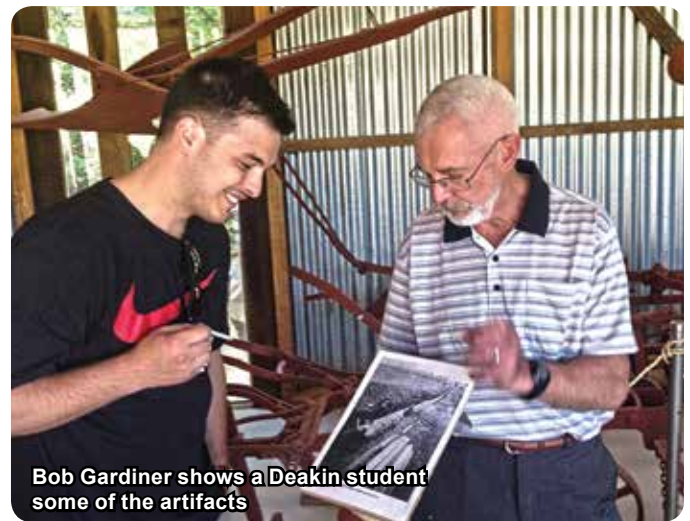
Dear Members

OUR “Back to the Pictures” February meeting was a very enjoyable afternoon. It was a nice, relaxing fun start to the year eating Jaffas (we won't mention rolling them, Bob) and Dixies and watching a cartoon (Goofy – and I remembered it), a cinema advertisement (Lux soap) and standing (or not, Valda!) for God Save the Queen. It was fascinating to see how the city has changed since the main feature was made in 1971.

Preparations are in the final stages for our display for the Heritage Festival being run by the National Trust Victoria from 18 April until 26 May. The theme is Conflict & Compassion, and our display is titled “Mary's Divided Loyalties”. As Rosalie, Megan, Rachael and I delved into Mary Schwerkolt's story, we found it absolutely riveting. By the time we have it on display in the Visitor Centre, Chris, Bob, Harley, Wendy, Margaret, Barb and Judy will also have helped with the setting up. We are hoping that advertising in the Trust's booklet and on their website will bring some new visitors to our Museum.

In March we hosted a visit by the students of Cultural Heritage from Deakin University. Dr Steven Cooke, Senior Lecturer in Cultural Heritage and Course Director of Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies programs, brought about thirty students along. Dr Linda Young, who has taken this course in past years, is teaching a different subject this year. We had welcomed Steven to the Local History Room late last year when he was researching his book *The Sweetland Project Remembering Gallipoli in the Shire of Nunawading*, which is to be launched in April at the Box Hill RSL.

The City of Whitehorse Heritage Week theme this year will be “Australia Calls”, and our Heritage Family



Day will be Sunday, 13 September. We will give you more information when we have finalised the day. At present, Bob Gardiner is putting together an application for the Council Community Grants to run the day.

This April meeting is a week later, the 18th, as we are hosting the Association of Eastern Historical Societies (AOEHS) meeting. Peter McPhee is speaking on the “History of the Mitcham RSL”, as our commemoration of the Gallipoli Centenary. We have prepared a display in the Museum and on our website to remember this significant occasion. If members could please bring two plates for our visitors, as AOEHS meetings command a good attendance.

Lastly, would any able-bodied people please put the next Working Bee, on Saturday, 9 May, in their calendars as the three of us that attended the March working bee had a lot of work to do.

Vicki Jones Evans

Your Committee in Action

- The Rob's Bicycle Shop plaque has gone to the owners of the current building, but has yet to be installed.
- Rosalie Whalen contacted family members in the US regarding the society borrowing Mary Schwerkolt's wedding dress. The family has since donated the dress to the WHS collection.
- The council has accepted one of three quotes to address problems with the acoustics of the Visitor Centre. Foam panels will be adhered to the ceiling to conform to museum standards.

An afternoon at the flicks

WHS General Meeting, Saturday, February 14, 2015

THE topic for the day was a treat: an original 1971 film, *Nunawading – City of Contrasts*, extracted from our own archival collection.

The atmosphere was set when containers of Jaffas were distributed, although we were not able to roll them down the aisle. We all stood for the British National Anthem, *God Save the Queen*, followed by an advert for Lux toilet soap and – the best part – a Walt Disney cartoon starring Goofy, which was so funny that I for one laughed out loud. Then, guess what! A Movietone newsreel of the 1944 Melbourne Cup – with 10,000 attending. The newsreel showed how the film was then rushed to be developed in time to be dispatched and screened within hours to the troops in New Guinea and Darwin.

The main feature, produced in 1971 by the Blackburn and Mitcham Film Society, commenced with scenes of bushland around the Nunawading area and went on to feature Schwerkolt Cottage after it had

been restored by Nunawading Council. The film told how much of the surrounding land had been cleared for orchards – apples, cherries, flowers, etc. A reconstruction showed the old days, with girls in long skirts picking fruit into hand-held baskets. We then saw “modern days”, when fruit was picked into wooden bins towed by tractors.

In the 1880s the local clay was found to be suitable for brickmaking, both colour and texture being considered attractive for building homes.

In the early 1960s television Channel 0 was established in Nunawading on land that is presently being turned into housing estates. One hundred years before that, this land had been the hunting grounds for local aboriginal tribes.

Retirement villages are a thriving business as the local population ages – with many new parks being developed by popular demand.



Nunawading was declared a city in 1945 with much celebration, music being supplied by local bands while VIPs planted trees.

The film show concluded with the serving of Dixie-type ice cream – a lovely way to finish the afternoon.

Valerie Marshall



VOLUNTEER!

THURSDAY 26 February saw WHS secretary Rachael Cottle representing us at the launch at the Whitehorse Centre of the 2015 Get Involved booklet. She is shown here with Michelle Wright, City of Whitehorse Community Participation Officer.

Produced jointly by Whitehorse City Council and Eastern Volunteers, the booklet showcases almost 100 organisations and groups, highlighting a myriad of volunteering roles. There is something for any interest – history, the environment, craft, health, technology and many more areas.

We at WHS are needing volunteers particularly to assist on our working bees. Please contact the secretary if you are able to help.



Alwyn Till : a postscript

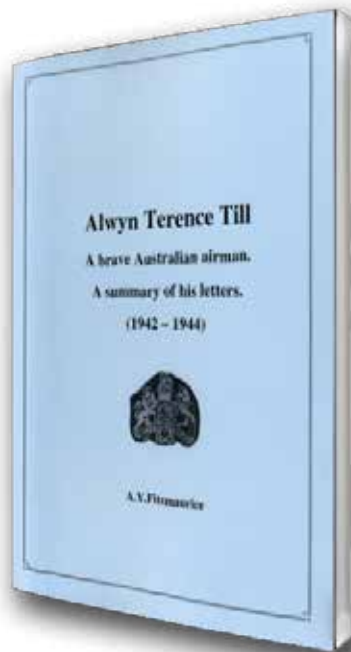
IN early 1942 a twenty-year-old Mitcham man, Alwyn Terence Till, commenced his military training in the RAAF. He was the son of the late Sidney Norman Till, a 1st AIF veteran, and his wife Evelyn Victoria, née Maggs; his only sister, Alison, was two years younger.

Letters donated to the Society by Joan Walker and Anne Drew were from Till and other sources, and cover the period from his enlistment to his death in August 1944, and to his final burial in Belgium at Hotton War Cemetery. Using these letters as the main source, a booklet was written and published in 2010 by the Whitehorse Historical Society (see picture).

Although all known sources were originally canvassed, the Society has recently been given more material pertaining to Till's wartime experiences. In this donation there are letters to his friends in which he elaborates on the different and more technical aspects of his daily activities – something that was not always discussed in his letters home. Also included are more of his personal items, which have brought an extra depth to his story: his Observer Wing that he proudly wore into the local town of Port Pirie after his graduation earlier in the day; his ANZAC club card for 106 West 56th Street, New York; his Caterpillar Card awarded after his first parachute escape in Yorkshire when his plane crashed, killing a crew member and injuring others; a little red book that was issued to all airmen to help them adapt to service life, and a photograph album containing pictures of his various aircraft, their crews and his friends (unfortunately, most are not identified by either name or date).

Most poignantly of all, carefully wrapped in cotton wool, are seven Bakelite gramophone records and one of cardboard, known as Voices from Overseas; he made them while in the United States of America before sailing to England. After more than seventy years they are still audible, but scratchy, probably owing to being constantly played by his grieving mother and sister.

Amongst the official letters pertaining to his death are more copies of the letter written by Baron J. van der Straten Waillet, a member of the Maquis with whom Till went on the fatal ambush.



In January 1948 Miss Maggie Sreibel, who lived near Liege, Belgium, wrote offering to photograph the graves of both Till and his pilot, George Henderson. The letter includes a description of her memories of the intense bombing of the area and the relief when it had stopped.

There is a portion of an unsigned letter that states "Alwyn was awarded the Highest Medal in Belgium for his actions & I think the medal was stolen!"

As late as July 1995 the subject of Till's medals was raised on behalf of Alison, his sister. The writer, Mr Les Strudwick, explains that as Mrs Till, Alwyn's mother, had passed away in 1989 she was unable to accept any due war decorations. A request was made for Alison to be able to accept them on her behalf.

There are two official replies from Brussels. One from Captain Niederprum of the Personal Division of the Armed Defence Force to Mrs Taylor: "... my office does not possess any file or name of Warrant Officer Alwyn Terrence [sic] Till ..." and one from Lieutenant Colonel J. Govaert, Military Administrator, General Staff, to Mr Les Strudwick: "... pursuant to the royal Decree of April 7th, 1952, applications for medals given on account of warlike deeds in 1940-1945, are no longer taken into consideration since September 1st, 1952. Not a single exception to this rule has been admitted. Therefore, in spite of the undeniable merits of her brother, it is impossible to take in consideration any approval to the request of Miss Till".

To read more about this intensely moving story, the booklet *Alwyn Terence Till, A brave Australian airman, A summary of his letters (1942-1944)*, is available for consultation or purchase from the Society.

A.Y. Fitzmaurice

ALWYN TILL'S ADVERSARY

A highly decorated 22 year old leading night fighter pilot, Oberstleutnant (Wing Commander) Heinz Wolfgang Schnaufen recorded all his "victories" by time, place, type of aircraft and its squadron.

On the night of 13 August, 1944 he reported that he had his 91st victory when he shot down a British bomber, a Lancaster III, No 365 Squadron at 01009 hours at Werboment, SSE (south-southeast) of Liege, Belgium.

RED CROSS APPEAL.

In connection with the above appeal the 2nd Box Hill Scouts Parents' Council held a very successful tennis tournament on Saturday last, five courts being in play. The five successful pairs were Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Glenn, Miss C. Willimott and Mr. L. Forbes, Miss Dawson and Mr. Starling, Miss S. Padgham and Mr. Barelli, Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Bennett, and these then played some very exciting tennis, the standard being very high. During the finals the electric light supply failed suddenly and the game was held up. After a great struggle the tournament was won by Miss C. Willimott and Mr. L. Forbes. The committee wishes to thank the Mayor, Cr. J. K. Archer, on whose court the finals were played, Mrs. McCann of Mont Albert, Miss Russell, principal of "Ormiston" College, for generously making their courts available; also Kintora Tennis Club and Church of England Tennis Club for their kind co-operation. All of this contributed to the undoubted success both socially and financially of the tournament. The ladies responsible for afternoon tea deserve special mention as this was carried out to the entire satisfaction of the players. As this tournament has proved a satisfactory way of raising funds for such a worthy appeal the committee has in hand the arrangements of a further tournament to be run after Easter, the details of which will be published at a later date.

MITCHAM.

ANZAC SERVICE.

As announced within, the Mitcham and District branch R.S.S.I.L.A. has arranged an Anzac commemoration service, which will be held in the Memorial Hall at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 24. The chief speaker will be Mr. John Gray, M.C., M.L.A., Mayor of Hawthorn. As is customary, returned soldiers, guides and scouts will assemble at the railway station at 2.45 p.m., and, headed by the Box Hill Salvation Army Band, will proceed by way of White Horse road to the Memorial Hall, halting en route to lay a wreath on the statue.

SERVICE FOR SCHOOLS.

Head teachers of the schools in its area have been notified by the Mitcham branch R.S.S.I.L.A. that arrangements have been made to receive and amplify on Friday, 22nd inst., the Anzac commemoration service broadcast from the Shrine of Remembrance by the Legacy Club. As will be remembered, this was done with great success last year. The children will assemble at the memorial statue in White Horse road on the Friday at 2.45 p.m., and the service will commence at 3 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the Memorial Hall will be available. Although the service is primarily intended for the children, the attendance of any adults who desire to be present will be welcomed.

His Discovery.

"How's your son getting on with his research work at Oxford?"

"Very well. He's discovered what he calls his scientific paradox."

"What's that?"

"Simply that he's succeeded in demonstrating that debts can be expanded by contracting them."



Two local lads

Alfred Ernest JOHNSTON

Regimental number: 721
 Rank on enlistment: Private
 Address: c/o William Johnston,
 George Street, Blackburn Vic.
 Occupation: Carpenter
 Enlistment date: 24 Aug 1914
 Age at embarkation: 29
 Unit name: 9th Battalion,
 F Company
 Fate: Killed in Action on
 25 April 1915 during the
 Gallipoli landings.



Alfred is shown here wearing a militia uniform and sitting at the wheel of an early automobile. A 29-year-old carpenter prior to enlisting on 24 August 1914, he embarked for overseas with F Company from Brisbane on 24 September 1914 aboard *HMAT Omrah*. He was killed in action during the Gallipoli landings on 25 April 1915 and is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey, with others who have no known grave. (source *Australian War Memorial*)

Alfred Marcus CHALMERS

Regimental number: 2108
 Rank on enlistment: Private
 Address: c/o Richard Street,
 Mitcham Vic.
 Occupation: Grocer
 Enlistment date: 26 July 1915
 Age at embarkation: 20
 Unit name: 8th Light Horse
 Regiment, AIF
 15th Reinforcement



Alfred Marcus Chalmers entered this world in December 1894 in Richard Street, Mitcham. He was one of eight children born of Mary Jane and William Chalmers, an employee of the Australian Tessalated Tile Company. Alfred attended Mitcham Primary School, was a parishioner at Mitcham Anglican Church and worked for Barelli's Bakery before joining the 8th Light Horse in World War One. He enlisted on 26 July 1915, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on board *HMAT A43 Barunga* on 7 April 1916, returning to Australia at the conclusion of the war returned to Australia on 3 July 1919. He served again during WWII looking after prisoners on the Home Front and is buried in Burwood cemetery.

Whitehorse Historical Society 2015 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 9 May
Saturday 5 September
Saturday 14 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, 18 April
1.30pm General Meeting
Speaker: Peter McPhee
Topic: "History of the Mitcham RSL"

Saturday, 13 June
1.30pm General Meeting
Speaker: Bill McAuley
Topic: "Ghosts of the Pioneers"

Saturday, 8 August
1.30pm General Meeting
Speaker: Anne Major
Topic: "Family History Research"

Other dates: October 10; December 12

Statistics

Photographs catalogued	-	4138
Artefacts catalogued	-	4718
Documents catalogued	-	6819
Visitors to museum Nov-Dec	-	348

 Facebook 'likes' to December - 439

Bouquets for Joyce

AT the recent General Meeting, Barbra Rogalski announced to the assembled guests that Joyce Suto has been awarded the Paul Henningham Award for Literary Excellence by Probus in recognition of her contributions to writing. These include *Horsehair Worms and a Shark* containing Joyce's life story, her settling in Whitehorse in the 1960s and the diary of her voyage to Australia.

We were fortunate to be able to view the handsome award, and Joyce was congratulated by all present.



PARABLES OF ANZAC

(continued from page 1)

Anyone who has used a periscope knows that unless the periscope is held well up before the eyes, instead of the landscape, one sees only one's own visage reflected in the lower glass.

Bill did not hold the periscope up far enough, and what he saw in it was a dark, dirty face with a wild growth

of black stubble glaring straight back at him. He dropped the periscope, grabbed his rifle, and scrambled up the parapet, fully intending to finish the Turk who had dared to look down the other end of his periscope.

He had mistaken his own reflection for a Turk's.

FROM THE COLLECTION

NA2710

The Anzac Book: Written and Illustrated by the Men of Anzac (Cassell & Company Ltd 1916)

"Annual" style book- cloth bound board with printed title and 13 colour plates of fighting Anzacs. 169 pages. Stitched binding. Includes a fold out map (P.90) and some color cartoons. Contents are a compendium or collection of assorted articles and poetry (including *faux* advertisements) contributed by the soldiers.

Produced for the benefit of Patriotic Funds connected with the A.& N.Z.A.C. The brain-child of C.E.W. Bean, the official Australian war correspondent, the book's content was substantially written or drawn by servicemen in the trenches of the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915. The contributions were edited by Bean to ensure they were appropriate for a popular audience. The book includes detailed accounts of the Gallipoli landing and campaign, and contributed to the myth-making of the Gallipoli experience.

'The Anzac Book' was originally issued with a dust-wrapper with a colour illustration by David Barker: a now well-known image of an Australian soldier.



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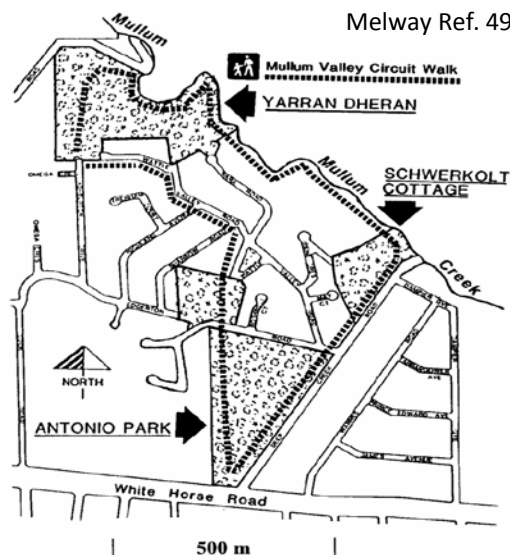
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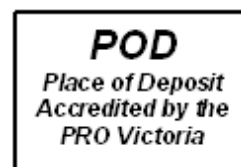
The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.



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



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
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support of the
City of Whitehorse.*



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