

The Whitehorse Historical Society Newsletter



Series 23, No. 5 September–October 2015

ABN 44 352 041 634 Inc. AO 012235J



FAMILY DAY A TIP TOP SUCCESS

PERFECT weather set the scene for a great day's fun at Schwerkolt Cottage on Sunday, 13 September. Families and visitors began arriving before the 11am start and were able to watch the stationary engines popping and bubbling while the animal farm, magic man and face painter set up their stalls.

The Lacemakers, Spinners and Weavers and Chinese face painter began their amazing work, and visitors were able to watch the model train and meccano displays assemble and start the models and trains whirring.

Outside, the blacksmith and woodturners were in action demonstrating the skills and gathering admiring onlookers. On the food front, Forest Hill Rotary's sausages were

sizzling and Blackburn Red Cross served tea and coffee with Anzac biscuits and pound cake.

The Victorian Folk Music Players roamed the area singing bush ballads, whilst Choir Victoria entertained with WWI songs. Children galloped from the Gumboot Throw up to the Cottage gardens for the old-fashioned races. Lots of dropped eggs!

As usual all the helpers did a wonderful job; particularly the parking attendants, who were under pressure to organise the largest number of cars yet.

Bob Gardiner

(see page 7 for more pictures from the day)



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

WE had an incredibly successful Heritage Family Day this year with the official attendance of 1200 visitors, half as many again as last year's 800. The weather was perfect, and it was lovely to see so many people picnicking and enjoying the activities and the Complex. Many thanks go to Bob Gardiner for his organising of the event and his hard work on the day. I would also like to thank all members who helped to make the day such a success.

The Whitehorse Community Grant allowed us to have our usual variety of events. Thanks to the Council for their valuable assistance. The Blackburn Red Cross set up a World War One canteen in the kitchen, which did a brisk trade in tea, coffee, Anzac biscuits and pound cake. I would like to thank Julie Jones, Heritage Programs Officer from Whitehorse Council, who organised this special attraction as well as providing parking and museum attendants. Cr Philip Dawe and Cr Raylene Carr came along to enjoy our day.

Thank you also to the members who came to the working bee on Saturday, 5 September.

Although we had a small turnout, members worked hard to make sure the Complex was looking sparkling in readiness for the Heritage Day.

In August, Barbara Rogalski conducted our election for the AGM. The results areas follows: Vice President Pat Richardson, Secretary Rachael Cottle, Treasurer Bob Gardiner, myself as President and Judith Fry, Chris Gray and Rob Innes as committee members.

After our election we had a presentation by Anne Major from the AIGS, which was very informative about how to research family history. Her words have no doubt inspired members to go and start the process. There was plenty of talk about family trees over afternoon tea.

I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting celebration of the 50 years of the Society. We will be marking the occasion with a commemorative plaque on the day. We have invited Gerry Robinson to launch the book that Pat Richardson has written on the History of the Society. And after the success of our anniversary cake last year, Ace Cakes will again provide us with a delicious birthday cake.

Vicki Jones Evans



**Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday, October 10 for our
WHS 50th Anniversary Celebration. See page 3 for details
SEE YOU THERE!**

Your Committee in Action

- Committee has decided to send a letter to the Minister for Planning, requesting consideration at State level for heritage protection of the Burvale Hotel.
- It was decided, as funds are tight, to bring the society in line with others and institute a small charge for research inquiries. This will in addition enable us to keep membership fees unchanged.

INVITATION

*Whitehorse Historical Society invites you to our
50th anniversary celebrations and book launch by historian
Gerry Robinson.*

DATE: Saturday 10 October

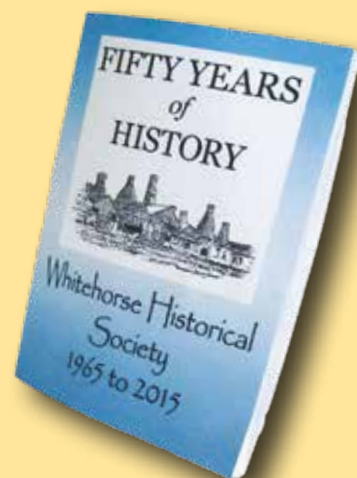
TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex
Deep Creek Road, Mitcham

RSVP: for catering by Monday 5 October

email: whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Phone: 9873 4946



August Meeting Report

Digging into family history

ON Saturday, 8 August Anne Major of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (AIGS) gave a wonderful insight into researching one's family history – even when research becomes difficult.

Founded in 1973, the AIGS is a member of the Federation of Family History Societies and a founding member of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc. AIGS possess an excellent range of records, including electoral rolls, cemetery records, trade and newspaper records, convict records, the *Police Gazette*, records of hospitals, institutions, asylums, and state wards and schools. They also house one of the largest collections in Australia of British Isles records.

To illustrate her theme, Anne took us through her husband's ancestry, indicating how she herself travelled the journey. The key points are as follows.

How do I get started?

- Always begin with yourself – your key dates, places and events.
- Draw up a family tree with yourself at the bottom.
- Add your parents, recording births, marriages and deaths.
- Do the same for your grandparents, and so on.
- Include all the places in which these events took place.
- Collect as many family documents as you can.

Which branch of the family do I begin with?

Choose one branch of the family that you already have

some information on or one that appears might be the most straightforward – maybe the one with the most unusual name or the one that has the most fascination for you. Never try to juggle several lines at the same time, and always work systematically.

The AIGS library assistants

Once you've filled gaps in your family tree from Birth, Deaths and Marriages (BMD), census records and wills, you're probably ready to talk to the AIGS library assistants about other records to consult and where to find these in the library.

Starting Out classes

From February to November the AIGS conducts monthly classes that provide a comprehensive introduction to family history, resources, organising material and where to find information. These are free, and open to members and non-members alike. Two classes are run on consecutive weekends and are of about two hours duration. The next will be on October 16 and 23 at 10.30am and November 14 and 21 at 2.00pm. Bookings are essential, and can be made by contacting the AIGS office on 9877 3789, or emailing info@aigs.org.au

To conclude, all present at the meeting were given a number of informative handouts that will no doubt inspire many to start their own journeys of discovery.

Judith Fry

The Ghost of Festivals Past . . .

In 1928 and 1929, a Grand Carnival took place in Morton Park on both Saturday and Monday of the holiday weekend. The *Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter* of February 3 1929 described it thus.

MONSTER CARNIVAL

[There was an] attendance of 6000 on Monday (2500 on Saturday), when the park was gay with brightly dressed women and beflannelled men, picturesque stalls and festoons of flags.

Details of the carnival

- Tickets 3d.
- Merry-go-round, Lemon & Orange Tree, Dips, Ocean Wave, Slide for Life.
- Try your luck at Saucerette, Diggers' Bagatelle, Checkers, Money-La, Ring-um, Aunt Sally.

Apart From the old and familiar flat races, etc., what about these?

NOVELTY HORSE EVENT

– MUSICAL CHAIRS: Lady or gentleman riders on horses or ponies.

NOVELTY MOTOR EVENT

– MUSICAL CHAIRS: Lady or gentleman drivers – lady passenger to run to the chair. SPECIAL Musical Chairs: Gentlemen had to run to chairs.

NOVELTY MOTOR EVENT –

LIQUID RACE: Four lines are drawn – 15 yards, 50 yards and 15 yards apart. The competitor stands at the first line; his car is at the second line, engine not running; at the fourth line is a table on which there is a small bottle of dry ginger ale and an opener.

On a signal, the competitor runs to the car, drives to third line, stopping so that the front wheels are on one side of the line and the back wheels on the other. He runs to the table, opens the bottle, drinks all contents, returns to the car, drives in reverse gear to the second line – over which his car must stop as before – and runs to the starting point. The car must be stationary before the driver leaves it, with the door closed.

NOVELTY MOTOR EVENT – SLOW RACE: For 6-cylinder cars, (separate events provided for 4-cylinder cars). A steward will travel in each car to see conditions are complied with; at the second line the car must stop in top gear – no clutch or self-starter is to be touched now. The car taking the longest time wins. (The prize is a one-gallon tin Firezone oil.)

*Edited reprint from WHS Newsletter
March–May 1990*



1928 NOVELTY MOTOR EVENT – BLINDFOLDED DRIVING COMPETITION (first prize a motor tube): A flag is in the centre of the oval; each competitor's car to be drawn up, engine running, at end of the oval facing the flag. Each competitor is blind-folded. Taking his own time he will drive off in the direction of the flag, but before halfway, he must start to turn around. The object is, after turning a complete circle, to drive in the direction of the flag, stopping as near to it as possible. A steward, who will be an expert driver, will sit beside the competitor in order to take charge of the car should he be about to run into any danger.

We received these from the Schwerkolt relatives in the USA and thought we might share them in the newsletter.

Dear Vicki Jones-Evans,

Thank you so much for welcoming my sisters and I into membership as Lifetime Honorary Members of your society. We are thrilled with the honor and will certainly check your website newsletter often.

I am currently trying to convince my husband that we should travel over your way. Perhaps we can someday.

Thanks again, so very much.

Sincerely,

Bettie Jack Jarosz

Ms. Jones-Evans and the Whitehorse Historical Society,

Thank you very much for bestowing the title of Honorary Life Member to the Whitehorse Historical Society to me. I greatly appreciate the recognition.

I remember as a young child hearing my grandfather Walter recount stories that were once told to him by his mother Mary about the "Homestead down under". I was fortunate enough to be able to visit the cottage in the spring of 2001. I then felt a greater connection to my history. I was also able to share my own stories with my grandfather before his passing. I hope to show my children a part of their history one of these days in person. A trip to Australia is amazing and something I would like to share with them.

I truly appreciate my membership and cherish what it means not only to myself but the citizens of the community and the historians that preserve the past.

Respectfully,
Joseph Jack

COST OF GAS.

The action of the Mitcham and Vermont Progress Association in calling a public meeting next week to draw attention to the proposed scale of charges for gas in the shire, was commended by the Shire Council on Monday night. The president (Cr. F. E. Paice) and Crs. Lawson and Heppner were the main speakers in conveying information which appeared to show that the charges are heavier than is justified. A number of councillors expressed their intention to be present at the meeting.

SEWERAGE CONNECTION COSTS.

In his report to the Blackburn and Mitcham Shire Council on Monday night, the engineer (Mr. F. Maw) stated that in the estimates for 1938-39, it would be necessary to make provision for connecting to the sewer, the conveniences at the Municipal Chambers, £25; shire depot (2 sets), £75; and Walker Park (2 sets), £155. Mr. Maw said that the depot connections were urgent, because complaints were being made by a neighbouring property owner regarding the offensiveness of the effluent from the septic tank. The apparently high cost of the Walker Park installation was explained by two factors; the existing conveniences were very dilapidated and were not suitable for connecting to the sewer; also, the showers in the pavilion would have to be connected. As being the most economical solution, he had allowed in his estimate for new brick conveniences at the rear of the pavilion, and those, with the showers, would make the one line to the main. Cr. Lawson moved, Cr. Eggington seconded, and it was carried, that the matter be referred to the estimates for consideration.

The REAL THINGS TO FEAR

are those that can happen

IF YOU **DON'T** VOTE "YES"

6 O'CLOCK CLOSING GOES!

Sydney and Adelaide Liquor Traders are vigorously trying to get hotels open till 10 p.m. Tasmania has already done so.

BARS THROWN OPEN TO WOMEN AND GIRLS!

Since repeal, "The spectacle of young girls and women drinking at bars is abhorrent to the moral sense of the public."
W. S. Alexander, Director of the Federal Alcohol Administration.

DRY AREAS ABOLISHED!

"Dry" areas are NOW PROTECTED BY A REFERENDUM CLAUSE in the Licensing Act. The Liquor Trade says "your vote will not affect this question in the slightest degree," but they will not hesitate to "wipe out" this clause as they "wiped out" Local Option Legislation.

NO FURTHER POLLS!

"Australian Brewing and Wine Journal," 20th June, states, its fight now is "for such an overwhelming vote that the Government will be COMPELLED to introduce an amending bill ABOLISHING FOR ALL TIME the provision to hold a future referendum."

If they do there can be absolutely . . .

NO CHANCE OF LOCAL OPTION!

BUT THERE WILL BE Unrestricted Liquor Propaganda and Efforts to secure thousands more drinkers... both men and women!

Make your
VOTE YES

ABOLISH THE LIQUOR BARS

Authorized by the Victorian Local Option Alliance, 177 Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.
V41.38

DIGGERS' DISTRESS FUND.

A fête to aid the above very worthy cause will be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 8th October, at 3 p.m. The function will be opened by the Mayoress of Box Hill (Mrs. John C. Hogan) as announced in our advertising columns.

FROM THE COLLECTION . . .

Children's toys



NA 151 Bugatti Convertible Coupe circa 1931. Possibly a Type 41 Royale 'Weinberger Cabriolet'. Anyone who can provide extra information about this, it would be gratefully received.



NA 194 Tin tractor, unmarked, circa 1930s



NA 153 Unidentified racing/sports car circa 1930s. Anyone who can provide extra information about this, it would be gratefully received.

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 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, 10 October

1.30pm General Meeting

50th Anniversary of WHS

- Party (with special Anniversary cake)
- Unveiling of commemorative plaque
- Launch of History book by Gerry Robinson

Saturday, 12 December

1.30pm General Meeting

Topic: "Pop-Up History"

Bring along your own treasure and be prepared to share its history with us

Statistics

Photographs catalogued	-	4174
Artefacts catalogued	-	4733
Documents catalogued	-	6989
Visitors to museum August–September	-	280



Facebook 'likes' to September - 518



Sunny snaps from Heritage Day



With thanks to the following sponsors of our raffle:

Harvey Norman
nunawading

BUNNINGS
warehouse
nunawading

Jonathan Finch 
THE GOOD GUYS
DISCOUNT WAREHOUSES
DEE RYALL MP
MEMBER FOR RINGWOOD


MICHAEL SUKKAR MP
Federal Member for Deakin

PICTURES (from top)
Choir Victoria entertains the crowd;
sack race in the Cottage grounds;
Fairy Susie paints eager faces;
the blacksmith demonstrates his skill;
the lure of Chinese painting

Raffle comes up trumps for lucky winners

1st prize - Angela C
(pictured here with WHS
volunteer Judith Fry)
Ticket Blue B 28

2nd prize - Mrs Lama
Ticket Blue B 51

3rd prize - Ian W
Ticket Purple A 17

4th prize - Jane D
Ticket Blue B 26

5th prize - Stephen
Ticket Blue B 34



WHS Committee Contacts

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Secretary

Rachael Cottle

Treasurer

Bob Gardiner

Local History Room (03) 9873 4946

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WHS website

www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/
facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

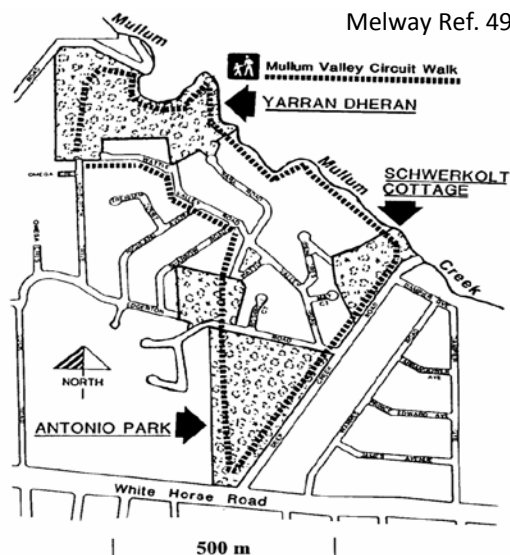
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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 11 November 2015

The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Mission Statement & Acknowledgement of Country

"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 City of Whitehorse area."

"In the spirit of reconciliation, Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners of the land now known as the City of Whitehorse, and pays respect to its elders past and present."



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



THE WHITEHORSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED THROUGH THE COURTESY OF MICHAEL SUKKAR MP, FEDERAL MEMBER FOR DEAKIN

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