



A sign of the times

I have an old sign that's been hanging in my garage for about 40-odd years. I think most of you know I'm a race walker and in 1968 the Olympic Games were held in Mexico City. We flew in and made our way to the Olympic Village, which was just a few miles outside the main part of the city.

The Village was built on an area that hadn't been developed because it was the site of a lava flow that had happened sometime in the last 1000 years. The area covered miles of rough, craggy rock and apart from where they had created a main road, and where some very poor people lived, there was no habitation.

When they started excavating for the Village out of this lava rock, a round pyramid was discovered just beside it – the only one (at that stage, at least) in Mexico – and it was believed to predate all the Mayan and Incan constructions. Excavation had just been started, so we were able to wander around and explore the diggings with great interest.

A short distance from this another pyramid – of the square, terraced type – was found, but the authorities decided to leave that one unexcavated and to build the training track for the Village just in front of it. The terraces would be used as a grandstand for people to come and watch the athletes practise.

Back to my story: because the rock was such a massive job to clear, there had been hundreds of workers there for many months. There was a little area beside the pyramid on a path that led to the track, and because their toilets were such a long way away, the workers had used that as a handy spot

to answer the more pressing calls of nature. By the time we got to the Village, grass had been planted there, and a sign had been put up saying "Please do not walk on the grass". The sign was somewhat unnecessary, actually; there was no way we were going to walk on the grass because the smell was terrible! It seems to me that they should have put a sign up well before we got there, telling the workers to "Please do not p*** on the grass"!

We definitely stuck to the path, which was the way all the athletes had to go to get to the canteen; but I thought the sign worth souveniring as a "fragrant" reminder of my time in Mexico.

Bob Gardiner



Bob shows the souvenired sign at the recent "Pop-Up History" meeting

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| President's Report | 2 | Vermont P.S. – the first 100 years | 4 |
| Farewell to Peter | 2 | From The Reporter | 5 |
| February Meeting Report | 3 | From the collection | 6 |
| What's in a name? | 3 | Diary Dates | 6 |
| | | End of an era | 7 |

Dear Members

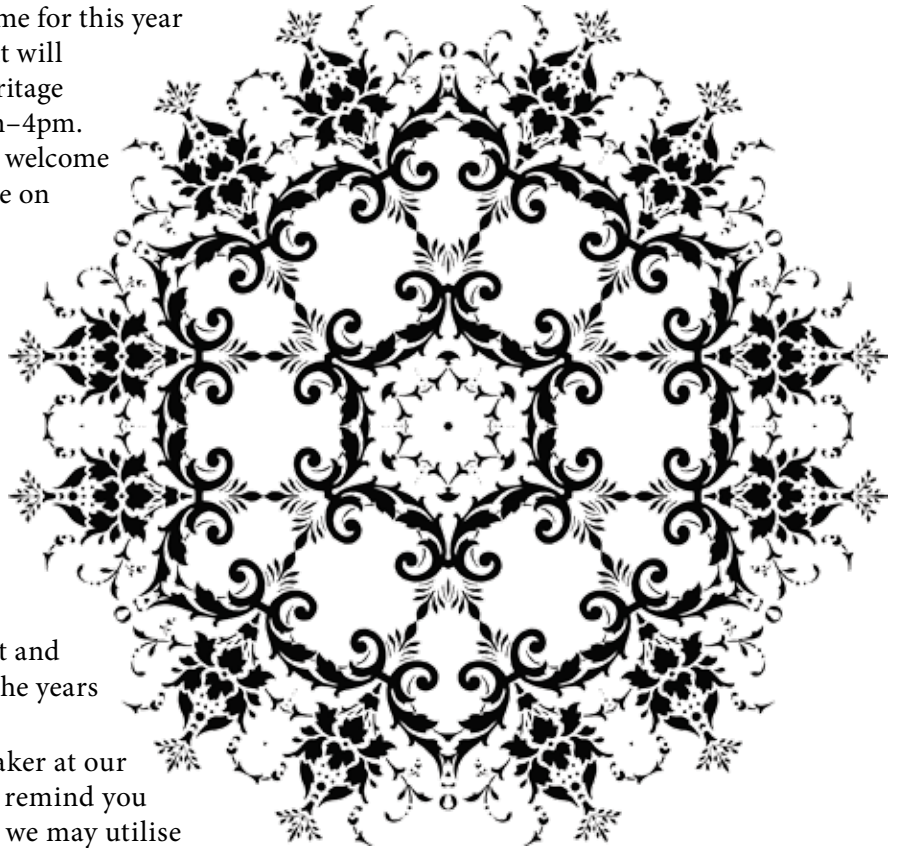
THE Whitehorse Heritage Week theme for this year will be “Celebrating the Arts” and it will run 9 to 15 September with our Heritage Family Day on Sunday 11 September 11am–4pm. Please mark it in your diaries as we would welcome your help on the day or at the Working Bee on Saturday 3 September.

Our Wednesday Working Group is busy with their usual tasks such as cataloguing and dealing with research enquiries. We are also dealing with an outbreak of silverfish in the Museum, which is slowing our efforts to change displays. We are changing our textile display cases during the first half of this year.

This year two of our Wednesday workers have retired after many years of service to the Society. Thank you Margaret and Peter for your valuable contribution over the years to our Wednesday Working Group.

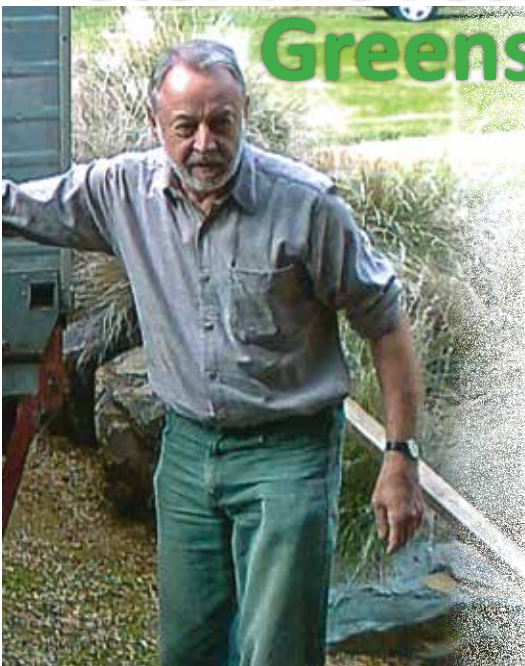
Tim Shambrook will be our guest speaker at our next General Meeting in April and may I remind you that the Meeting will start at 1pm so that we may utilise the Visitor Centre before the Museum is opened for the public.

Vicki Jones Evans



Celebrating the Arts

Peter moves to Greensborough pastures . . .



WE wish to extend our thanks to Peter Simmenauer, who has been a valued member of our Wednesday working group for almost twenty years. We regret that he will no longer be a regular attender.

Peter’s ability as a librarian has been an invaluable asset to us, along with his cataloguing and encoding of our documents, and the sharing of his knowledge with others.

He has recently moved to Greensborough and has joined the Greensborough Historical Society, which is their gain and our loss.

Thank you, Peter – and we appreciate your offer to return occasionally when your expert assistance is required.

Rosalie Whalen

February Meeting Report

Retro cinema returns

ON Saturday, February 13, a smaller group than usual assembled for the first meeting of the year. After the general meeting, members sat back for a bespoke trip to the cinema as it was fifty years ago. The program benefited from the use of new sound and video projection equipment in the museum, and was similar to last year's program, starting with the National Anthem (showing the Queen on horseback), some contemporary advertisements, a cartoon, and a short film celebrating the "new" kitchen being enjoyed by a gushing housewife. Social stereotypes abounded!

The Schwerkolt section of the program consisted of two films: a privately shot coverage of the opening of the Cottage by the Governor Sir Rohan Delacombe, and the 1993 short illustrating a pleasant day spent exploring the place and its environs.

After the films, the audience adjourned to the workroom for afternoon tea with ice creams and lollies, which completed an enjoyable trip down memory lane.

Chris Gray

What's in a name?

THERE are times when a place name arouses our interest: what is the translation of Yarran Dheran? How many places are named after Sir John Monash? Who was Mullauna? Was Ash Burton a person? Did high rainfall mean the need to camber well? Was black burn named following a bushfire? When was Canterbury our State governor? Was Dunlavin also a Victorian premier? Were Rooks and McClare born in Brentford? Names are a fascination of History.

On the eastern boundary of the City of Whitehorse there is an area with two words in its name, both of historical significance. Campbells Croft is a nature reserve on the left where Boronia Road crosses Dandenong Creek. The Campbell family owned and farmed the small holding. Born in 1898 and 1900 respectively, Bruce and his sister Daisy lived in a wattle-and-daub cottage with no electricity or modern conveniences. They had a small market garden and sold vegetables, flowers and eggs locally. Daisy on her bicycle was a very

familiar and well-loved Vermont figure. Despite surrounding suburban residential growth, they refused offers to sell until in 1969, when Nunawading Council agreed to buy 10 hectares and keep the area as a nature reserve.

It is a "croft" because Bruce and Daisy kept it English! There are elms, oaks, silver birches and poplars, a grassy meadow down to the creek, and a large daffodil patch.

Particularly in spring it is a delightful area. We recommend a visit, including a stroll or cycle along Dandenong Creek Trail down by the creek.

The Abbey Walk Campbells Croft Advisory Committee is an active Friends group, and the Heathmont History Group of the Ringwood & District Historical Society is currently compiling some history and past photos of the area. Anyone with anecdotes, memories or photos to share is invited to contact the convener, Gerry Robinson, grobinson@dodo.com.au Ph. 0418 867 255

Gerry Robinson



Daisy Campbell circa 1920

Vermont Primary School – the first 100 years

IN the early 1850s settlers of the land at Vermont became woodcutters and charcoal-burners until crops and orchards could be planted on the cleared ground. In 1865 these pioneers built their first chapel, at Mt Pleasant on Canterbury Road, and hoped that this might also be their school.

An agreement was made with 25-year-old John Winter, a teacher from Richmond, for four hours teaching each day, his payment being all fees derived from the pupils. The fees were quite a burden for parents: one shilling per week for one child, one and sixpence for two, two shillings for three, two and sixpence for four and three shillings for five. John Winter did not have the qualifications to permit him to become a certificated teacher of the Schools Board; however, he commenced his duties in the new Mt Pleasant Chapel on 12 June 1865 with an enrolment of about 30 pupils. Having provided a building and obtained the services of a teacher, the Mt Pleasant Committee made an application to the Board of Education for aid in paying the teacher's salary. Unfortunately, the newly completed chapel did not meet some of the Board's requirements, and with no financial aid from them and being unable to live on the fees paid by only some of the parents, John Winter had to give up his position.

There is no record to show that a school was held at Mt Pleasant again until 13 May 1869, when a newly formed committee applied for a non-vested school. Early in that year, John Brown had commenced teaching at the chapel. He had gained the respect of all concerned through his caring attitude and management. At the beginning of July, he signed an agreement with the School Committee, and the Board of Education officially commenced preparation on 1 July for the Delany's Road Common School No 1022. A site was purchased, the one-room school was built and was ready for use at the beginning of 1872. As this part of the district had been given the name of Vermont, the school became Vermont State School.

But maintenance became a problem. By 1881 the wooden shingles on the roof had dried and cracked so that the rain came in freely. The chimney smoked, the

school ground was unfenced; and the wood carters used all the water from the school tank for their horses.

Eventually an iron roof was placed over the shingles, which were rediscovered in 1992 when the school was removed from its original site. At the same time, old school texts and work books with a girl's name on them were found in the lining of the school. One can only ponder on how they got there and what story was told to the parents of their disappearance!



**NP314 Mr John Brown,
first School Master**

The people are mainly farmers or woodcutters, the majority being newly arrived, having taken up land under the 42nd Clause of the Land Act. Generally, they are in struggling circumstances; none pay more than 6d. per week for their children.

**Report on Application for Aid,
7 August, 1869**

As the Nominal Enrolment by 1900 had reached ninety, a small closed school from Yarraburn was brought in. In 1906 a new room was built onto the original one, and by 1917, with 174 pupils enrolled, the Department had the original room widened by four feet. Jubilee celebrations were held on 1 November 1919, when many of the first scholars attended as well as representatives of most of the pioneering families.

The school stood at the junction of three roads, but parents felt this to be too dangerous and prevailed on the Department to buy a larger area of land on the opposite side of Canterbury Road with the aim of having the school shifted to this new site. Unluckily, first the Depression years intervened and then the Second World War came, so the shift was never made.

The population increase following the war brought accommodation difficulties for the Vermont School, and in 1954 a junior section was erected on the new site. Two more sections had to be added to cope with the increase,

(continued on page 7)

From the

Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter

CIRCULATING IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BLACKBURN AND MITCHAM AND DONCASTER.

Volume 45 Number 13

Friday, 1 April 1932

Price Twopence

GYMNASIUM DISPLAY.

On Saturday last, in the McKeon Hall, Vermont, pupils of Miss Beatrice Appleby displayed their skill in gymnastics before an appreciative audience. A march by the juniors and seniors was followed by freearm rod and club exercises. Junior girls in appropriate costumes did several country dances exceptionally well, and Miss Gwen Carleton executed some graceful plastic work. Miss Gwyn Tucker gave a finished performance with rods and clubs, and action songs were admirably carried out by the juniors. Miss Betty Pannam displayed excellent solo work, and senior pupils performed a graceful rhythmic dance and a Hungarian dance in which they appeared in full costume. Loris and Norma Tucker brought down the house when they danced the Irish Jig. Mrs. E. T. Leslie, in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Greenough, of the Excelsior College, presented medals to Valerie Telfer as the best all round worker, Mary McWhinney for the most points awarded in the junior section, and Joyce Reed. Eunice Walker received a special prize and Elaine Ch'nehen was presented with a medal, having received the most points when the class was judged by Mrs. Greenough. Mrs. Leslie was presented with a bouquet by Valerie Telfer, and Misses D. Westbrook (pianiste) and Carleton also received floral tributes. Lydia McDonald then presented Miss Appleby with a bouquet, after which the latter spoke in appreciation of her pupils' work, and thanked Mrs. Leslie for officiating.

BOX HILL POLICE COURT

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1932.

Before Mr. E. C. Tibb, P.M., and Mr. J. Sneddon, J.P.

FRUIT STEALING.

Eric Cornish, East Burwood, was charged with stealing apples worth £3, the property of E. E. Crowe, of East Burwood.

E. E. Crowe said that on March 16 he missed a quantity of Stewart Soedlings apples growing on trees in his orchard. On March 17, in company with Constable Buegge, he went to Cornish's home, and saw a waggone loaded with fruit for the market. Cornish admitted loading the vehicle, and said they belonged to a man named King. After some further questioning, he said to witness, "I might as well admit it; I took some apples from your place."

Cornish, who pleaded guilty, said he had been in financial difficulties owing to the failure of his crop, and moneylenders were pressing him. He had previously been of good character, and if leniently dealt with would not offend again.

Fined £10, or one month's imprisonment.

UNREGISTERED TRUCK.

L. Richards, Mitcham road, Mitcham, was fined £10 for driving an unregistered motor truck on L.L. Vale road on February 24. Richards said he had not used the truck for some months, and being out of work he took an opportunity that presented itself of earning some money.

BALWYN.

EXCITING FIVE MINUTES.

Two ladies living in a two-storied house in Doncaster road, Balwyn, had an exciting experience last week. They were seated in a room downstairs, and one of them heard a noise, and they went to investigate. After searching through several rooms one of them happened to look under a bed and saw a man. They pulled the door to, and one of them hung on and resisted all efforts of the intruder to "open it, while the other ran to a neighbour's place to communicate with the police. The man got out of the window, and climbed on to the top of a porch, but evidently was not willing to risk the high jump, and, getting in at another window, he broke the glass in a door on the landing and rushed through the house. He got away, but did not get anything. The police motor patrol scoured the district, but could find no trace of him.

RELIEF STAMP PROSECUTIONS.

At Kew Court last week, William Hennison, White Horse road, Deepdene, was prosecuted under the Stamps (Unemployment Relief) Act, and fined an aggregate of 25/- on five charges of having failed to give the required receipts. George Carboon, Hamilton street, Balwyn, was fined 20/- on four similar charges.

AMUSEMENTS.

RIALTO THEATRE BOX HILL

EVERY EVENING AT 8.
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
MARCH 31, APRIL 1 and 2.

WALTER HUSTON

in
"CRIMINAL CODE."

also
"MEN OF THE SKY."

(Children under 16 not admitted.)
Matinee Programme.—"Men of the Sky." Mickey McGuire Comedy, Gazettees. On the Stage, Dorothy, the Human Frog.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
APRIL 4, 5 and 6.

JOE BROWN

in
"MAYBE IT'S LOVE"

Second Attraction
BARBARA STANWYCK


in
"NIGHT NURSE."

(Children under 16 not admitted.)
Box Plan at Theatre. Phone WX1418

"QUALITY IN CLOTHES" Really DOES Count

J. G. Penson

THE CITY
TAILOR & MERCER



227 & 231 STATION ST., BOX HILL.

FROM THE COLLECTION ...



NA1458.1-3

Wooden ink well stand with two glass ink bottles with lids. Stand has inserts for bottles, a long rounded inset to hold instruments, one drawer and a curved handle. Glass bottles are square and have metal around the lip. Stand measures 19cm x 26.5cm x 13.5cm; Bottles: 5cm x 4cm x 4cm



NA3259

Small paperback schoolbook. Maroon covers with Australian motifs. On back cover, picture of student seated at desk. Copy book used by Lola Ann Myers at Stewart Street State School from 1916 onwards. From collection of Betty McPhee; donated by Cathy McCann.



NA2808

A School Savings Account Book with the State Savings Bank. Used at Tunstall School No 4190 (now Nunawading Primary School). Used 1936 to 1938 by Raymond Brash.

Whitehorse Historical Society 2016 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 May
Saturday 3 September
Saturday 12 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 April, 2016
1.00pm General Meeting

Tim Shambrook:
"150 years of Vermont"

2016 will include speakers including:

- **Sat June 11 – Ross McMullin**
- **Sat Aug 13 (AGM) – TBA**

Heritage Family Day Sun Sept 11

WELCOME

We wish to welcome **Eddie Tan** to the Wednesday Working Group. Eddie will be assisting in the area of Research.

Statistics

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------|
| Photographs catalogued | - | 4105 |
| Artefacts catalogued | - | 4755 |
| Documents catalogued | - | 7076 |
| Visitors to museum January/February | - | 399 |



Facebook 'likes' to March - 566



NP1290 Class photo c1900 (exact date unknown)

(continued from page 4)

one in 1957 and another in 1960. The school operated in two parts, separated by Canterbury Road. During 1963–65, parents raised £1,887 out of a total of £4,030 to erect a library, which since then has been maintained by the Mother's Club. In 1966 an art/craft room, costing £10,000 was officially opened by the Minister for Education.

With the exception of the first two head teachers, John

Brown (18 years) and William Watchorn (26 years), the time spent by any head teacher was usually from three to five years. According to all records, those first two were outstanding men who played a great part in the growth of the community in those early days.

The school celebrated its centenary in July 1969.

Source: Vermont Primary School: 130 Years of Excellence



End of an era

WE say thank-you and farewell this month to Margaret Skey, who has been a constant and valuable member of the Wednesday working group for the past nineteen years. Fortunately for us, Margaret will still join us for our Saturday meetings, so this well-loved member will not disappear completely from our midst.

Margaret's skills and knowledge of dresses and fashion history will be sorely missed, as will her willingness and capability when it came to repairing and maintaining garments in the collection. She was also involved in providing the accurate descriptions that are necessary when cataloguing newly acquired items.

Quite apart from her skills, her cheerful personality is already being missed on Wednesdays, so here's looking forward to the next General Meeting, when we will hope to catch up!

Chris Gray

WHS Committee Contacts

President

Vicki Jones-Evans
9873 3383

Vice-President

Pat Richardson

Secretary

Rachael Cottle

Treasurer

Bob Gardiner

Local History Room (03) 9873 4946

Newsletter Team

Chris Gray
Bettina Stevenson
Wendy Standfield

WHS website

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

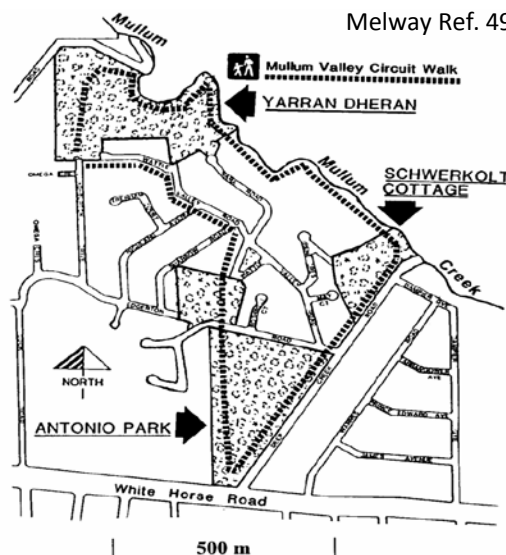
Email

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Postal Address

P.O. Box 272
MITCHAM Vic 3132

Melway Ref. 49 D7



Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 11 May

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."



POD
Place of Deposit
Accredited by the
PRO Victoria

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

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

