



Heritage Family Day: change = success!

WE always seem to start articles about Heritage Day speaking about the weather; let's face it though, it *is* important! This year we did not have the perfect day we had last year, but nonetheless the rain held off, and the number of people attending, while not up to last year's record, was strong. The age-range is becoming broader, as young families seem to be on the increase, and coming not just for a flying visit, but to spend the whole day. People were coming from farther afield as well, due to advertising that appeared in *My Child*, *Royalauto* and the *Leader*, amongst others; and our Facebook page seems to have increased its effect on attendance too.

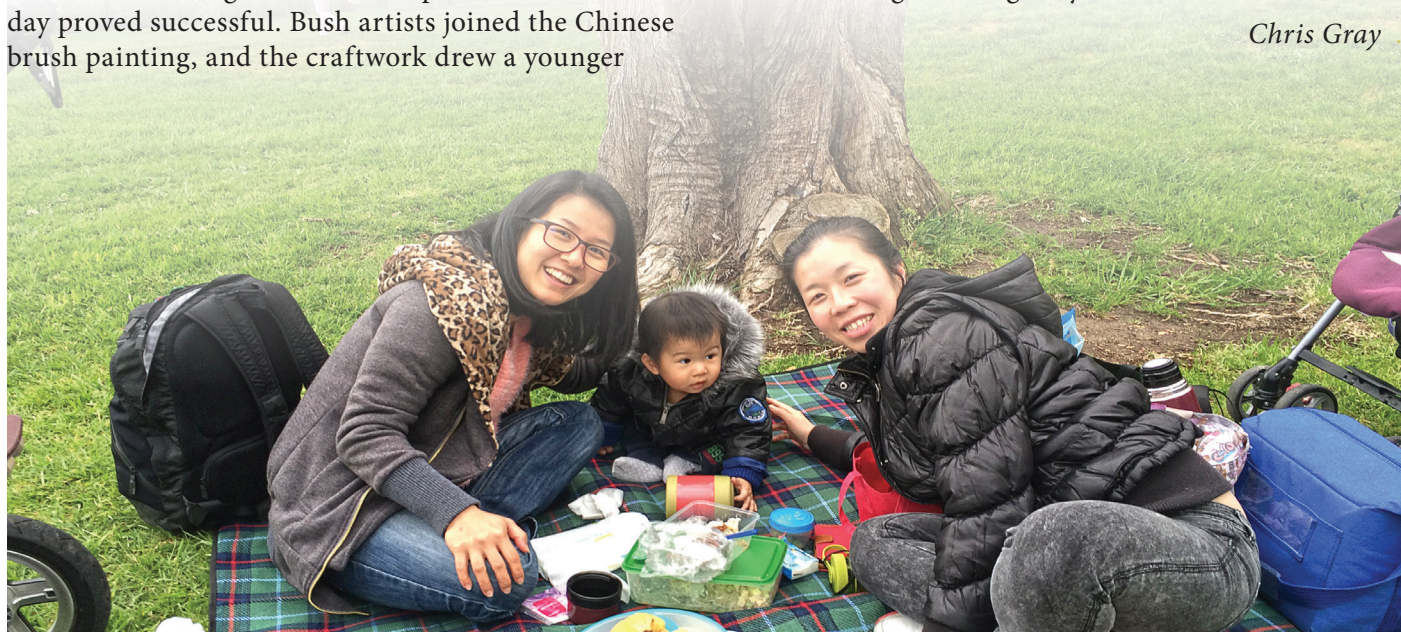
The theme this year was "Celebrating the Arts" and a number of changes to the line-up of events on the day proved successful. Bush artists joined the Chinese brush painting, and the craftwork drew a younger

audience than before, so the theme was well-served.

Instead of the Stationary Engines that have graced previous years' Heritage Days, we had the Wolseley Car Club, whose vintage cars were the subject of interest from all ages. Fairy Susie, the Face Painter was a great success, with a long line all day of children waiting to be painted. This was so successful that it was considered whether to have *two* people painting next year!

The raffle was once more a success – see page 7 for a list of the winners. Along with our usual supporters, the new blacksmith, Gunther Ilgoutz, donated a beautiful candelabrum he had made to be one of the prizes. It made an excellent First Prize, and was received with great delight by its eventual winner.

Chris Gray



NEXT MEETING

General Meeting 1pm Saturday, 8 October

Lorinda Cramer: "Your Fine Lady Doesn't Do Here Any More"

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

THIS year's Heritage Day was very successful with over 800 people attending. Along with the many activities provided, the old-time games on the lawn near the Cottage were a hit as were the miniature railway exhibit and the meccano display, which was interactive and provided the children with lots of buttons to push. The older children were particularly interested. The day would not have gone as smoothly without the many volunteers who started at the crack of dawn to set

out tables, chairs and anything else the stall holders might need. We can't thank them enough for their time and energy. The weather smiled on us and although it became quite cool around 3 o'clock, the rain stayed away. The Wednesday Working Group, along with Julie Jones, Heritage Program Officer for Whitehorse, have had a round-table discussion about the day, which included ideas that could enhance the experience, but on the whole it was voted to be a happy, successful day.



Pat Richardson



PICTURES (Clockwise from top): The Wolseley Car Club; Susan and Livia demonstrate crocheting and knitting; Games were the usual hit with kids; Elizabeth teaches young hands the ancient art of lacework; Fairy Susie at work

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August Meeting Report



Anne's mother formed and fund-raised for what is now the Arthritis Foundation, and included the family!

life is volunteering

ANNE Payne greeted Saturday, 13 August 2016 with some nervousness; for today she was to address a group of volunteers on the subject of . . . Volunteering! Not for the last time the thought “coals to Newcastle” flashed through her mind.

She needn't have worried; her talk was a resounding success – even your reporter, who had reason to leave early, found himself engaged enough by her presentation to forget this imperative and stay right to the end.

Her solution to the problem was to tell of some of the experiences she had had as a result of being named Whitehorse Citizen of the Year; and of some of the volunteers who had inspired her in her own efforts.

She spoke of a recent experience speaking to 160 Grades 5s and 6s at Orchard Grove Primary School.

“I asked them to stand if their parents or grandparents – or they themselves – helped with some of these things. I listed Sporting activities, perhaps coaching, driving, scoring, refereeing or managing, school reading, school canteen, kindergarten helping, driving for Meals on Wheels, taking a neighbour or older person shopping or to medical appointments, looking after a grandparent or a person with special needs. Or maybe, working in their local bushland parks.

“By the end every child was standing. I explained that that was how I first experienced volunteering too: in my family.”

Anne shared how her childhood had presented her with many opportunities to observe and experience the spirit of volunteering. She told of how her mother developed serious arthritis as a reasonably young woman. Rather than let this beat her, she and her friend Alva decided to set up what is now the Arthritis Foundation. They began to form support groups in areas around Melbourne to help other people who were suffering with severe pain. They organised speakers and helped raise money to provide more research into why people develop arthritis, the current treatment options and how best to manage it. During school holidays Anne and her siblings become involved with many of these activities too.

Her father, Carl, also provided a volunteering role model. Operator of the local newsagent, he held a session on Sundays for both adults and children who were model aeroplane enthusiasts, and provided a place in the shop in which he had kits and repair supplies for when things didn't go as planned.

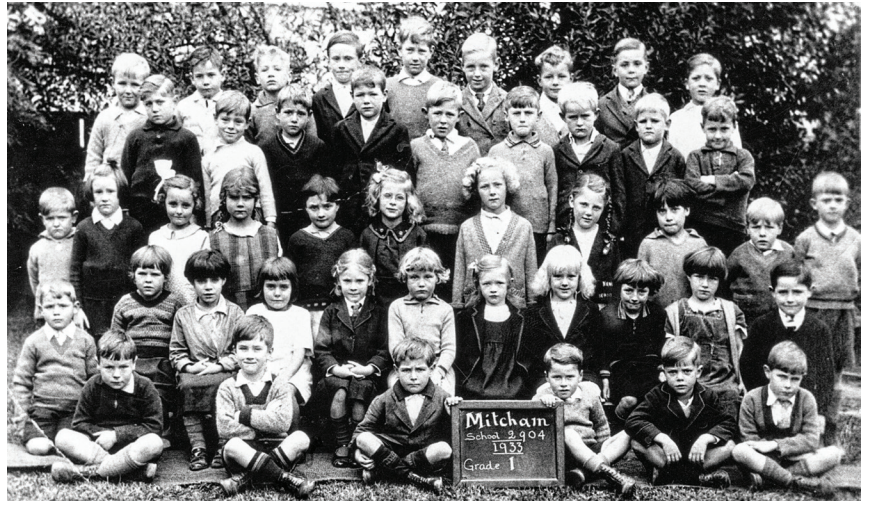
Moving on to her own volunteering in later life, Anne told of her involvement in developing and preserving the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.

“In the early seventies we began to take an interest and it didn't take long before I became to love this precious piece of bushland right in the heart of Blackburn.

continued on page 6

PICTURES:

(right) NP2398 Grade 1 at Mitcham State School 1933;
(Below) Mitcham Station Street circa 1925



A Mitcham childhood

Joyce Williams (nee Burton) related how life was in the 1930s for her family. The Burtons lived in Percy Street, Mitcham, which was a very rough track straggling through the bush, full of muddy potholes in winter, rutted and dusty in summer – an area that was generally referred to as “The Paddock”. Unmade and often unformed streets (that on the Council maps ran straight and square) actually meandered through the bush. When one route became too rough or boggy, another track was created until it too became impassable. These “roads” were not to be tackled after dark unless the driver was very familiar with each twist, turn and offshoot.

Joyce recalled a day when she was at the back fence of the “big school”. “I noticed some ripe apples lying on the ground under the trees in the orchard next to the school; they looked just ready

to eat, so I reached through the fence and was able to pick up one, which had rolled close to the fence. I polished it on my dress and began to eat it; after just a few delicious bites a girl from an older grade saw me and immediately said she was going to tell Mr Hobbs, the Headmaster, that I had stolen an apple from the orchard. No amount of pleading would change her mind, so very soon after I was called to Mr Hobbs’s office and given a very strict lecture and told that I was a disgrace to the Burton family and the entire school! It was a harsh but probably valuable lesson, which I have never forgotten, although I always regretted being found out after only a few bites of

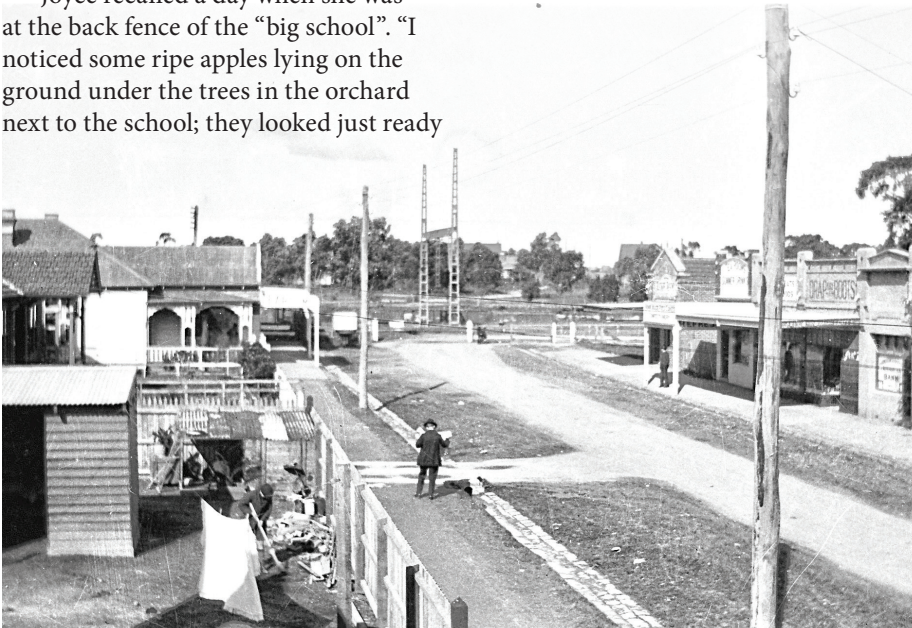
the apple and was never able to finish it!”

Joyce described her family life in Mitcham. “We came to Mitcham in 1929 and lived in a rented house in Percy Street, which was on about an acre. We lived a rather Spartan life with just the one wage; my father worked in the cool stores and earned what would have been a rather low wage, barely enough to support the ever-increasing family, which eventually grew to a total of thirteen children. Our large block of land allowed us to grow our own vegetables; we also raised chooks for eggs and on rare occasions, if the chooks were old or poor layers, we enjoyed a rare treat of roasted chook.

“My brother Arthur grew the vegetables and we all had to help with the vegetable patch. After a crop was finished we took turns with the ploughing; our plough was a one-blade hand plough guided by one of the older boys while two of us girls pulled it by a leather yoke, which fitted over our heads and rested across our chests. We also helped with the weeding in spring and summer. It was very hard work, but we knew very well how important it was to provide vegetables for the whole family. A leg of mutton was a ‘once a week’ luxury for us and was always accompanied by plenty of rich, brown gravy and huge helpings of our own home-grown vegetables.

“It must have been healthy, though, as there are ten children of the entire family still living. I don’t know if it’s a record or not, but every one of us Burton children, the entire thirteen of us, attended Mitcham State School!”

From an April 2008 interview



*** Do you have any memories of your past that we could share in the newsletter? We would love to receive anecdotes that paint a picture of how things were in days gone by – not just what has changed, but actual living memories!**

From the

Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter

CIRCULATING IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BLACKBURN AND MITCHAM AND DONCASTER.

Volume 45 Number 40

Friday, 7 October 1932

Price Twopence

BLACKBURN.

THIEF ELUDES WOULD-BE CAPTORS; A SHOT FIRED.

Special efforts are being made by the Police and Railways Departments to check the activities of thieves who appear to specialise in thefts from railway stations, and several officers of both departments have been detailed for this purpose. For several nights a secret watch was kept at the Blackburn railway station, and about 2.20 a.m. on Friday the vigil of Constable Hewitt, station, and about 2.20 a.m. on of headquarters, and Railway Special Inquiry Officer Sinclair was rewarded. The men were hiding in the booking office and heard an intruder force the catch of a window facing the platform. He raised the lower sash, but finding the ticket box blocking the way pulled down the upper sash and commenced to clamber through. Unfortunately for the watchers, who were prepared to grab him as he came through, the intruder flashed a torch into the office before doing so, and, glimpsing one of the police, quickly made off. By the time the police were able to get out of the office the fugitive had a good start, and although Constable Hewitt fired a shot in his direction he escaped unharmed.

BOWLING CLUB PAVILION ROBBED.

On Thursday night the pavilion at the bowling green was broken into, and a few shillings stolen. Entrance was gained by smashing a glass door after an unsuccessful attempt had been made to force with a spike from the green. It is not thought that there is any connection between this happening and the attempt at the railway station.

FISH & RABBITS

Fresh Daily.
POULTRY IN SEASON.

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262 Station Street, Box Hill.

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any part of the district.

DIGGERS' FAIR.

Since sponsoring the scheme to hold a Diggers' Fair, fortnightly meetings have been taking place, and keen interest maintained in its many activities. Arrangements are well in hand, and the committee, which has welcomed many suggestions, is pleased to report that seven stallholders are making progress. It is confidently anticipated that the fair will be a success.

R.S.I.L.A.

In conjunction with the fortnightly meeting on Tuesday last week was the social function of the quarterly meeting, which is playing a large part in the ever-increasing interest in the branch. Mr. Marshall (A.I.F. representative to repatriation) was present, and his address was greatly appreciated. Musical items by Misses M. Quick, N. Webb and Mr. Staples were very pleasing, with Mrs. Featherston at the piano. Digger Page led the community singing. Since Digger Page has been visiting the Caulfield Military Hospital, he has not been wasting any time learning the art of whirling the baton under the guidance of Digger Pitman, and his ability in this regard will be a great asset to the club.

CANTERBURY.

VANDALISM IN EMPTY HOUSES.

Despoilers of property have again been at work. A well known firm of Canterbury real estate agents report that to their knowledge two unoccupied houses, one in Yarrbat avenue, Balwyn, and another in Durham road, Surrey Hills, have been stripped of most of their portable fittings within the last few days. In one case either a prospective tenant failed to lock up the premises upon leaving or the thief entered with a master key, as the rear door was found open. It is not intended to replace the fittings until tenants have been secured. Owners of vacant premises are advised to fill their coppers with water cords close to the ceilings to put them out of reach of sneak thieves, and to loop up the electric light

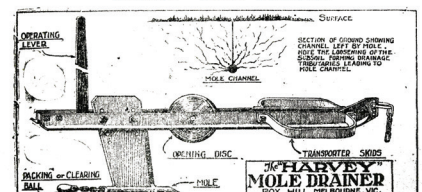
TUNSTALL.

PARK COMMITTEE.

Reporting to the meeting of the hire council on Monday night, Cr. Claringbould stated that the committee of the Tunstall Park now comprised himself as chairman, Mr. J. J. Jarvis (secretary), Mr. J. Cave (treasurer), Messrs. Clements, Clode, Davey, J. Standerwick and A. Nairn. There is still one vacancy on the committee. The ground had been let to the Canterbury Free Gardeners' Cricket Club for the season at £2/2/-. There was also 13/7 in the bank and £2/2/- owing by the Tunstall Cricket Club for the 1931-32 season. On Saturday last a working bee paid attention to the trees planted in the reserve.

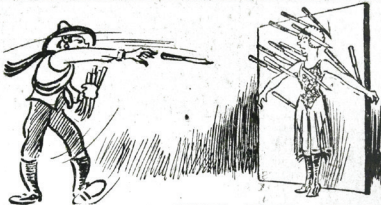
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LOTS OF FUN FOR THE ONLOOKERS

Yes, there's going to be lots of fun at the Big Carnival. We won't guarantee that the fierce looking gentleman above will entertain you, but there will be everything else—Merry-Go-Round, Donkey Rides, A Miniature Train, A Dance Palais, Grand Display by School Children, in fact, all the fund of the fair at the

CARNIVAL at the MONT ALBERT CENTRAL SCHOOL

FRIDAY, 28th, and SATURDAY, 29th OCTOBER, AFTERNOON and EVENING.
Souvenir Buttons (1/6) Admits to All Sessions.

life is volunteering

continued from page 3



Anne's passion became the saving and maintaining of the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. This has developed to include a cultural and education section.

“Over the last almost 50 years volunteers have formed a committee of management, weeded the land, planted thousands of plants & collected seed to grow at the local indigenous nursery. Volunteers have pulled out tons of rubbish that had been dumped in the early days, including car bodies, prams, tyres and other household rubbish. I'm part of a small group who monitor the water in the lake monthly & that information is collected for Melbourne Water.”

Anne highlighted how it takes commitment by people to put their hand up for committees, take a stance and make a difference. She shared the contributions of those who had inspired her, among them Su Dempsey, with her love and knowledge of indigenous people, how they used and looked after the bushland, and the late Sue Lockwood, a very special friend, who “challenged me to stand up for what I believe”.

She finished by enumerating some of the benefits we as volunteers can all enjoy: meeting people, forging friendships, learning new skills, meeting challenges, achieving goals and “a far greater understanding of living in a supportive, welcoming and useful community”.

Chris Gray

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 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 Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.

Saturday, 8 October

1.00pm General Meeting

Lorinda Cramer:

“Your Fine Lady Doesn't Do Here”

(Needlework and identity in Goldrush Victoria)

Saturday, 10 December

1.00pm General Meeting

Bob Gardiner:

Olympic Experiences

Our New Committee

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing office-bearers and committee for their excellent efforts, and introduce the 2016-17 incumbents.

Patricia Richardson – President

Vicki Jones-Evans – Vice President

Kathy Innes – Secretary

Vicki Jones-Evans – Treasurer

Committee Members

Judith Fry

Chris Gray

Peter McPhee

Bob Gardiner

Judy Hall

Rob Innes

Statistics

Photographs catalogued - 4227

Artefacts catalogued - 4772

Documents catalogued - 7155

Visitors to museum July–August - 349



Facebook 'likes' to August - 622

HERITAGE FAMILY DAY RAFFLE WINNERS

WITH THANKS TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR RAFFLE



First Prize
Lyn – Red ticket E007

Second Prize
Felix – Purple ticket A054

Third Prize
Sue – Red ticket E008

Fourth Prize
Kaye – Purple ticket A022



ABOVE and RIGHT:
First and Second Prize
winners Lyn and Felix with
their prizes

Handle with care

... was the title of a workshop that member Jay Miller recently presented to our Wednesday Working Group.

Jay drew on her 16-year career in museums and collections to share her expertise with us. Her PowerPoint presentation reminded us of how easy it is to lapse into the habits we use to handle items common in our homes. We learnt that ageing also has an effect on our hands, e.g. arthritis, dry and acidity in our skin, which then impacts on our handling of objects.

Jay offered practical solutions such as choosing the right gloves or just washing your hands well (depending on the object), and having digital photographs of objects, documents and original photographs to reduce handling or just to assess potential donations. She showed us various ways of supporting paper, photographs and artefacts in storage and in transporting them around the work room and museum. Good housekeeping equals good handling, which equals preservation of the objects that help to tell the story of the Whitehorse area.

Currently Jay is working with the Mission to Seafarers Victoria, overseeing volunteers with their preparations for their centennial next year. She generously rearranged her schedule to fit in with our Wednesday working day.

In the past Jay has edited our Newsletter, served on Committee, catalogued, volunteered at working bees and Open Days and is currently our Museum Consultant.

Thank you Jay for your generous gift of time and expertise. Thanks also to our new Secretary, Kathy for scones, jam and cream at our morning tea during the workshop.



Vicki Jones-Evans

WHS Committee Contacts

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Vicki Jones-Evans

Secretary

Kath Innes

Treasurer

Vicki Jones-Evans

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Bettina Stevenson
Wendy Standfield

WHS website

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

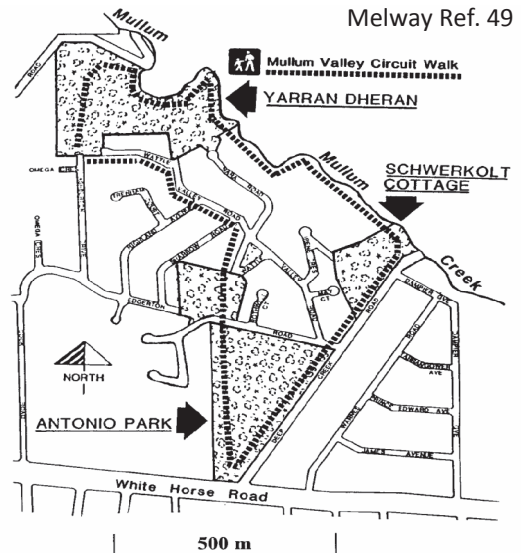
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MITCHAM Vic 3132

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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 9 November

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.”

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available on microfiche for research.

The Whitehorse
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