



Sister city visits Schwerkolt

WHS member Barbara Rogalski shared the following letter received from the Mayor of Matsudo.



Dear Ms Babara Rogalski

I hope all has been going well for you.
Thank you very much for your warm hospitality during our recent visit to Whitehorse.
I enjoyed very much the sights of Whitehorse, especially Schwerkolt Cottage museum and Arts Centre.
I will send your photos at the Schwerkolt Cottage.

Please do contact us when you come to Japan.
It will be a pleasure to show you a little of Mastudo City.

With the weather steadily getting much colder now, I do hope you will take all precautions to stay healthy.

Regards,

藤田 和子
Kazuko Fujita

昭和三十九年

TWENTY kilometres from the centre of Tokyo, within Chiba prefecture, is located Matsudo, Whitehorse's sister city since 1971. With a total area of 62 square kilometres and a population of approximately 482 000, Matsudo is represented by elected Assembly Members and a full time Mayor. Numerous citizen exchanges and visits – particularly of young people – have occurred over the years, including the participation of students, Scouts, Guides, Lions and sporting clubs.

In May of this year a delegation of officials and community members from Matsudo were invited to Schwerkolt Cottage to view the museum, meet some WHS members and have a relaxed box lunch in the grounds (provided by Blackburn Red Cross). The weather, like Baby Bear's porridge, was just right; making it possible for all the sights, both inside and out, to be enjoyed to their maximum.



NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting 1pm Saturday, 13 August
Anne Payne: Volunteering

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

OUR June meeting speaker, Ross McMullin, entertained our members with his talk on Pompey Elliott, and afterwards, during afternoon tea, a number of members purchased a copy of Ross's book on Pompey.

The next meeting is our Annual General Meeting and it is very important that we have a new Treasurer, as Bob will be retiring after nine years. We also need a new Secretary as Rachael is also retiring after five years in this capacity. Raine Biancalt has joined the society to stand for this position. Raine would bring a wealth of experience to the post, both professionally and, most recently, as editor of the *Burwood Bulletin*.

It would be good also to have some new members on Committee to learn the ropes.

The Heritage Family Day is fast approaching. We will need volunteers on the day to assist with setting up, the children's games, picnic races, the raffle, gumboot

throwing and packing up. Please let us know which of these duties you can help us with.

The City of Whitehorse hosted a lunch and tour of the Complex by a visiting delegation from the sister city of Matsudo, Japan; a number of our members were invited too. We received a gift of placemats, which are to be added to our Collection, and a very nice letter from the Mayor of Matsudo (reproduced on page 1 of this newsletter).

The speaker at our AGM will be our member Anne Payne, Whitehorse Citizen of the Year, speaking on volunteering. See you at our new meeting time of 1pm.

Vicki Jones Evans

Matsudo placemats presented to the society



WHS Members and friends are advised . . .

that subscription fees for 2016–2017 are now payable.

Fees are unchanged.

Kindly complete the Application Renewal form enclosed with this newsletter and return it ASAP to our membership secretary.

CONTENTS

President's Report	2	From The Reporter	5
June Meeting Report	3	Diary Dates	6
Oldest Victorian Native?	4	2016 AGM Agenda/Nomination form	7

June Meeting Report



OUR speaker this month was author and historian Ross McMullin, who told us of the remarkable and long unremembered story of Brigadier General Harold “Pompey” Elliott, whose life Ross had researched for his book covering the war experiences of this interesting man.

In joining up, Elliott left behind a wife and two children, but he was a great communicator throughout the war, writing to them regularly. Thirty-six years old in 1914, Pompey was a larger-than-life character who was popular with his men even though he was a fierce disciplinarian who openly declared that he submitted them to more rigorous training than that endured by those of any other commander. He did not suffer fools gladly, and was often in trouble with his superiors because, as Ross said, he “called a spade a bloody shovel”. Another aspect of his character was represented in his sartorial scruffiness – which led, on one leave in London, to his being arrested for impersonating an officer, the MPs involved concluding that no one that scruffy could really be a Brigadier.

So how did he achieve his immense popularity with his men? Ross summed it up as his possession of the “three Cs”: Courage, Character and Capacity. He was a brilliant tactician, a fierce fighter, and would never send his men where he was not willing to go himself. In fact, he so often placed himself in harm’s way that his survival of the war was something of a minor miracle.

He commanded the 7th Battalion at Gallipoli, and his description of Lone Pine in a private letter to a friend demonstrates the character which lay behind his popularity – and prompted his fiery defence of their welfare with his superiors.

“The weather was hot and the flies pestilential. When anyone speaks to you of the glory of war, picture to yourself a narrow line of trenches, two and sometimes three deep with bodies, and think too of your best friends; for that is what these boys become by long association with you. Mangled and torn beyond description by the bombs and blighted and blackened by decay and crawling with maggots. Live amongst this for days. This is war, and such is glory, whatever the novelist may say.”

With the welfare of the soldiers always at heart, he would often visit his wounded men in hospital whenever on leave.

After Gallipoli, Pompey was promoted to command the 15th Brigade for the rest of the war. They were posted to the Western Front and arrived in France just in time to experience the calamity of Fromelles. Despite his inexperience of Western Front conditions, Pompey at once saw that the hair-brained attack was doomed to fail. He succeeded in convincing a British officer of this by taking him forward and showing him why it was doomed; nonetheless, his superiors were not persuaded and in one night the Australian casualties of more than 5000 equalled the combined casualties of the Boer War, Korea and Vietnam. About one third of these were sustained in Pompey’s brigade.

In 1918 he and his men helped save the French village of Villers-Bretonneux. Many of its inhabitants were already on the road fleeing when they saw AIF uniforms approaching them. “Les Australiens merveilleux!” they cried, for the Australian’s reputation in battle preceded them; many turned around and returned to their homes, confident that the AIF would stop the Germans. At this time Pompey wrote: “The AIF has hitherto accomplished nothing to be compared in importance with the work they have in hand just now. I was never so proud of being Australian as I am today. The gallant bearing and joyous spirit of the men at the prospect of the fight thrills you through and through. You simply cannot despair or be downhearted. Whatever the odds against, you can feel their spirits rising the more the danger seems to threaten. It is glorious indeed to be with them”.

What the Australians did in 1918, asserts Ross, influenced the destiny of the world more than they had ever done before or have ever done since. The successful defence of Villers-Bretonneux halted once and for all the German advance. The gratitude of the inhabitants is still to be seen in each classroom of the local school (rebuilt with donations from Australian school children) and on the roof of one of its outbuildings, in the words “Ne jamais oublier l’Australie (Never forget Australia)”.

After the war and through the 1920s, so popular and well known was he that any schoolboy surnamed Elliott was liable to be nicknamed “Pompey”. He was elected to parliament, where he continued his characteristic approach to bureaucracy; but unfortunately his deep and abiding sense of injustice, combined with the strain of his war service, probably caused him in 1931 to end his life.

Judith Fry

OLDEST VICTORIAN NATIVE?

A query to WHS about passengers on the *David Clark*, a vessel that arrived in Melbourne from Scotland in October 1839, led to the following interesting journey back 100 years and beyond.

The *Weekly Times* of Saturday, 3 June 1922 held a small article on page 12 entitled "Oldest Victorian Native", which ran as follows.

Mr John Howard, of Thorpdale South, claims to be the oldest Victorian native now living. He was born at Nunawading in 1842, and celebrated his 80th birthday a few weeks ago. Apart from the fact that his eyes are slightly weak, he is in the best of health and retains all his faculties. Mr Howard's father came to Australia with John Pascoe Fawkner, who built the first house in Melbourne on the site now occupied by the Elizabeth street post office. Mr Howard went to Gippsland about 40 years ago. He has a large store of interesting reminiscences of early Melbourne.

An interesting little article, I'm sure you will agree. But that's not where the story ends. Six weeks later, on July 22, the newspaper ran a follow-up piece as a result of reader response. Two earlier births were cited.

A correspondent claims the title for Mr Henry Kettle, who, he states, was born near where Queen street now is, in 1838. He was 84 on July 14. Mr Kettle has been a sawmiller and a farmer in various parts of Victoria, and has been living at Gisborne for 15 years. He is still able to do light work.

Mr Edward Stephens believes that his father and the father of Mr Howard were shipmates on the vessel on which John Pascoe Fawkner came to Australia. Mr Stephens was born in Melbourne in 1840, and has not seen

Melbourne since 1852, but he expects to see it next year. His health is still good, and he works from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. – a hard day's work for many youngsters.

The title of oldest Victorian, it seems, was relinquished; but not without Mr Howard retaining the honour of being a "sturdy pioneer". Indeed, when he died two years later a somewhat longer story was run. It was headed "Pioneer Passes" and paid tribute if not to Victoria's, then surely to Nunawading's, oldest native.

With the death of Mr John Howard a link with an interesting past is severed. Mr Howard was born in 1842 at Nuna Wading in Victoria, and was one of the oldest native born residents of Victoria.

His father came out with the famous J. Faulkner, and was a ship's carpenter. He built the first house for Faulkner in Melbourne, and also built the first boat that sailed on the Yarra. His mother arrived in Victoria in the "David Clark," which had the honor of being one of the first immigrant ships to land at Williamstown. Both these sturdy pioneers had to live the rough, hard life experienced when Melbourne was a village of a few huts carved out of the bush which grew right down to the banks of the Yarra. They had to contend with all the dangers of uncivilised life, and many weary months used to elapse between the irregular communications with the outside world. It was from this stock that Mr Howard came.

His early days being spent in such turbulent times, Mr Howard's life was naturally full of incident. The sensational gold rushes took place in his youth, and he was at Bendigo when that tent city reached the height of its



roaring purple patches. In fact, at the age of ten years, he saw the first gold being obtained at Golden Gully, Bendigo.

[The year he journeyed towards Melbourne] was one of the wettest seasons ever experienced, and he camped in a hollow log at Trafalgar South for six weeks before being able to proceed on his journey.

He eventually arrived at Thorpdale, and carved a home for himself out of the bush. He was the first resident of that district to start the paling splitting industry. In those days, goods were brought from Trafalgar to the tiniest settlement on pack horses. There were no roads; rough bush tracks twining through the dense scrub and around the towering bush giants being the only connecting link.

Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter

CIRCULATING IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BLACKBURN AND MITCHAM AND DONCASTER.

Volume 45 Number 31

Friday, 5 August 1932

Price Twopence

DISTRICT COURT

—:o:—

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1932.

Before Mr. T. M. Wade, P.M., and Messrs. J. Sneddon and J. R. Keford, J's.P.

NOT REPORTING AN ACCIDENT.

Ernest E. Gallus, L.L. Vale road, Vermont, was charged (a) that being the driver of a motor vehicle involved in an accident he failed to report same to the police, and (b) failing to give his name and address to a person injured in an accident.

Joseph J. Raymond, a school boy, residing at 3 Boronia street, Surrey Hills, said that about 4.15 p.m. on July 10 he was riding his bicycle home from school east along Canterbury road. He made a turn to go into Broughton road, and when near the street line of the intersection he was struck by a motor car. The car stopped almost as soon as it struck him, and the man got out. The man asked witness if he had been hurt, and he had had such a fright that he said "No." Afterwards he found that his leg near the knee had been cut and bruised. A crowd of boys gathered round, and one of them called out, "Here comes a policeman." The man then got in the car and drove away.

Constable Barber, of the Surrey Hills police station, said he was in the vicinity of the accident at the time, and while walking towards the spot saw a man get into a car and drive away. The boy was bleeding from the leg and the bicycle was damaged. No accident had been reported at Surrey Hills, which was the nearest police station.

Gallus, on oath, said that a boy was riding a bicycle along Canterbury road in front of him. Witness tooted and the boy swung to the left and then to the right to turn into Broughton road. Witness swerved and slowed down, but hit him about two feet before he managed to pull up. He got out, and asked the boy if he was hurt, and as he said "No," and started to walk away he thought it was all right. He did not see the policeman coming nor did he hear another boy say there was one. He did not report the incident because he did not consider there was anything to report. Cross-examined, he said he had been driving a car for about five years, but did not know it was compulsory for him to report an accident.

Fined £3 on the first and £2 on the second charge.

MILITARY GEAR NOT RETURNED.

The following fines were imposed on members or ex-members of the 24th Battalion for failing to return various articles of military equipment issued to them:—

John Rae Johnston, Station street, Box Hill; fined £2 and to return or pay the value within 14 days, in default 10 days' imprisonment.

Bruce Kay, address unknown, last place of residence, Rutland road, Box Hill; fined £2, and ordered to return the articles within 14 days, in default 14 days' imprisonment.

Wm. M. N. Jones, Carween avenue, Mitcham, appeared on a similar charge. It was stated in the course of the evidence that the articles had been placed on a waggon during a camp, and had been lost. Jones appeared, and the case was adjourned for four weeks to enable him to pay the value of the missing articles.

Major J. McArthur appeared to prosecute in these cases.

EDUCATIONAL.

Horton Girls' School

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A.F.S.N. Co. Ltd., 427 Collins St., Melbourne, G2708.
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Huddart Parker Ltd., 406 Collins St., Melbourne, C8000.
McIlwraith, McEasahern Ltd., 24 William St., Melbourne, C9440.
Melbourne Steamship Co. Ltd., 21 King Street, Melbourne, C8982.

OPEN COLUMN

INCONSISTENCY.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—For some time past I have watched with interest the activity of a Mitcham councillor on behalf of ratepayers of this shire, but the above councillor has recently developed an inconsistency which at least demands explanation, inasmuch that despite the warnings of a capable acknowledgment that the finances of engineer and also his own personal the shire are so depleted as to render it impossible to effect all necessary maintenance work, he ardently supports the allocation of £500 of the ratepayers' money in order to make unemployed men work for their sustenance on works that are not of urgent necessity. I would remind the worthy councillor that his duty as a municipal representative is to help administer the requirements of this shire in the interests of all ratepayers, including those unfortunate enough to be unemployed, and not the supporting of a party policy.

—Yours, &c.,
"RATEPAYER."

ORIGIN OF CANTERBURY.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Your account of the origin of the word Canterbury is very interesting. May I state that in the sixties or early seventies Canterbury road was called Delaney's road after a publican. Then it was changed to Canterbury road, but there was no Canterbury till the railway came. Then the district took the name from the road, as previously Auburn and Glenferrie stations were named after their cross roads. Hoping this information may be useful to you.

—Yours, &c.,
MRS. M. DEMAINE.

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HERITAGE FAMILY DAY 2016

**Sunday 11 September
11am to 4pm**

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

Special Attractions:

Face Painting with Fairy Susie
Guided tours of the cottage
Old-fashioned picnic races (3pm)
Jamieson's Run Animal Farm
Wolseley Car Club
Devonshire teas by Blackburn Red Cross
Sausage Sizzle by Forest Hill Rotary
Tip Top Tom's Magic (all day)

View our museum displays

Other attractions:

Bush Artist's Camp Blacksmiths
Meccano Club Lacemaking
Fun with Bubbles Spinners and Weavers
Games for Children Koonung Wood Turners
Electric model trains Knitting
Chinese brush painting

please observe road rules

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS ON THE DAY.
PLEASE CONTACT THE SOCIETY
(WEDNESDAYS)**

Phone: 9873 4946

email: whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com



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



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 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, 13 August

1.00pm Annual General Meeting

*Anne Payne (Whitehorse Citizen of the Year):
Volunteering*

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*

Statistics

Photographs catalogued	-	4214
Artefacts catalogued	-	4767
Documents catalogued	-	7127
Visitors to museum May-June	-	277
 Facebook 'likes' to June	-	606

**The 2016 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 1.00 pm on Saturday, 13 August 2016**

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting August 2015
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 2016-2017
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 Rachael Cottle 9873 4946 or 9724 9298



**Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. AGM 2016
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, 13 August 2016.

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

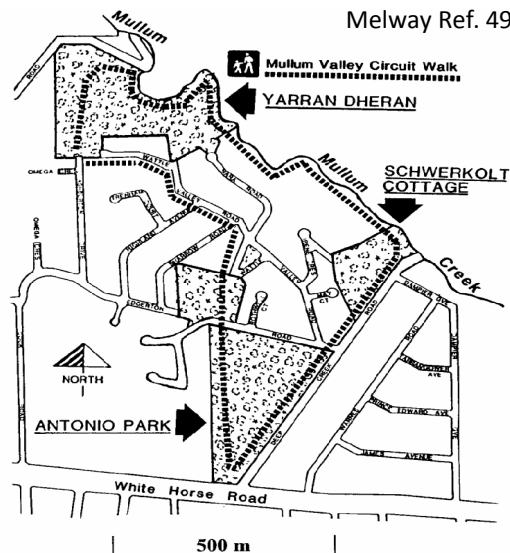
Email

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Postal Address

P.O. Box 272
MITCHAM Vic 3132

Melway Ref. 49 D7



Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 7 September

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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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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Deep Creek Road, Mitcham, VIC 3132

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