



NEWSLETTER

Series 25, No. 4

July–August 2017

ABN 44 352 041 634 Inc. AO 012235J

VALE BILL GRAY

It is with regret that we report the death of our past president William (Bill) Gray. Bill retired from the public service at a time when the society was in need of a president to replace Joan Rocznio, who had stayed on longer than she intended, owing to the difficulty that was had in filling the presidency.

Bill's wife Beryl had been a member of the society and the Wednesday Working Group and sought her husband's help to bring some stability to the then struggling society. Bill held the position for 9 years (1985–1993) and continued to prosecute the advancement of WHS over that time and for a long time thereafter.

As well as initiating the incorporation of the Society, he was on the committee which selected Diane Sydenham as the author to write a history of Nunawading (*Windows on Nunawading*); was involved when Council purchased Strathdon with a bi-centennial grant; kept an eye on the building of the Local History Room; supported the public view when there was talk of the complex being fenced, and all this while keeping a firm hand on events within the Society.

He saw the difficult conditions the members were working under to save our local history and met with the then Nunawading Council to seek improvements. He achieved the society receiving a grant for equipment and Stage One of an extension to the museum, and participated with local schools and businesses with talks and displays.

Bill retired as president in 1993, but continued as a committee member and assisted whenever possible; for example manning a stall on Heritage Days.

He will be remembered with fondness and grateful thanks for his loyal contributions to the progress of the society. A true gentleman.

Valda Arrowsmith



NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting 1pm Saturday, 12 August
Peter McPhee "A Snapshot of the History of Australia"



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

WE are delighted to have received a cheque from Mitcham Rotary for \$2500 for the purchase of the new camera and equipment required to photograph documents and artifacts.

Sixty-four people attended our very successful book launch (see page 3) of *The Amazing Life of Mary Schwerkolt*. Gerry Robinson, when launching the book, spoke about the importance of family history. Rosalie spoke about her family, and many members thereof attended in support.

The following week Pat, Kathy, Rachael, Lyn Ford and I attended the Association of Eastern Historical Societies' (AOEHS) biennial conference at Karralyka in Ringwood. As well as a very interesting range of speakers who covered a similarly stimulating range of topics, delicious morning and afternoon teas and luncheon were provided. Cheryl Griffin, RHSV Support Officer, spoke on the future of historical societies, and the conference finished with a speaker from

Museum Victoria who acquainted us with their online Victorian Collection.

Our Heritage Day is fast approaching, so please let Kathy know if you can help on the day with items for the Cake Stall; or helping on the stall, gumboot throwing, old-fashioned games and picnic races.

I hope to see you all at our AGM – it's come around again!

*Vicki Jones Evans
for
Pat Richardson*



Vicki, Pat, Rachael, Kathy and Lyn at the AOEHS biennial conference

WHS Members and friends are advised . . .

that subscription fees for 2017–2018 are now payable.

Fees are unchanged.

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

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Launching an amazing life

WE met on Saturday June 17 to celebrate the launch of Rosalie Schwerkolt Whalen's book about the "amazing life" of her forebear Mary. After the usual General Meeting had whispered itself to an inconspicuous close, the unveiling began with a talk by Gerry Robinson in which he analysed History its various aspects and written forms.

"Each history is of course valid, but there is one field that seems to most people to be quite special. This is biography," said Gerry. "Here we meet real people. We learn of aims, achievements, disappointments, attitudes and relationships. Our understanding and appreciation of others can help us in our own life journeys." He went on to ask "Who reads biographies?" and answered his own question: anyone!

Speaking of Rosalie's book, he congratulated her, saying, "Far from being a daunting dry tome, it is visually attractive. The colour, cover, font size, numerous images and uncluttered layout add to its appeal. Readers will enjoy the variety of images . . ."

He felt that it was important to consider the title chosen: "The *Amazing Life* . . ." It begged comparison with another, recently read, work *The Audacious Adventures of Dr. Louis Lawrence Smith* by John Poynter. "Both L.L. Smith and Mary Schwerkolt lived in Whitehorse; however their similarities, and the similarities of their biographies, end there. Professor Poynter's academic work comprises 694 pages in two volumes, with a bibliography of 97 reference books. Some will look at it, many might refer to it, but few will read it. However Rosalie's account of Mary is presented in such an enticing form that many will be encouraged to both look at it all and read it all".

Gerry then handed over to Rosalie, who began by expressing her gratitude to friends and family members who had travelled – in one case from Hobart – to attend the launch. She went on to share something of the background which ultimately led to her writing the book, declaring that she was, to begin with, an unwilling historian.

"My mother had just died at the age of 92," she said. "and in one of her cupboards was an old tin trunk into which my father had thrown any documents that needed saving and amazingly he had kept 40 years of correspondence from his Aunt Mary which amounted to 100 letters and scores of postcards.

I had always been a member of and maintained contact with Friends of Schwerkolt Cottage and before long Ted Arrowsmith approached me for all the family information I could supply because he was writing a book about August Schwerkolt and the



Gerry Robinson launches the book.

cottage. So that really got me busy and as a result he produced [his] amazing book about the family and cottage and how the council had acquired and restored it".

Rosalie joined the Wednesday Working Group, and was eventually approached to give a speech about Mary Schwerkolt at a Whitehorse Council Women's Forum.

"At the end of my speech, I was approached by several people wanting to know how they could read about Mary's amazing life and so that prompted me to set about putting this book together".

And so, the telling of an amazing life commenced.

Rosalie concluded by thanking Megan Hopley, Chris Gray and Wendy Stanfield for their help in bringing the project to fruition.

The final part of the launch was the cutting of the celebratory cake, on the top of which was displayed a reproduction of the book's cover.

Chris Gray



Cutting the cake

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. will be held at the Visitor Centre, Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road Mitcham commencing at 1.00 pm on Saturday 12th August 2017

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome & Apologies
- 2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting August 2016
- 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 2017–2018
- 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 Kathy Innes 9870 9044



**Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. AGM 2017
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,12 August 2017.

FOREST HILL.

STATE SCHOOL.

As an example of the good being derived by children under the new curriculum, the head teacher the other day made available for inspection a number of pastel drawings done by the children. Some of the work gave promise of definite talent, while all bore evidence to the correlation of ideas, and the reaching out of the young mind. The girls of East Burwood school visited Forest Hill last week, and were soundly beaten in a friendly game of basketball.



NOW SHOWING.

Madam Du Barry

(Not suitable for General Exhibition)

COMMENCING SATURDAY, 3rd AUGUST, FOR FOUR NIGHTS.

Eddie Cantor

in

"Kid Millions"

(For General Exhibition.)

Also

"The Richest Girl in the World"

starring

Miriam Hopkins

(Not suitable for General Exhibition)

Matinee, Saturday, at 2.30—"Kid Millions," Episode 6 "Pirate Treasure," Comedies, etc.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 9 and 10.

Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette MacDonald

In the Musical Treat

"The Merry Widow"

Second Attraction

Warner Oland

in

"Charlie Chan in Paris"

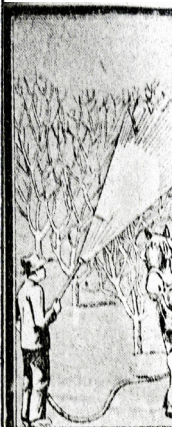
(Both Pictures Not Suitable for General Exhibition.)

Box Plan at Theatre. Phone, WX1418

TUNSTALL.

STRUCK BY CAR.

Last Saturday evening, just after three brothers, Messrs. T. J. and F. C. Kiker, had turned from Metropolitan Avenue into White Horse Road, on their way into Blackburn on foot, they had the misfortune to be struck by a car proceeding in the same direction. They were walking in single file on the side of the road off the tarred portion, but it is thought that the driver, blinded by the headlights of another car meeting him head-on, could not see the pedestrians. All three were injured and badly shaken, but had amazing escapes from more serious injury or death. The brothers are all members of the Blackburn Football Club, with which F. C. and J. have played regularly this season. They are progressing favourably, though F. C. is confined to bed still with a badly cut head and an injured hand. It was rather a curious coincidence that his twenty-first birthday fell on the day following his accident.



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PERSONAL.

—:—

The friends of Mrs. Bert Bullen, East Doncaster, are pleased that she has returned home after having undergone an operation, and is convalescing satisfactorily.

That Mr. August Zerbe, senr., of East Doncaster, is now recovering after a serious illness is giving great satisfaction to his family and friends.

Mr. E. J. Crittenden, of East Burwood, is progressing satisfactorily after having undergone an operation.

The many friends of Mr. Frank Sherrington, of East Burwood Motors, who is at present in hospital, wish him a speedy recovery from his serious illness.

HERITAGE FAMILY DAY 2017

**Sunday 17 September
11am to 4pm**

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

Special Attractions:

Face Painting
Guided tours of the cottage
Pony Rides
Jamieson's Run Animal Farm
Vauxhall Car Club
Devonshire teas by WHS
Sausage Sizzle by Mitcham Rotary
Brumbies Bush Band

View our museum displays

Other attractions:

Balloon Man
Meccano Club
Fun with Bubbles
Games for Children
Electric model trains
Chinese brush painting
Blacksmiths
Lacemaking
Spinners and Weavers
Koonung Wood Turners
Knitting
Old-fashioned picnic races



***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 2017 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 September

Saturday 11 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, 12 August 2017

1.00pm Annual General Meeting

Peter McPhee

A Snapshot of the History of Australia

Saturday, 14 October 2017

1.00pm General Meeting

Graham Bell

*Wandinong Sanctuary – Its History and
Management*


Saturday, 9 December 2017

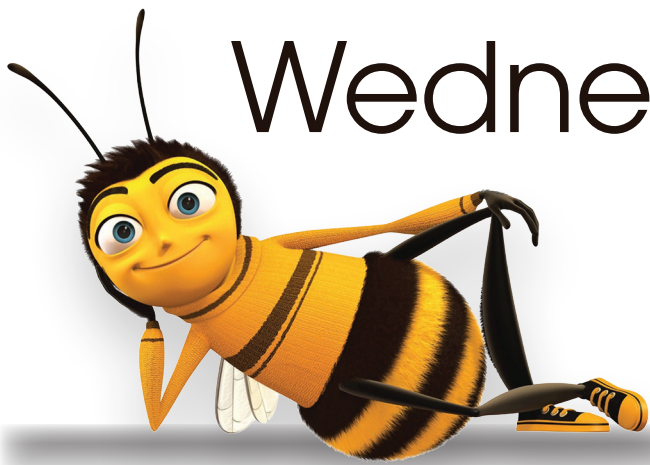
1.00pm General Meeting

A Y Fitzmaurice

A Doll's House – the story

Statistics

Photographs catalogued	-	4253
Artefacts catalogued	-	4792
Documents catalogued	-	7321
Museum visitors May–June		500
 Facebook 'likes' to June	-	676



Wednesday workers

IN each newsletter there is a small note in a discrete part of a page stating how many photographs, documents and artefacts there are in safe keeping. The number is quite staggering, but have you ever thought what exactly is behind those numbers?

You may wonder what we do every week, and why we do it? We like being there and we like what we do. It is also true that we enjoy each other's company, and eat nice biscuits for morning tea. Birthdays – they are special. The birthday person is expected to bring a cake and in return we all sing happy birthday and excuse them from washing up.

The remainder of the time we are dedicated to saving the history of our area, which covers the suburbs of Mitcham, the Blackburns, both Vermons, East Burwood and Nunawading (which had its name changed from Tunstall only recently – i.e. within the last 100 years!).

We all have different interests and abilities that help to make everything run smoothly. As with all organisations, we have a committee who have a myriad of responsibilities other than the work they do on a Wednesday. To put it simply, there is a museum to run, documents – both paper and photographic – to preserve, and a public to inform.

Our standards are high and we are proud to have been accredited with Museums Australia for the last 19 years. The museum displays are the culmination of a lot of conservation and hard work. Before the donated articles are accepted, the Acquisition Committee meets to make a decision as to whether the article is suitable for addition to the collection. When it has been accepted it goes through a rigorous process of cataloguing, a process that involves examining its condition carefully and noting any defects. The results are all written down and stored with an identification number that is attached to the article. It is then stored safely. And it doesn't finish there; a letter of thanks is sent to the donor accompanied by a form that confirms it has been gifted.

The photographs and documents come from various sources, sometimes new, sometimes from a family hoard, but all are treated with equal respect. These too are carefully inspected for condition and content. The photographs are described in detail – sepia, colour, black and white, or faded. The details in the photograph are

noted – who are the people, where are the roads, what are the trees, and what is the date? Everything is noted, numbered, written down, the photographs are placed in an album and the details entered onto the data [text] base.

The written articles go through a similar process. These are either placed in numbered [archival] acid-free plastic sleeves in the filing cabinets or on the shelves. Everything has to have a number.

A data base is a small term that covers an enormous amount of work. Once the items have been catalogued, the information gathered is entered onto computer. Currently our computer-knowledgeable members are scanning, or photographing every document, newspaper and map in our collection for two reasons – ease of access and preservation.

Requests for information via the telephone, email, letter, or by a personal visit are all researched using the data base and our general knowledge of other sources. All are answered as promptly as possible.

Copy for the newsletter is also researched, compiled, edited and finally set for printing on a Wednesday, although a great deal of support work is done after hours. There is always hope that an article will be written about some aspect of the history of the area; if not, a search through old newspapers usually produces something of interest.

The men, who are worth their weight in gold, not only lift and move awkward or heavy objects; they care for and keep the farm machinery in good condition. Their mechanical knowledge is invaluable when unusual machines are donated.

Our work is not confined to the workroom; it also concerns the cleaning of the interiors of all the buildings in the complex. Fortunately, the Whitehorse Council maintains the buildings and the surrounding grounds, while it is the Wednesday Workers who clean the windows, remove the cobwebs and sweep up the dust and rubbish. The date of the next Working Bee is advertised in each newsletter in the hope that more members will respond, rather than leaving it to only a few. It is not arduous, just housekeeping.

All the effort by the Wednesday Workers is worth every minute when we hear compliments from the public. And to continue this work we hope to gain more members who will support the Society in one way or another.

A Y Fitzmaurice. June 2017.

WHS Committee Contacts

President

Pat Richardson
9837 5840

Vice-President

Vicki Jones-Evans

Secretary

Kathy Innes

Treasurer

Vicki Jones-Evans

Local History Room (03) 9873 4946

Newsletter Team

Chris Gray
Wendy Standfield

WHS website

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

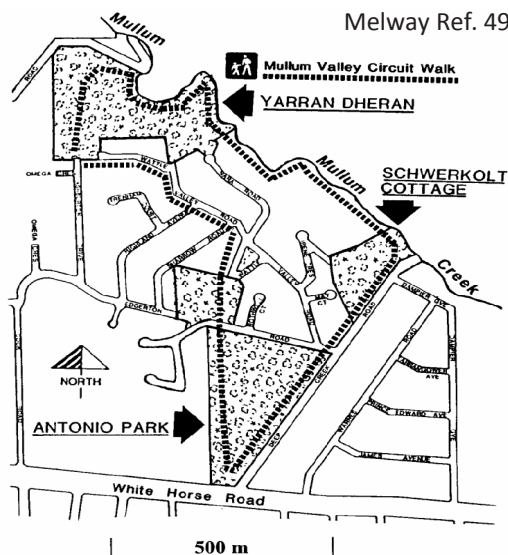
Email

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Postal Address

P.O. Box 272
MITCHAM Vic 3132

Melway Ref. 49 D7



Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 6 September 2017

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



WHITEHORSE

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.



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