



NEWSLETTER

Series 26, No. 2

March–April 2018

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VALE:

Arthur Schwerkolt

11 March 1936 – 2 November 2017

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the death of Arthur Schwerkolt who was the only child of Ernest and Myra Schwerkolt. Ernest was the only son of Louis who inherited the farm and land in Deep Creek Road from his father August Schwerkolt.

Louis, his grandfather, died in 1935, just before Arthur was born, but Arthur was able to spend his childhood with his grandmother and an aunt who lived with him and his parents in a farmhouse on the property not far from Schwerkolt Cottage, which was rented out to tenants.

His father, Ernest, was a carpenter but he farmed his property. It was a subsistence farm and they sold eggs, cream, milk and ducks to their neighbours and only had to buy in flour and sugar. Being an only child, Arthur found himself at the beck and call of his parents. He was required to tend the poultry, pigs and goats and fished the creek and shot rabbits as well as using ferrets to trap them.

Arthur said that they always had plenty to eat and his mother was a splendid cook. During the 1930s and 40s, the extended family would gather

there once a month for lunch and dinner on a Sunday, which was always lots of fun and enjoyed by all. We would catch yabbies in the dam and go for long walks, admiring and picking flowers.

Arthur used to play the banjo mandolin and had a huge pigeon coop.

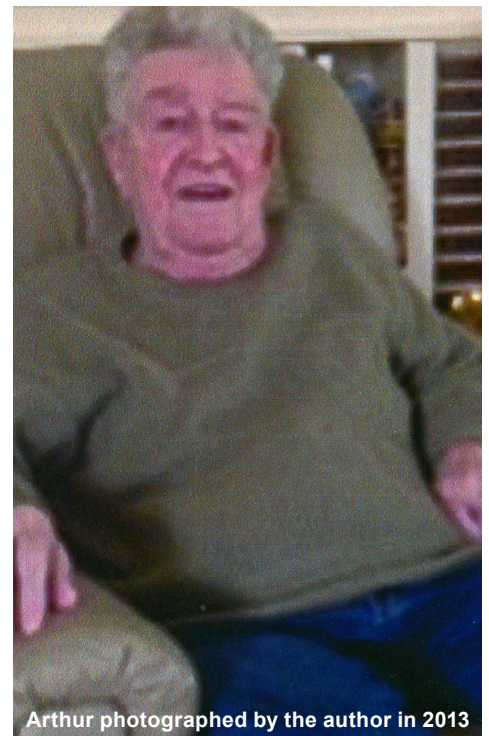
He had an intimate knowledge and memory of the property and provided Ted Arrowsmith with a detailed hand-drawn sketch for his 2004 book *Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum – The Legacy of Johann August Schwerkolt, Pioneer*. (See page 6 for a reproduction).

Arthur was a qualified carpenter – a five year course then. Afterwards he spent three years with a sub-contractor constructing pre-fabricated homes.

In 1968, he married Margaret, who had an eleven-year-old son Gary and an eight-year-old daughter Kerry, both of whom he adopted.

Most of his life he worked with the Board of Works as a contractor driving heavy machinery. He said that his best job was operating a tilt tray truck from 1983. He retired in 1993 at the age of 57. Late in life he did not enjoy good health. He lived at his home at 110 Wantirna Road, Ringwood until just before his death.

Arthur was always a great source



Arthur photographed by the author in 2013

of knowledge about the Schwerkolt property and surrounds and had an amazing memory from his childhood. This has been of enormous benefit to the Whitehorse Historical Society and his sketch of the Schwerkolt property, which appeared in Ted Arrowsmith's book on the Cottage, identified the location of all the old buildings and plantings that he remembered from his childhood.

He will be sadly missed by all.

Rosalie Whalen

NEXT MEETING

General Meeting 1pm Saturday 14 April 2018
Jan Davidson: Cemeteries – In General.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Helen Opie addresses the meeting

Dear Members

OUR visiting speaker at the February meeting was Helen Opie. If ever there was a speaker who could hold your attention, she was it! Her story revolved around an uncle, killed in the First World War, who was buried in an unmarked grave pit. When the grave pit was finally discovered many years later, the task of body identification began. With Helen's family feeling that her uncle could be among the missing her DNA was sought and, to their delight, there was found to be a match. She was present at Fromelles for a service led by Prince Charles that was held to commemorate the opening of the new Pheasant Woods Cemetery where the bodies of the soldiers were re-interred.

A large crowd attended the meeting and three people who attended the meeting have joined as Members and are volunteering their services to the Society on a part-time basis.

A display has been installed in the Nunawading Library which will run for the entire month of March.

Eleven Members attended our important planning day on 19 February and, following full and frank discussions, timeframes and priorities were determined. Further details of the proposed plans and directions will follow in the next Newsletter after the Committee has discussed outcomes of the Planning Day at their next meeting.

Pat Richardson

Great-great-granddaughters of August Schwerkolt visit from USA



CINDY and Vicky Baur are visiting Melbourne from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to visit the ancestral home of their great grandmother, Mary Schwerkolt, youngest child of August Schwerkolt.

Their brother Joe visited in 2001 following the visit of their grandfather Walter in 1990. Walter was amazed to see the childhood home of his mother Mary, which had been so lovingly restored by the local community. He was thrilled to sit and remember everything that she had told him about her Cottage in Australia and the circumstances that prevented her from ever returning to it.

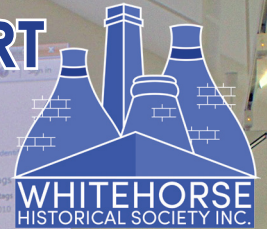
Cindy and Vicky have taken masses of photos of it to share with their family in America and were delighted to see Mary's wedding gown on display in the Museum, which their family had so generously donated to us.

Rosalie Whalen

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FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT



Helen Opie My Visit to Fromelles



HELEN provided an insight into the history of the battle of Fromelles and the story of how the remains of the missing soldiers (including her Uncle) were found and identified.

She explained that the battle at Fromelles took place over July 19–20, 1916 and was the worst day in Australian military history, as in a single day and night of dreadful combat 5533 Australians and 1500 English soldiers were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

Many of those killed behind German lines were subject to an unconfirmed fate. In reality many had been gathered up and were buried by the Germans in a mass grave in Pheasant Wood, which was not located by the post-war discovery teams. That it was found at all was entirely due to the tireless efforts of Melbourne schoolteacher Lambis Eglisios who had undertaken extensive research to try and account for hundreds of soldiers "missing" after the battle.

After their discovery in 2008, the remains were subject to forensic analysis using DNA and related technologies. Many have been identified, although the process is complicated by virtue of the fact that a female descendant is required to establish a familial match.

This is where Helen's involvement began. She was contacted by the Army and asked to provide a DNA sample to assist in the identification of her Uncle, Private Thomas Joseph Cosgriff. After assisting with obtaining a DNA sample from second female relative it was confirmed that the remains of Private Cosgriff had



been located and would be reinterred at the new Pheasant Wood cemetery.

Helen was invited by the President of the War Graves Commission, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent, to attend the dedication of the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery as a VIP on the 19 July 2010.

Helen and her son Ross, together with hundreds of relatives and descendants, travelled 12,000 miles to watch HRH Prince Charles accompany on foot the gun carriage containing the coffin of the last soldier to be buried at the new cemetery located on the edge of the village.

Helen then regaled our audience with her experiences of when she attended the Official Reception and was introduced to Prince Charles. After meeting him she asked where Camilla was and had a chat with her and ended up inviting Camilla to catch up for a coffee if she ever comes to Melbourne.

The members and visitors thoroughly enjoyed her talk and we thank Helen for providing such a fascinating and informative presentation.

Kathy Innes

THE WALKER SAGA

Part Three: THE WALKER CHILDREN



The extended family at Box Hill RSL 16 August 2016 (left to right): BACK ROW; Ken and Carol Barelli (Jessie), Bob and Lynne Rosenthal (Jessie), David and Sue Clarke (Jessie), Robert Walker (Roy), Christine Chappell (Roy), Anne Walker (Roy), Francis Millar (Roy), Vernon and Shirley Burchett (Vera), Alex Millar (Roy), John Peterson (Vera), ?, Christine Peterson (Vera), John Paul Peterson (Vera), FRONT ROW; Fiona, Imogen, Charlotte and Tristan Walker (Vera).

JESSIE Lenore married Lou Barelli in 1917. Jessie trained as a dressmaker and worked in the city before her marriage. The Barelli family lived in Mitcham with seven children, William Andrew (Bill), Louis James (Lou), Percy, Norman Clyde, Florence, Ruby and Edwin (Ned). It is not known how or why they came to Mitcham. Their father, Edwin, had emigrated in 1862 and may have initially settled in Dunolly, north of Maryborough, where they later held land. It appears that Edwin did sufficiently well to return to England while his children stayed in Australia. Bill Barelli worked in the tile works and Lou initially trained as a butcher. After his marriage he bought the Mitcham bakery, which he and Jessie ran successfully with their two sons Alan and Doug until it was sold to Tip Top Bakeries in 1962. Comments made by my father indicate that Jessie was the “brains” in the business, while Lou provided much of the “muscle”; but that is another story.

Charles Fitzroy, known always as Roy, was born in 1899. He was dux of Box Hill State School in 1913, won a state scholarship and was eventually permitted by his parents to begin secondary education at the Melbourne Continuation School (now called Melbourne High School). His wife Ethel recalls: “In 1916 he joined the Education Department and was sent to Vermont State School to be trained by the headmaster. He was able to continue his academic studies and prepare for university entrance at night. His next move was to Canterbury State School and after a year or so, he was appointed to a teaching position at Scotch College. There, he continued

his studies, now university studies, at night. He obtained his Diploma of Education in 1923, his Bachelor of Arts in 1924 and later his Master of Arts.”

Roy Walker and Ethel Ingamells had met briefly and their friendship became a great love affair – much to the consternation of the Ingamells family, especially Ethel’s father, Herbert “Bert” Ingamells, who was a quite wealthy businessman and director of the men’s department at Beath, Schiess and Co., clothing manufacturers in Flinders Lane, Melbourne. He and his wife decided Ethel should be sent off to Fiji for a year to live with Ethel’s aunt and uncle, Stan and Mable Albon, who were missionaries at Nabouwalu Methodist Mission, Vanua Levu, Fiji. All was to no avail however, as when Ethel returned from Fiji she and Roy were married on 17 May 1924 at Box Hill Methodist Church.

In 1925, they moved to Ballarat where Roy took up a position at Ballarat College. He was only there for 18 months when he received a call from the school committee at Box Hill Grammar School for him to come for an interview for the role of Headmaster. He was only 26 at the time. Roy and Ethel moved back to Box Hill and into the run-down school premises at Rose Street, Box Hill. He successfully pressed the Methodist Church to buy the Edwards estate, “Gwynton Park” in Box Hill South. Roy and Ethel with their three little girls – Mavis, Jean and Kathleen – moved to “Gwynton Park” in the winter of 1931. Roy was to remain Headmaster of Box Hill Grammar School (now Kingswood College) until 1963. They had eight children in total, Mavis, Jean, Kathleen, Ruth, Evan

(continued on page 7)

From the Nunawading Reporter

CIRCULATING IN THE CITY OF NUNAWADING AND THE SHIRE OF DONCASTER AND TEMPLESTOWE AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS

Volume 66 Number 12

Thursday, 2 April 1953

Price Threepence

GOVERNOR AT NUNAWADING

—oOo— YOUTH FESTIVAL AIDS HOSPITAL

The Governor, General Sir Dallas Brooks, visited Nunawading on Saturday on the occasion of the Youth Festival organised by local auxiliaries in aid of the Box Hill and District Hospital.

The Governor was loudly cheered by the children of the municipality as he drove down Springvale road and turned into the ground at the Railway entrance. He was met by the president of the Nunawading and Forest Hill Auxiliary of the hospital, Cr. G. Savage and Mrs. Savage, and the secretary, Mr. J. H. Jewell, and Mrs. Jewell.

Guard of Honour

Sir Dallas Brooks then proceeded to inspect a guard of honour formed from the scouts of the district under the leadership of the district commissioner, Mr. Bennett. When the inspection of the scouts was completed, the Governor then inspected the guard of honour formed by the Nunawading Youth Club under the leadership of First Constable A. W. Lucas. Owing to the absence of Lady Brooks, the Governor then proceeded to inspect the guard of honour formed by the girl guides under Commissioner Ballantyne, and the girls of the Nunawading Girls' Club.

Commendation

Commending the guard leader on their excellent appearance, Sir Dallas asked them to convey to the members of the guard of honour his thanks and appreciation on their fine bearing.

His Excellency then proceeded to the dais, attended by the A.D.C., Captain T. Kirwin-Taylor, and accompanied by Col. and Mrs. Spraggett, Cr. Savage then presented the Mayor and Mayoress, Cr. and Mrs. C. Broadbear, Mr. F. Davis, M.H.R., and Mrs. Davis, Mr. R. J. Gray, M.L.A., and Mrs. Gray, Cr. R. H. L. Sparks, M.B.E., and Mrs. Sparks, Mr. Crosbie, secretary of the Box Hill Hospital, and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Reid.

Remembrance of Queen

Approaching the microphone, Sir Dallas said, "I feel sure that at this time of national mourning you would all like to join in a min-

ute's silence as a mark of respect and tribute to our late Queen, so beloved by all of us."

Release of Pigeons

After the silence had been observed, the scouts assisted in the release of over 500 pigeons provided by members of the Bayswater and Nunawading Homing Club. These made a spectacular sight as they circled the ground and rose higher and higher.

March Past

The Victoria Police Band led a march past of the youth of the district—the members of the Blackburn Amateur Cycling Club wearing the sashes that they had won, the Nunawading Youth Club, the Nunawading Girls' Club, the scouts, the girl guides and the school children of Nunawading, Mitcham, and Rooks road, members of the Scotch dancing clubs.

The scouts semaphored a message of welcome, this was followed by a fine display of riding by the cyclists of the Blackburn Amateur Cycling Club and displays by the Nunawading Youth Club, the Nunawading Girls' Club, and a display of motor cycle pacing. The girl guides erected the Flag of all the Nations. The Scotch dancing pupils gave fine displays of Scottish dancing.

Housing Commission Average

100 APPLICATIONS A WEEK

The chairman of the Housing Commission has announced that new applicants to the commission for houses have reached 100 a week.

He said the commission's waiting list had decreased by 20 per cent. in the past few years. It now contained 9,000 to 10,000 "live" city applications and 6,000 from the country. The list had been substantially cut because the commission had built 11,000 houses in the past four years—2,484 in 1949, 2,490 in 1950, 2,759 in 1951, 3,253 in 1952.

Mr. Davey said that nearly 4,000 houses would be built this year.

In some country towns the commission had satisfied the demand for houses and was allotting some to New Australians. The commission had decided not to accept applications yet from New Australians for city houses. So far, the commission had sold only 95 houses to tenants. The sales plan was being held up by the Commonwealth-States housing agreement—the Commonwealth insisted on only cash-in-full sales.

NUNAWADING

FOR CHARITY

The final meeting of the Mayoress of Nunawading's Charitable Appeal Committee before the annual ball was held at the town hall on Monday. The Mayoress, Mrs. C. Broadbear, presided over what was almost a full attendance of members. Everyone was very pleased with the numbers of offers of help received and the interest being shown in the ball throughout the city. Catering arrangements for the home-made supper are well in hand thanks to the enthusiasm and co-operation of members and friends. Square dancing, it was reported, would be represented at the ball by Jack Murphy's No. 1 set. Ticket secretaries were appointed and the Mayoress asked that unsold tickets should be returned as soon as possible.

CAMPAIGN PLANNED FOR AMBULANCE

At a public meeting convened by the Mayor, Cr. C. Broadbear, at the municipal chambers on Thursday evening, March 26, it was agreed that during May a house-to-house canvass should be made throughout the municipality in order to raise the £2,000 required for Nunawading's contribution towards the proposed Maroondah Highway and District Ambulance Service station at Ringwood.

Representative

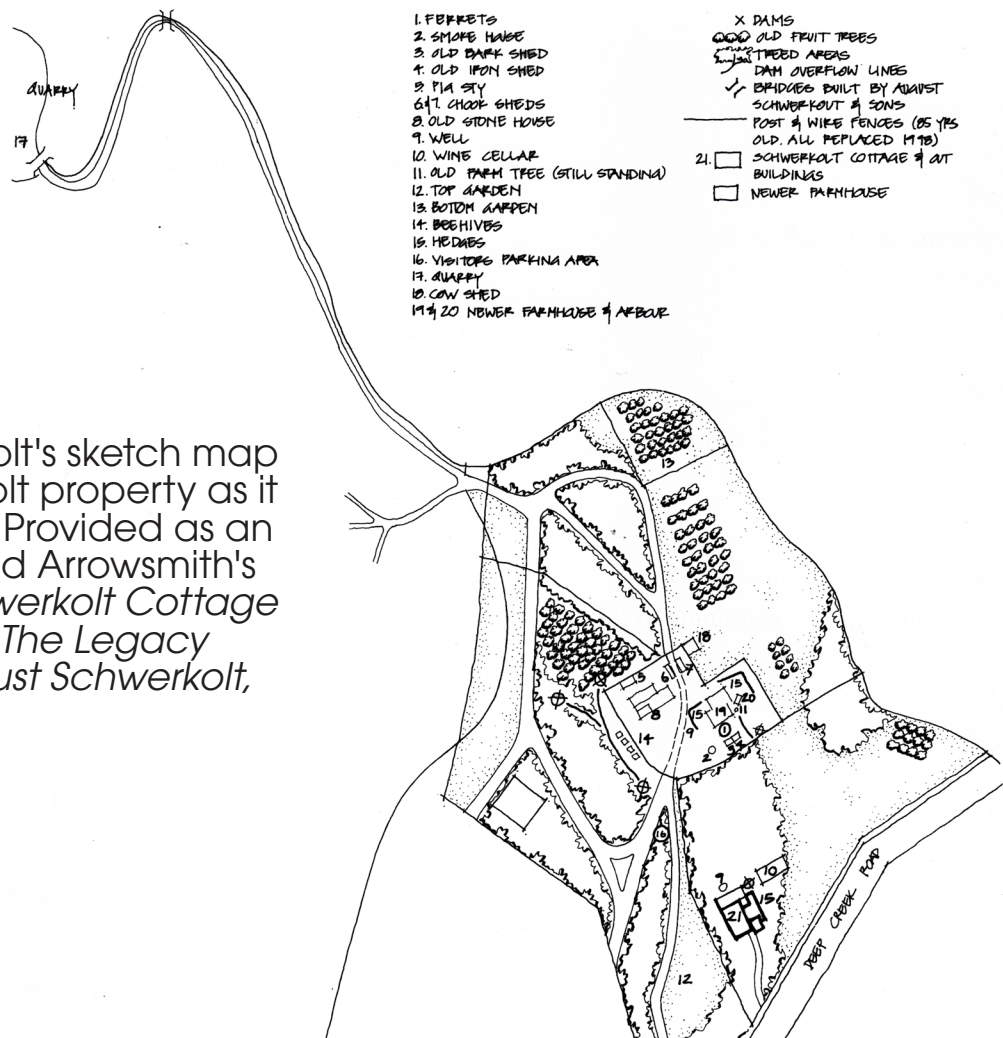
Present at the meeting was the Mayor of Ringwood, Cr. Corr, and representatives of a number of local district organisations.

In opening the meeting, the Mayor said he had asked the representatives of the various associations working in the city together not as representing their organisations in the first place, but as representative citizens whose interest and efforts were towards the progress of the city.

Quotas

Cr. Broadbear outlined the plan for the ambulance station as proposed two years ago. £5000 was required of which Ringwood besides, having donated the site, had already raised £2,000, the remaining £3,000 representing the quotas allocated to the city of Nunawading and the shire of Lilydale.

After the Mayor of Ringwood had described the methods of raising that borough's quota so successfully, Cr. Broadbear proposed the formation of a committee to arrange a house-to-house campaign during the month of May.



Arthur Schwerkolt's sketch map of the Schwerkolt property as it was circa 1936. Provided as an appendix for Ted Arrowsmith's 2004 book *Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum – The Legacy of Johann August Schwerkolt, Pioneer*.

Whitehorse Historical Society
DIARY DATES

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.

Saturday, 14 April
1.00pm General Meeting
Jan Davidson

Cemeteries – In General

Saturday, 16 June
1.00pm General Meeting
Gary Presland

Local Indigenous Groups

Saturday, 11 August
1.00pm Annual General Meeting
Vicki Jones-Evans
A History of Lacemaking

Whitehorse Historical Society
2018 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 5 May
Saturday 8 September
Saturday 10 November

Please come and help even if you can only offer an hour of your time.

Statistics

Photographs catalogued	-	4273
Artefacts catalogued	-	4807
Documents catalogued	-	7439
Museum visitors January–February		384
 Facebook 'likes' to December	-	710

THE WALKER SAGA

Part Three: THE WALKER CHILDREN

(continued from page 4)

(named after Ivan), Anne, Frances and Robert. All of the children grew up with the other boarders, living in the dormitories and attending the school.

The story of the school is best read in Dick Cotter's book *Farmers, Ringmasters and Builders*, and in Roy and Ethel's daughter Frances Millar's book *More Than Just a School*.

In 1952, Roy enrolled at the Education Faculty of London University and sailed away to England to study and travel for a year's sabbatical. He completed a Diploma and became an Associate of the Institute of Education (AIE). Mostly it was to give him the capacity to go around schools in Britain and the Netherlands and see how they were managing modern curricula. He returned to BHGS emboldened with his educational philosophy and enthusiastic approach to progressive education.

Hazel Rose was born in 1902 and had a working career as a business manager with the O. Gilpin chain of stores. Oliver Gilpin was a master showman but his enterprise, though successful, was built around his personality and didn't survive long after his death. He was one of the first to hire women as managers and most of his stores were staffed by women with a few men to do the heavy lifting. Hazel was based in Melbourne and managed the O. Gilpin shop in Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn. During this time she saved enough to travel via ship to England, not usually something a single woman of that time embarked upon. She bought a

movie camera to record the whole journey, and many of her nephews and nieces recall being amazed by the places she visited and the things she saw. Hazel was an adventurous, outgoing and accomplished young woman.

Hazel met Ted Hall sometime after her return from England and they were married on 16 December 1937. Ted, who had been a soldier in the British Army during the First World War, died of leukaemia on 16 May 1940. Winifred Lenore, Hazel and Ted's only child, was an extraordinary linguist, mastering at least seven languages with fluency, including Serbo-Croatian, French, Italian, Japanese and Russian. Hazel died in 2001 aged 99.

Vera Gertrude, Henry Christopher and Mary Jane's youngest, was born in 1905. Vera was employed at Tait's Corner Store in Box Hill where she worked as a milliner, and became proficient also in the areas of sales and management. In 1929 she left Tait's and also went to work at O. Gilpin as a manager. In this role she visited O. Gilpin's 100 shops in Victoria, NSW and South Australia. It was in Korumburra that she met Jack Western, a well-known Kardella farmer whose family had come from Yorkshire and were known as pioneers in the Gippsland region. On 27 August 1932, Vera married Jack at Box Hill Methodist Church. They went on to have five children, Helen, Shirley, John, Dorothy and Christine, and lived at Kardella throughout their married life. Vera lived to the age of 99, dying in 2004. Jack Western lived on in Leongatha to the age of 102, dying in 2006.

Ken Barelli

Is this where you live?

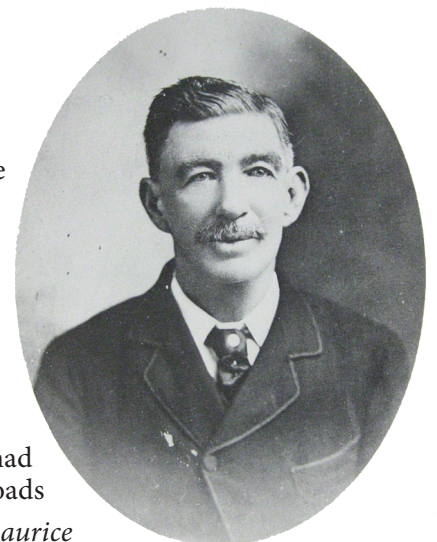
GOODWIN STREET, BLACKBURN was named for George Augustus Goodwin (1848-1916). He was born in Deptford, Kent. With his parents Robert and Mary he sailed to Australia in the 1850s and lived in Melbourne where he was educated. He joined his father in the Victorian Government Crown Lands Department as a clerk and later became self employed as a Crown Land Selectors Agent.

In May 1869 he married Annie Maria Edwards (they were to have eleven children). Five years later he acquired land in Vermont. They lived there until the early 1880s until he accepted the position of Agent Manager for the Freehold Banking Company Limited's development at Blackburn Park, now the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. The family moved to Blackburn.

He died aged 68 years and was survived by his wife. Probate records show they had lived in an old weatherboard dwelling on the corner of Whitehorse and Railway Roads

Sources:

WHS Newsletter, *Pioneer Portrait*, Pat Turner Sept 1993 – Jan 1994
Ancestry.com – Probate Reference number 90/056



Yvonne Fitzmaurice

George Augustus Goodwin

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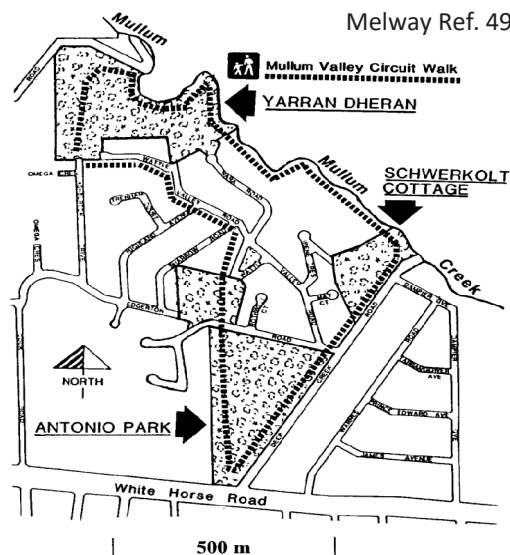
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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 9 May 2018

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

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