

## THE REBIRTH OF STRATHDON



**W**HS was one of the organisations approached by council to comment on the development of the Strathdon House and Orchard precinct, and we provide here an update (courtesy of Project Officer Rosemary Sheehan).

Council's 2016 Feasibility and Business Case outlined the direction for the precinct following community consultation and the plan shown above reflects this vision.

Once opened, the facility will host a variety of education initiatives, school programs, workshops and events focusing on sustainability and healthy living, including waste reduction, urban agriculture and the environment.

Precinct works include the refurbishment of the homestead (with provision of new public meeting

rooms), reinstatement of the fruit orchard and installation of a new 'Packing Shed' to host educational and sustainability programs. The project will also involve creation of a demonstration kitchen garden, landscaping to incorporate nature play features, a self-guided heritage and sustainability walk and the installation of picnic shelters, additional seating, accessible parking, upgraded pathways and bicycle hoops.

Works will commence shortly and it is anticipated the precinct will be open to the public mid-2021, with further community feedback to be sought in coming months on programs and activities for the site. Should you have queries in the interim, please contact Rosemary on 9262 6333 or email [rosemary.sheehan@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:rosemary.sheehan@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

**NEXT MEETING**

**CANCELLED OWING TO CORONA VIRUS**



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*Dear Members*

In this topsy-turvy year we are once again closed. The Local History Room opened on June 3 and closed again on July 8.

And although I had hoped to provide you with more details in this newsletter regarding the Annual General Meeting, it too is on hold. The Committee will be meeting via Zoom shortly to discuss how and when the AGM can take place. We will keep you informed.

In June the Council Community Grants Committee contacted us to see if we wanted to continue with or amend our grant application for the Heritage Family Day. As we had cancelled the event we declined the offer.

Just before we closed, Council announced a Recovery Grants Program that allows community groups to apply for a grant for operating/administration costs attributable to the impact of COVID-19. Kathy is busy making an application to cover our loss of income from fundraising on Heritage Family Day. The maximum amount is \$1,500, which is less than we made last year but would be very welcome and would reduce the deficit.

***Please renew your membership this year using the enclosed form. We need your support for the Society to continue into the future.***

The new park link at 21 Wattle Valley Road Mitcham opened recently and locals, including myself, have visited. The grounds are lovely and include a wishing well, a picnic table and seating.

*On behalf of the Society I congratulate Anne Payne for receiving an OAM for her service to the Blackburn community. Anne has contributed to Gardens for Wildlife, the Blackburn Lake Advisory Committee and the Parkside Environmental Education Program. Anne is also an enthusiastic member of our Society attending meetings and working bees.*

During the first lockdown the Wednesday Workers kept in touch via a weekly email sent by Kathy or me. We have resumed these emails; however, as Kathy and I feel that we will have much less news to write about this time we will be asking the workers to help keep the connection going. Someone usually comes up with a witticism or cartoon to keep our spirits up.

If any member has email and would like to receive the newsletter (and it is in colour) by email please let Kathy know at [whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com](mailto:whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com)

I hope you are all managing to keep your spirits up and are keeping safe and well.

*Vicki Jones Evans*

**Anne Payne in her garden**



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# a post office in Forest Hill



NP923 Forest Hill PO c1926

**T**HE suburb of Forest Hill is situated on Wurundjeri land, a clan of the Kulin tribe and is 18km from Melbourne's central business district. At the 2016 Census the population was 10,626.

In the north it is bounded by Canterbury Road (previously Delaneys Road), to the south by Burwood Highway (Boundary Road), and it straddles Springvale Road (once known as Hunt's Road) for several kilometers until it reaches Blackburn in the west and Vermont in the east.

There are two unproven versions of when and how Forest Hill received its present and official title. One is that Forest Hill is said to derive from the name of a cottage owned by an early settler, Captain Bunbury, and is descriptive of the district's original bushland.

The other (less likely, given the next paragraph?) is that it was originally named Forest Hills, but when the shopping centre was opened the last 's' was removed by the new owners Safeway-Pratt to avoid any confusion with Forest Hills in California.

However, an oral history by Mary Cooke (née Johnston) who spent her childhood in the area knew it as Forest Hill, never Tunstall. (She was the grand-daughter of Ernest Clifton who became postmaster and general storekeeper in 1917).

When it became officially Forest Hill is unsure, but it was known by that name during the height of the local Land Boom of subdivisions in 1961–62.

At early settlement the area was in the Shire of

Nunawading, which in turn was separated into suburbs. Forest Hill as it is now known was part of Tunstall, renamed Nunawading in 1883 although the *Sands and McDougall Commercial & Suburban Directory of 1960 – 1969* states 'Forest Hill -postal areas undefined, Tunstall now Nunawading'.

The records about Forest Hill Post Office that were located at the Public Record Office state that Robert Peacock was postmaster from 1874 to 1888 with a salary that varied from £10 to as little as £6. On the 5 January 1888 Joshua Peacock took over the position until 19 October 1891 when Lestock Robert Peacock was given the position in the same year that he had married Catherine McArthur. He was listed in the 1900 & 1905 *Sands and McDougall* directories as a newsagent on the north side of Canterbury Road, Tunstall, and that he had a mail contract with the GPO as well as being a farmer. He officially remained the postmaster until his death on 21 September 1905, aged 46 years.

Fifteen months after administration Catherine sold the horse, saddle & jinker and rented the five-acre Springvale property. There was also six acres on Canterbury Road. Surety was given by both Margaret Peacock & John McArthur, Shire Contractor.

In 1910 Mrs C. A. PEACOCK was listed in the *Sands and McDougall* directory as being the postmistress in Canterbury Road. The area was not yet listed as Forest Hill.

In 1868 Archibald McArthur bought six acres of

*(continued on page 7)*





# Lost films and a conundrum

FILM-MAKING in our area has a surprising pedigree dating way back to 1906, when scenes from *The Story Of The Kelly Gang* had an old cottage in Whitehorse Rd set up as the Glenrowan Pub, scene of the famous “last stand”. Another film in the WHS collection is *The Wheel*, made by students at the Melbourne University in 1952; it survives as a work print, complete with timer index.

Half a century ago a number of films were made by the Blackburn–Mitcham Film Society, one of which we are fortunate enough to have in our collection: *Nunawading*, *City of Contrasts*, illustrating the history, the present (1971), and taking a confident peek at the future.

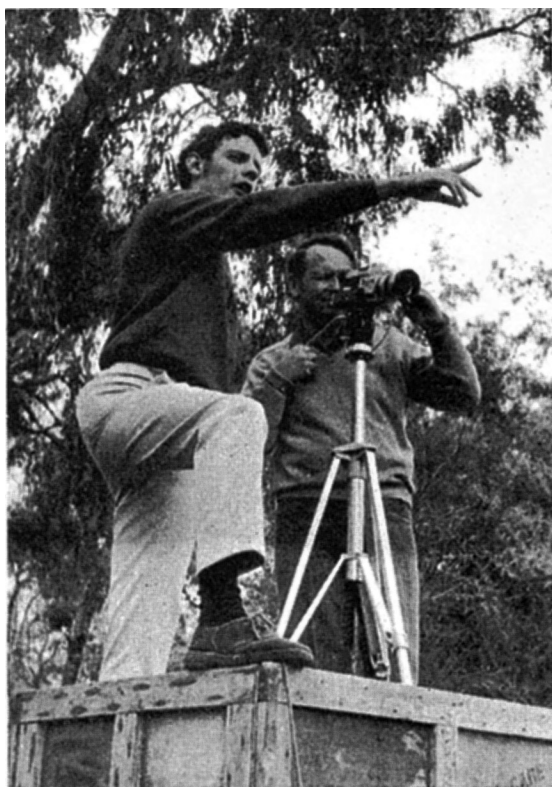
Alas, a paradigm seems to have been that little has been done to preserve this heritage, with the result that many (including the Kelly film) have not survived intact.

One of the “lost” films – of particular interest to WHS – was made in 1970 by the Blackburn–Mitcham Film Society. It survives only in newspaper references, and is called, intriguingly, *Did August Schwerkolt Dig the Blackburn Lake One Sunday Morning?*

So what do we know about it? Well, we know it was a comedy, dealing in a satirical fashion with the origins of Blackburn Lake . . . but there our knowledge ends. “You’ve read a lot lately of the group and their production about the Blackburn Lake” says the *Nunawading News* of December 2 1970 somewhat enticingly; but unfortunately we haven’t been able to find these articles. The film had its “world premiere” on Saturday December 5 at the Mitcham Memorial Hall. Other than that, there remain a few photos (included) that are all we have of the film.

*Or can you change that?*

Chris Gray



PICTURES: (above) Director Peter Cockrum and cameraman Eric Mitchell in action during filming of *Did August Schwerkolt Dig the Blackburn Lake One Sunday Morning*; (below left) The Blackburn–Mitcham Film Society film scenes from the film on Blackburn Lake;

(below right) At the premiere. Among the guests were Roger Seccombe, Jenny Morison, Peter Cockrum and Royce Bennet. Jenny acted in the film, Peter was director and Royce is president of the film society.





(Camberwell, Surrey Hills and Box Hill News.)

# THE REPORTER.

CIRCULATING IN BOX HILL, SURREY HILLS, CANTERBURY, BALWYN, CAMBERWELL, DONCASTER, BURWOOD, BLACKBURN, MITCHAM AND RINGWOOD  
FERN TREE GULLY, BAYSWATER, CROYDON, MOOROOLBARK, VERMONT, EMERALD, SCORESBY, SASSAFRAS, TALLY HO, BLACK FLAT, &c.

VOL. XIII. NO 5

FRIDAY AUGUST 16, 1901.

ONE PENNY.

(Camberwell, Surrey Hills and  
Box Hill News.)

## The Reporter.

*"Uncarped by prejudice,  
Unbiased by faction,  
Irrespective of nationality or creed,  
Justice mete we out impartially to all."*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1901.

If necessary, the "Reporter" will be published a day or two earlier next week to give candidates or their friends a chance to have the last word.

A smoke night in connection with the Surrey Hills Trades C.C. will be held in the Surrey hall, Surrey Hills, this evening, when the prizes won during the season will be presented.

In response to the appeal recently made through our columns on behalf of Mrs Jackson, a sum of £3 4/ has been forwarded from Box Hill to the "Age."

In our report in last issue of the soldiers' welcome home at Surrey, we inadvertently omitted to mention that Mr Ben. Woodhead contributed songs, and in his capacity of hon. sec. did a great deal towards ensuring the success of the affair.

### Box Hill Military Band.

During the week the Box Hill military band has made two public appearances, under the leadership of its capable bandmaster, Mr H. Foster. The first was at Mitcham on Friday night, when selections were played outside Cr Town's shop, and a couple of others were played in the Mitcham hall after Mr Husband's meeting. The band got a good reception from the Mitcham folk, who expressed the hope that it would not be long before another visit was paid to their town. The band also played several selections at Box Hill on the evening of Tuesday (Arbor day), and again met with a great reception, surprise being expressed at the great progress made by the band.

**FOR SALE.—DUCK EGGS**—Pekin and Aylesbury crosses, 2/ per setting, fertile; also Silver Wyandotte Eggs, from Hooper's improved stock, 7/6 per doz.—**C. COCHRANE**, Alexander street, off Station street, Box Hill.

**FOR SALE.—Best BOX BLOCKS** and **Jumbunna COAL**. Weight and Quality guaranteed.  
**P. BIRD**, Station Steam Saw & Moulding Mills, White Horse road, Box Hill.

### Hospital Entertainment at Monbulk.

Owing to the unpropitious weather there was only a small audience at the entertainment held at Monbulk on behalf of the Alfred hospital. Cr McIntosh presided. The first part was run by a circle of niggers, W. Heywood rattling the bones, T. O'Don banging the tambo, and J. Slater acting as interlocutor. Mr Davis succeeded very well in "Sailing merrily home." Mrs Nelson warbled "He isn't a marrying man," and was loudly applauded. Mr T. O'Don scored an encore for "Sally with the coal black eye." Mr Nelson's "Good-bye" was well appreciated, and Miss O'Don followed with "The swallows," and Mrs O'Don with "A letter in the candle," all being loudly applauded. Miss McCluskey sang "Alice, where art thou," and the audience responded by demanding "Wishes and fishes," and "I may or may not." A laughable farce, "The Haunted House," concluded part No. 1. The second part opened by a violin solo by Miss McCluskey. Mrs Davis sang, "For ever and ever," and the audience loudly demanded more. A sword dance by Miss O'Don was very cleverly performed. Mr T. O'Don sang "Taint like me," and provoked much merriment. Mr Heywood's recitation, "The hospital ward," was very touching. "Dolly's Revenge," by Miss McCluskey, evoked loud applause, while a comic duet, "Out out by a postman," was given with good effect by Mr and Mrs Nelson. The programme concluded by a side-splitter, entitled "A Servant Wanted," J. Slater being "boss," and T. O'Don and W. Heywood the recalcitrant niggers. On the motion of Cr McIntosh and Mr Slater, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to all who had assisted.

ESTABLISHED 1880.

## PAPERHANGINGS

A Large Assortment of New Season's Goods  
From 3d. per Roll.

Oils, Leads, Colors, Glass, &c. &c.  
None but the Best Goods kept in stock  
\* at Lowest Prices. \*

**F. WYATT**,  
Practical Exponent in all branches  
of the Trade.

ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR GENERAL REPAIRS.  
All Work Personally Supervised, and Promptly Executed.  
Post Cards Attended to. Goods Delivered Free of Charge.

F. WYATT, Station-st., Box Hill.

### BOX HILL RIDING.

Vote for your Tried Representative!

## Cr. Geo. Blood

NUNAWADING SHIRE COUNCIL

BOX HILL RIDING ELECTION.

### Telephone for Fern Tree Gully.

At the conclusion of the railway conference at the Gully on Saturday, 3rd inst., Cr Simpson grasped the opportunity to bring forward the necessity for telephone communication, in which he was ably supported by Cr Monk, who pointed out that at present the district was years behind the times in this respect. Even telegrams occupied two or three days for delivery, according to the "own sweet will" of the local official, whereby people were very often put to considerable inconvenience. As there was a line to Black Flat, he felt assured the shire representatives present would support them in obtaining an extension of that line. Cr Cotter expressed his willingness to assist in such a movement, and explained that the line was originally constructed to Notting Hill through the enterprise of the residents, the government finding the appliances and the district supplying the poles. The line was eventually extended to Black Flat on a guarantee of £15 being forthcoming. He considered that where such suitable timber was available they should have no difficulty in making similar arrangements. Cr Kerr took exception to the proposal, as it would only benefit the Centre riding by being carried direct to the local office. Cr Monk did not agree with Cr Kerr, as the line could be branched elsewhere if the service were once obtained, and he took exception to the means resorted to by a private deputation on this matter. It was ultimately resolved, on the motion of Crs Simpson and Collier, that the deputation appointed by the railway conference also wait on the postmaster-general and minister of railways, and make known their requirements, Cr Kerr only dissenting. Cr Collier moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Keast and the visiting councillors for their presence and support. This was seconded by the president and carried by acclamation, and suitably responded to.

## MACPHERSON,

Grocer, Wine, & Spirit Merchant,  
150, 152, BURKE ROAD, HAWTHORN,  
(Near Camberwell Railway Station),  
AND AT CAMBERWELL.

All Orders Packed and forwarded to Railway Free of Charge.

The following are a few of our Prices:—

**TEAS**.—Our 1/3 Tea, a Real Good Family Tea.  
Our 1/6 Tea, a blend of Pure Ceylon, Indian, and China.  
Our 2/ Tea, Specially Selected.

**COFFEE**.—All Coffee Ground Daily, so that customers may rely upon getting it Fresh, and with the Full Aroma. 1/3 1/6, 1/8 per lb.

**COLONIAL WINES**.—A Large and Varied Assortment on Draught and in Bottle. A good Chate 1/1, 1/3, 1/6. Port 1/1, 1/3, 1/6. Muscat, Maleria, Chablis, &c., at equally cheap rates. Concession made on parcels of 4doz, or over.

In introducing DEWDROP WHISKY we have the confidence that we are selling an article second to none in the market, and at a much cheaper rate, as the following prices will show:—

**Dewdrop**—SPECIAL. Old and Well-Matured, appreciated by connoisseurs. 1/3 half bot., 2/3 Imp. qt., 4/6 Imp. qt., 17/6 gallon. DEWDROP, Superior Scotch, 1/6, 2/1, 4/1, 11/6.

Special Old Jamaica Rum (highly recommended) 1/3, 2/6, 2/3, 4/6, 16/.

Colonial, 1/3, 2/1, 2/6, 3/6, 12/.

Brandies.—Bourbon Grapes, 3/6 bot., French Brandy 1/3 bot., Jossias's Brandy 3/3, A. Real Good Brandy 3/.



Is this where you live?

## DIARY DATES

### NOTIFICATION

**All future General Meetings and Working Bees are suspended owing to the Corona Virus.**

**We will provide updates as the situation develops.**

Forster pictured circa 1925.



FORSTER STREET, MITCHAM

**F**ORSTER Street is the road next to the Heatherdale railway station and runs between Heatherdale Road and Purches Street.

Henry William Forster, 1st Baron Forster (1866–1936), who was tall and athletic, became our 7th Governor-general from 1920 to 1925. He was born at Southall, Kent, England and educated at Eton and New College, Oxford. In 1892 he entered parliament and served at the War Office in WWI (in which he lost two sons) and was elevated to the peerage in 1919.

He founded international Christian movement Toc H in Australia (the name is an abbreviation for Talbot House, 'Toc' signifying the letter T in the signals spelling alphabet used by the British Army in World War I). He was also our Chief Scout and was more popular than his predecessors because he played little part in politics.

Forster was survived by his wife and two daughters when he died in England of coronary-vascular diseases in January 1936.

*Yvonne Fitzmaurice*

#### Sources:

ND6615

[adb.anu.edu.au/biography/forster-sir-henry-william-6213](http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/forster-sir-henry-william-6213)

**PLEASE RENEW  
MEMBERSHIP BY  
AUGUST 30.**

**SEE ENCLOSED  
RENEWAL  
FORM**



## STATISTICS

Photographs catalogued	-	4343
Artefacts catalogued	-	5000
Documents catalogued	-	7691
Museum visitors June–July	-	N/A



Facebook New Page 'likes' to date 869



# FROM THE COLLECTION . . .

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME? THE OPENING AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT 3 O'CLOCK IN THE NEW PICTURE THEATRE ON THE ESTATE.

## TUNSTALL TOWN ESTATE

By Order of Mr. J. J. KELLY.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20th, 1926**

KNOW THIS.  
Plan Sealed and Lodged, No. 10994.  
Transfers can be signed immediately.  
450 ft. above sea level.  
74 Trains Daily.  
30 min. journey.  
Metropolitan Fire Brigade Area.  
12 miles Melbourne.  
Buildings can be commenced at Once.  
Theatre and Shops Already on the Estate.  
This is a Real Centre. Go and Look it Over.  
20 CENTRAL SHOP SITES.  
210 Deposit, 30/- monthly.  
40 RESIDENTIAL ALLOTMENTS.  
£5 Deposit, 30/- monthly.  
Interest at 6% per annum, payable quarterly.  
Balance at end of 5 years.  
Discount for Cash, 2 1/2%.  
Discount for Purchasers Building within 12 months, 6%.

THE NEW STATE SCHOOL  
In Springvale Road, just North of White Horse Road.  
A few minutes from the Estate. Spacious and Up to Date. There is also a School 10 mins. South.

TEMPORARY SHIRE HALL  
For the New Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham, at Tunstall.

WATER AND ELECTRIC LIGHT AVAILABLE.

THE TOWN IS ALREADY STARTED. GET IN EARLY.

THE NEW PICTURE THEATRE AND SHOPS ARE ALREADY BUILT ON THE ESTATE.

ASK YOUR LOCAL AGENT FOR A PLAN.

TITLE: CERTIFICATE.  
Solicitors: Messrs. McNERNEY, McNERNEY AND WILLIAMS, 97 Queen Street, Melbourne. Tel.: 1779.

COGHILL & HAUGHTON AUCTIONEERS:  
79 SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE. Cent. 2793 (3 Lines.) Opposite Station Canterbury and Heidelberg. Cent. 159. Heid. 34.

"The Heart of the New Shire."

ND275  
**Tunstall Town Estate**  
Land subdivision at  
Tunstall 1926 bounded  
by Springvale Road,  
Whitehorse Road,  
Railway Parade.  
Original in Houghton  
Maps, LaTrobe Library

## a post office in Forest Hill (continued from page 3)

sloping ground, which became a productive flower farm, situated on the north side of Canterbury Road near the north western corner of Springvale Road. The general area has been known as Scotchman's Hill and later Mt Pleasant.

On land owned by Archibald McArthur the first post office opened on 1 March 1874 in the general store which was run by a family member, Catherine Peacock (née Mc Arthur), who died aged 68 years in 1933. The slab-roofed building on Canterbury Road had a hitching post for the visiting horses, and early settlers recalled that both Mrs Peacock and her daughter would deliver groceries and mail by horse and cart.

The McArthurs continued to live in the original post office residence on Canterbury Road before demolishing it in around 1950 to make way for their new home.

The post office itself was transferred to a site on the road's north-west corner in 1919, and when the Clifton family moved to Forest Hill it was situated on the same site until 1926, when it was moved to the intersection where Swan Hardware now stands.

Mrs Cook recalled that her "maternal grandfather Ernest Clifton came to Forest Hill in the years of WWI and bought land on the corner of Canterbury and Springvale roads. He and his son-in-law Charles A G Johnson built a general store just yards from the corner, fronting Canterbury Road. In 1927/28 he built a shop right on the corner in front of the old mud house. He sold the business to Mr Quigley who sold it to Mr Henly, then Mr Sandland; who in turn sold it to Mr Stone. Then in the 1950s Fisher Anderson bought the business. Each grocer had a Post Office Agency where the mail was kept in pigeon holes on the wall. As well there were State and Commonwealth Banking facilities."

In 1983 the local newspaper, *Nunawading Gazette*, reported that the post office was now situated in Glebe Street, Forest Hill. Again, ten years later in 1993, the same newspaper reported that "the post office was being moved from Mahoney's Road into the Forest Hill Chase by February 14th and would be a new Australia Post Shop, situated on the upper level".

On 9 January 1985 Forest Hill "Centre" Post Office was renamed Forest Hill.

### References

- Sands and McDougall Commercial & Suburban Directories* 1900, 1905, 1910, 1923 & 1963
- PRO; NAA SERIES B5846, Hem B 1348803 Forest Hill.
- B.D.M. & Probate
- David Wood email. 22 Jan 2020
- Name change told to AYF by Mrs Lowe, 19 Vernon St; Blackburn South. (1965)
- Suburban Heartland, a history of the City of Whitehorse* Lesley Alvis. (2010) p35; 63.
- ND215; ND919; ND947; ND1681; ND4084; ND6827; NP3498;
- 1892 map

A.Y. Fitzmaurice  
February 2020

## WHS Committee Contacts

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9873 3383

### Vice-President

Peter McPhee

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Eddie Tan

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Schwerkolt Complex  
2 – 10 Deep Creek Road, Mitcham

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Chris Gray  
Wendy Standfield

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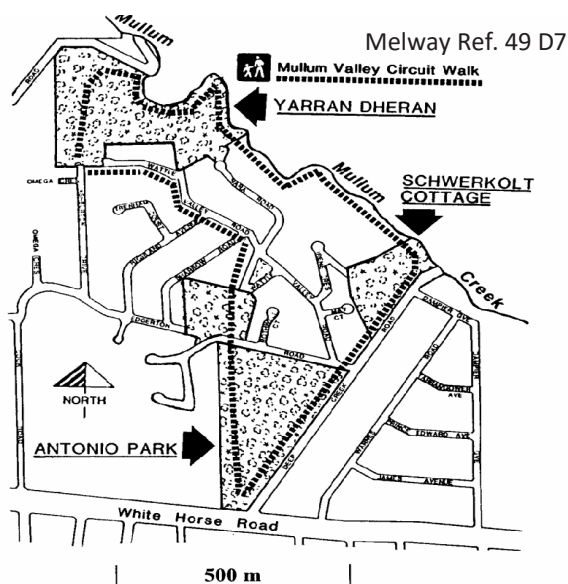
whitehorsehistory.org.au  
facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

### Email

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

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MITCHAM Vic 3132



**Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 2 September 2020**

## 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

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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