

CONGRATULATIONS PETER!



CONGRATULATIONS to our vice-president Peter McPhee on being awarded a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honors List. The citation reads "For significant service to the community through a range of organisations".

Peter is a long-standing member of our Society and has been Vice-President since 2017. He is also a member of the Mitcham Rotary Club and has been responsible for the development of the strong relationship and support that we have received over the last several years.

Peter has almost single-handedly been responsible for the coordination of the ANZAC Dawn Service and Remembrance Day services held yearly at Halliday Park (continuing after closure of Mitcham RSL Sub-Branch in 2014).

Examples of Peter's many volunteer contributions include:

- Rotary Club of Mitcham · Member since 1987
- Migrant Information Centre, Eastern 1999–2020
- Mitcham Sub Branch, Returned and Services League of Australia · Manager, 1995–1999 · President 1997–2007
- Victorian Branch, Returned and Services League Hall of Fame, 2004
- Community Achievement Award, City of Whitehorse, 2004
- Clan Macfie Treasurer (international position), 1989–2008
- Clan Macfie Society of Australia member 1977–current · President 2017–2021
- Australia Day Council (Victoria) · President, 1988 · Vice-President, 1984–2006 · Life Member.

**NEXT
MEETING:**

Saturday, 14 August 1.00pm Annual General Meeting
*Helen Harris OAM – A personal perspective on Blackburn Open Air School
(or how I learned to hate plum jam)*



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

IT was disappointing to have our meeting cancelled due to the Covid lockdown. This was especially so as our speaker Jenny Brash, had already been postponed last year. Jenny has kindly agreed to speak at our October meeting and we hope that it will be third time lucky.

Congratulations to our Vice President, Peter McPhee AM on his award for his contribution to the Community and we value his contribution to our Society.

The concrete pathways within the Complex are almost finished. The paths below the Cottage garden are finished as of 4 July. To be completed are the brick paved paths within the Cottage garden and the pathways to the toilet block.

As a very special bonus we now have disabled access to the Local History Room. The path from Irene Crescent extends to our door and eliminates the door step. The new paths make the Complex so much easier for wheelchairs, walking frames, prams, walking sticks, etc. And the pink tint to the concrete makes it sit within the landscape better than white concrete.

Our other big news is that Victorian Collections has uploaded our Collection to their System. We are not fully available to look at on their website just yet. We are checking records and then making them public so the number on the website will grow each week.

The Working Bee on 3 July was well attended and we enjoyed Kathy's delicious carrot cake at morning tea. The Council's cleaning contractors had cleaned the Museum and Visitor centre on Wednesday so we polished our Local History Room and finished early.

Next meeting is our Annual General Meeting. Nomination forms for Committee are included with this newsletter and need to be returned by 7 August. We will be adhering to whichever Covid restrictions are in place at that time. Hopefully we can enjoy a meeting in person and hear Helen Harris OAM with her personal perspective on how she learned to hate plum jam at the Blackburn Open Air School. I hope to see you then.

Vicki Jones Evans

**Views of the new walkways
(Pictures: Kathy Innes)**



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remembering Hethersett

IN October 1854, Thomas Lavidge of Boroondarra, was granted Crown Portion 48c in the Parish of Nunawading. Thomas erected a house, naming it 'Casewick House'. Thomas died 4 June 1873; probate was granted 31 July 1873. His assets included 16 acres of land, Allotment 28 Nunawading, which included a 6-roomed brick house, stabling, coach house and a 'small flower garden'. The property passed to William Witt in 1878.

By 1910, the property, now a grand house with extensive gardens and its own lake stocked with fish, had been purchased by Dr Ramsay Mailer and his new bride, Minnie Jane Meares. Mailer was the middle son of Coburg pioneers, Robert and Isabella Mailer of 'Glencairn'. Mailer, born in 1866 in what was then known as Pentridge, was educated at Scotch College and Melbourne and Edinburgh Universities.

A keen cricketer, Mailer played for and against teams led by W.G. Grace in Melbourne and Edinburgh. The Ramsay Mailer Shield is one of the Victorian Cricket Association's main trophies.

Mailer's philanthropic involvement was extensive. Founder of the Victorian Slum Abolition League and The Opportunity Club for Boys and Girls, he worked

indefatigably to improve the lives of children from industrial areas.

Mailer's particular interest was 'nervous diseases'. In World War One, being too old for war service, he turned his talents to the needs of service men suffering shell-shock and fatigue. In 1915 Mailer opened his home, now named 'Hethersett', financing it himself as a voluntary Military Hospital. Consisting of 30 beds, it was run by Mailer and family members. The staff, all volunteers, were managed by Mailer's sister-in-law, Catherine Mailer. Designed to be a home away from home Mailer reluctantly closed the home on 21 December 1917 as there was a degree of overlap with the work of other institutions and 'Hethersett' had been used for surgical cases for which Mailer and his brother-in-law were not equipped to manage. When announcing Hethersett would be closed on 21 December 1917, Dr Mailer paid tribute to the nurses, matron, housekeeper and other workers who had volunteered their time, saying the success of the home was due to them.

The many remaining photographs attest to the relaxed atmosphere of Hethersett, where croquet seemed to be the favoured recreation.





A GRAVE STORY

BACK in 2019, it was brought to my attention that my great grandmother, Wilhelmina Schwerkolt (second wife of August) and her 17-year-old son John were interred in an unmarked grave in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

This surprised me because her daughter Mary had insisted on my father arranging for a marked grave for her father August, in the Box Hill cemetery. I could not believe that she would not have done likewise for her mother in America, where she was in residence.

I have always felt grateful to my great-grandmother, because she provided well for her children and as a result it has benefitted her descendants, of which I am one.

A cousin in America made enquiries for me about getting a marker for the grave and in due course my brother and I sent the funds to have a flat bronze marker set in place. This was during Covid-19 and everything moved at a snail's pace.

However, during this delay, the cemetery found a headstone that was virtually illegible some distance away from Wilhelmina's grave, and on cleaning it up they discovered it was indeed the headstone that Mary had provided for her mother and brother. They then kindly had it placed on the grave at their expense.

Soon after, I received this photo showing both markers on what is now a VERY WELL-MARKED GRAVE!

Rosalie Whalen

Schwerkolt Cottage Family Day 'Teddy Bears Picnic'



Sunday 12 September 11am to 4pm

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

Calling all Teddy Bears! Please bring your owners for a picnic at Schwerkolt Cottage and have a fun day with music by the Brumbies Bush Band. Teddy Bears and owners can enjoy picnic games on the Cottage lawn and listen to Story Time. Hungry Bears and friends can buy Sausages from the Rotary Sausage Sizzle, Devonshire Teas from the Whitehorse Historical Society and cakes from the Society's Cake Stall.

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

Phone: 9873 4946 email: whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Iceberg Time in the North Atlantic

It is announced that icebergs are unusually prevalent in the North Atlantic this year, and that liners are already following their summer course, which goes farther to the south to avoid the bergs.

At this season the wonderful work of the Ice Patrol is resumed, so that the dangers that formerly existed as a result of this drifting movement are now greatly minimised in the Atlantic.

The bergs are of glacial origin and come from the Coast of Greenland. Practically the whole interior of that country is covered by ice and snow several thousand feet thick, known as the Ice Cap. Urged by gravity and the terrific weight of successive snowfalls, great glaciers from the Ice Cap are forced down the valleys and flurds into the sea, at which point they are known as ice tongues.

Owing to the action of tides and the motion of the sea, large masses, some computed to weigh over a million tons, break off—and that is the story of icebergs.

A berg floats with seven-eighths of its mass below water, so that once float it is greatly affected by currents and very little by wind. If you look at an atlas you will find that a current known as the East Greenland Current weeps round the southern end of Greenland and up into Baffin Bay, carrying the bergs with it.

Here they come under the influence of a south-moving stream of Arctic water which sweeps through the Smith and Lancaster Sounds and carries them away down south of Newfoundland. This stream is known as the Labrador Current.

Fortunately, out of the thousands of bergs that are adrift, only about three hundred get this distance. The remainder drive ashore on the rocky Labrador coast or float into the Straits of Belle Isle.

Those that sometimes menace the shipping lanes drift down the eastern edge of the Banks of Newfoundland until they reach the warm water of the Gulf Stream, which bears them away to the eastward and soon finishes them off.

The breaking up of a berg in these circumstances is accompanied by loud cracking sounds like rifle shots, as the berg rends and fractures.

At intervals a huge mass breaks off and plunges into the sea with a tremendous

roar of effervescence. As it alters shape, it rolls about in adjusting itself to its new centre of gravity, and dwindles away until it is no longer a danger. The large pieces that break are called "growlers."

At the present time there is no means of telling when a ship is near a berg in fog or on dark nights, but it is hoped that within a few years television will come to the aid of the navigator in his direction.

Wireless, however, has played a very important part, for now every ship sighting a berg immediately broadcasts its position to all ships, as well as to Cape Race and the Ice Patrol cutter on duty.

These stations plot the reports on a large chart and broadcast the findings several times a day to all ships.

The Ice Patrol was inaugurated as a result of the "Titanic" disaster off Cape Race, which took place on April 14-15, 1912, when 1517 lives were lost.



Reservations: Phone WX1418.
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
JULY 15, 16, 17.

Jane Withers
Jane Withers

in
"Can This Be Dixie?"
Loretta Young
Simone Simon

in
* "Ladies In Love"
MATINEE, SATURDAY, at 2.15.
"CAN THIS BE DIXIE?"
"GENERAL SPANKY"

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
JULY 19, 20, 21.
Carey Grant

in
"THE AMAZING QUEST OF
ERNEST BLISS"
HENRY HUNTER

in
* "LOVE LETTERS OF A STAR"

Macthistle: "Can you tell me how long cows should be milked?"
Cowman: "Just same as short ones, sir!"

VERMONT.

THIEVES ACTIVE.

Last Saturday morning Mr. Chas. Pannam found that during the preceding night, or in the very early hours of the morning, his premises had been burgled. A considerable quantity of tobacco and cigarettes was taken. It was later found that St. Luke's Church has also been entered, and certain damage done, though nothing was stolen. This adds another to the list of robberies which have taken place locally in recent months, and it is hoped for the peace of mind of business people that the inquiries being made by the police will be successful in bringing the offenders to book.

SCOUTS' LOG BOOK.

On Friday last, the scouts held the weekly parade in the hall. The meeting opened with flag-break, after which quoit tennis was played. Some instruction in the use of the scout stave was then given, after which the boys enjoyed a game of long ball. On Saturday the troop spent a very enjoyable afternoon at an old quarry in Vermont. During the afternoon Don Webb, Albert Bix, Dennis Chandler and Ken Jay passed part of their second-class fire-lighting test.

COMPULSORY IMMUNISATION.

At the Blackburn and Mitcham Shire Council meeting on Monday night, Cr. Heppner moved that Cr. Paice, as representative in the Municipal Association, should recommend that body to urge the Government that immunisation against diphtheria be made compulsory throughout the State. This was seconded by Cr. Claringbould and carried. Cr. Paice moved that the council also recommend the association to endeavour to bring about uniformity of building regulations in all municipalities. Cr. Heppner seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Serious.

The two men met at the club. "Poor old Smith!" said one. "It's 'touch and go' with him."
"What—ill?" said the other.
"No," came the response. "I mean, he'll borrow money and then you won't see him again!"

DIARY DATES*

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

Saturday, 14 August

1.00pm Annual General Meeting

Helen Harris OAM – A personal perspective on Blackburn Open Air School (or how I learned to hate plum jam)

Saturday, 9 October

1.00pm General Meeting

Jenny Brash – Vermont: A History

Saturday, 4 December

1.00pm General Meeting

Rachael Cottle – Women of the Victorian Railways

2021 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 4 September

Saturday 6 November

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

***All dates subject to Covid-safe conditions**

STATISTICS

Photographs catalogued	-	4446
Artefacts catalogued	-	5045
Documents catalogued	-	7776
Museum visitors May–June		351



Facebook Page 'likes' to date 1042



Earle Page (photographed c1939)

PAGE STREET, MITCHAM

PAGE Street is a short distance from the Mitcham shops and may be entered from Dunlavin Road and is the second street north of Whitehorse Road. It ends at Gillies Street.

Sir Earle Christmas Grafton Page GCMG CH was an Australian politician who served as the 11th Prime Minister, holding office for 19 days after the death of Joseph Lyons in 1939. He was Leader of the Country Party from 1921 to 1939.

He was born in August 1880 at Grafton, NSW, the son of Englishman Charles Page and Mary Johanne Haddon (Annie) Cox from Tasmania. He retired aged 76 years and died on 20 December 1961 at Camperdown, Victoria.

He was educated mainly by gaining scholarships. From the Sydney Boys High School, he entered Sydney University aged 15 and completed a medical degree when 21 years old, soon afterwards opening a private hospital in Grafton.

He served as military surgeon WW1, and entered parliament in 1919, holding many portfolios including Minister for Health from 1949 – 1956.

He married twice. His first wife, Ethel Blunt, whom he married in 1906, was a trained nurse, and after her death he married his secretary, Jean Page, in 1959.

Further reading: Wikipedia – Earle Page

Source: ND6615

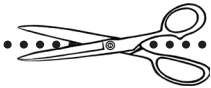
Yvonne Fitzmaurice

The 2021 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 14 August 2021

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting August 2020
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 2021–2022
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 or 0409 230 058.



**Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. AGM 2021
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, 14 August 2021.

WHS Committee Contacts

President

Vicki Jones-Evans
9873 3383

Vice-President

Peter McPhee

Secretary

Kathy Innes

Treasurer

Eddie Tan

Local History Room (03) 9873 4946

Rear Museum Building
Schwerkolt Complex
2 – 10 Deep Creek Road, Mitcham

Newsletter Team

Chris Gray
Wendy Standfield

WHS website

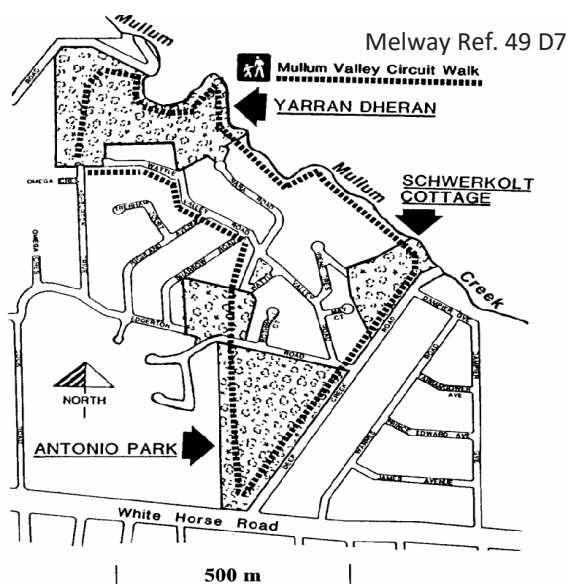
whitehorsehistory.org.au
facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

Email

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Postal Address

P.O. Box 272
MITCHAM Vic 3132



Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 1 September 2021

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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