



# NEWSLETTER

Series 30 No. 2

March–April 2022

ABN 44 352 041 634 Inc. AO 012235J

## HISTORY? *COMMUNITY!*

**B**ACK in 2018, to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1, Whitehorse Historical Society held a small Ceremony of Remembrance at Schwerkolt Cottage. To help illustrate the enormity of local community sacrifice 100 years ago, each local enlistee (including nurses) was represented by a knitted, crocheted or fabric poppy ‘planted’ in a field of similar poppies. Each an individual poppy, each a reminder of a young man or woman.

At the end of the event, into a cardboard box went nearly 300 poppies, each having taken about one hour of dedicated work by creative hands.

Later, inspired by images of ceramic poppies spilling from the Tower of London as part of Great Britain’s tribute to those who served in World War 1, WHS members decided “we could make a similar cascade from our fabric poppies to be part of Anzac Day Services held by our local Mitcham Rotary”.

A couple of members, including a former President, tied every individual poppy onto garden netting. A long and laborious process. As each individual poppy represents a World War 1 soldier or nurse from our local area, it is appropriate the display can now be used each

Anzac Day into the future. Many visitors to the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Mitcham Bowling Club commented on how evocative and spectacular they looked on the day.

We sometimes discover display items from either previous displays or similar we no longer need or want to store in our limited storage space. Some time back we had six such pin boards that had been used for notices in the Visitor’s Centre and Museum and were no longer needed. These boards were well-used, and about to be thrown out when one member thought of a possible new home for them. One of her friends had a connection with Yarra Junction Primary School in the Upper Yarra Valley. The school was contacted, and the Principal was delighted to give the display boards a new life, displaying student work and teacher notices in the Community Centre and the School Library. The school maintenance man is going to install them soon! We look forward to seeing student work proudly displayed and admired on boards that were about to go to landfill.

Perhaps a little lesson for us all – reuse and repurpose! Who knows what community use can be found by just looking about just a little bit!

*Marg*



**NEXT MEETING:**

**Saturday, 9 April 2022 1.00pm General Meeting**

*John Howell – The Only Woman at Gallipoli*



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*Dear Members*

**A**FTER a quiet start to the year we are now back to work in the Local History Room. The Wednesday Workers are busy, the Working Bee happened on the Labour Day Weekend and the Annual Planning Day was held on 21 March.

We welcomed Michael Sukkar to morning tea on Wednesday 9 March and showed him our refurbished Museum. The newly installed dishwasher, courtesy of the Federal 2021 Volunteer Grant was put to use afterwards.

In February we were advised by the Managers of the Museums Accreditation Program that we were scheduled for Reaccreditation this year and would be in the first group to undertake this under their new system, CMAP. The Community Museums Accreditation Program has been created especially for Volunteer-based Museums in order to make the Accreditation process easier.

Kathy, Patty and I attended an on-line Presentation where the CMAP System was explained. Our documentation requirements will be provided and we will lodge them through an on-line Portal. After this an onsite visit will take place.

Our last Reaccreditation visit took place in November 2014 and we were overdue to be processed when the

Covid pandemic delayed the process further. The site visit will take place in the last week of June and we will be submitting the documentation at the end of May.

Planning for our Heritage Family Day on September 11 has commenced and Kathy, as Co-Ordinator, has applied for a Whitehorse Community Grant. There will be a few changes as we are aiming for a Covid-safe event. We will have marquees to move activities into the fresh air. Our paid entertainment will be slightly different. The animal farm we usually have has closed, though we will have one, and we will not be having face painting. This year we will have a Giant Bubble Show, which includes hands-on activity for children. Whitehorse-Manningham Libraries will return with their Storytime Tent and Box Hill Community Arts Centre will be providing craft activities. Kathy is busy contacting our usual Community Groups that demonstrate so more information soon.

The Planning Day was focused on our main task of Reaccreditation and completing our Visitor Centre Panels and Brochures.

Thank you to all who attended the working bee.

I am looking forward to welcoming you to our meeting to hear Peter McPhee's talk in honour of ANZAC Day.

*Vicki Jones Evans*



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# From cards to computers

SINCE the establishment of the Nunawading and District Historical Society in 1965, there has been a keen interest in preserving the history of the Nunawading area. The Society's interest was in saving the old household and farm equipment, old documents like title deeds, plus old letters of communication with people in the local area. Also important was to save photos taken of the area and to record oral histories from long-time residents.

All of these items needed to be catalogued and indexed. This was done using hand written index cards – there were no typists in the group – and the indices were stored in a drawer. This system worked, but there were times when an index card would be taken out of the draw and replaced in the wrong location. Or, worse, the index could be taken from the drawer and then for some reason would not be replaced . . . lost.

Then the Nunawading and District Historical Society leapt boldly into the current times and began using a computer to save the data in a digital database.

The first computer was a donation in 1977. Ted Arrowsmith installed the original computer system while organising the computer department. The InMagic Textworks system was purchased to catalogue the collection.

In the April 1979 Newsletter, a call was made by the Presidents for people to assist in the entering of data:

*I am pleased to report that work is continuing on the cataloguing of both the archives and the museum items. The computer is up and running, with three members entering information from the work sheets. If you would like to help, please ring Barbara Gardiner or myself.*

And in April 1999 progress had been made and this message was in the secretary's report:

*Our hardworking members of the Wednesday group continue to add to the database and to catalogue documents, photographs and artifacts. In any historical Society, this is an ongoing project and I am sure all members appreciate this important work.*

These figures from the April 2000 newsletter show that there was a steady addition of data to the computer system:

Artifacts	2712	Items catalogued
Documents	2174	Items catalogued
Photographs	2021	items catalogued.

In June, 2003, the organisation's change over to the name 'Whitehorse Historical Society, Inc.' was noted. However, it was decided not to change the key numbers of the database items. Records therefore still have the record number starting with NA – Nunawading Artifacts, ND – Nunawading Documents and NP – Nunawading Photographs.



The database engine, InMagic, was installed by the late Ted Arrowsmith in 1997 and in 2009, after 15 years as the computer administrator, he retired and handed over to Rob Innes.

*(continued on page 6)*

# Repeating history

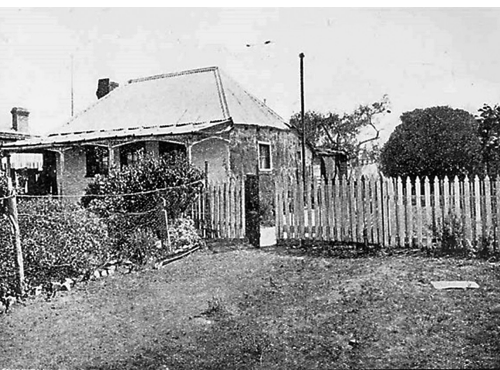
Melbourne author Brendan Moloney is researching and writing a history of Waverley Fork Lifts, a company owned and run by Charlie Schwerkolt, the great-great grandson of August, builder of Schwerkolt Cottage.

To get a feeling for what August endured during the clearing of land and construction of the original stone cottage in 1861, he tried to retrace the route August took when he walked from his first Australian home in Northcote, a distance of roughly 20 kilometres.

More than 160 years later Moloney and his sister-in-law, Virginia Whalen, rode e-bikes from the original market garden site at 125 Separation Street, Northcote, to the cottage. Virginia could be distantly related to Rosalie Whalen, nee Schwerkolt, a Whitehorse Historical Society stalwart, through family in America. This is his report.

**T**HE route we took is unlikely to replicate that of August exactly; but it is the most direct, following bicycle paths from the end of Separation Street, south across the Yarra, and then running parallel to the Eastern Freeway to the cottage.

August purchased the half-acre block for an unknown sum in 1853 and seems to have prospered selling fruit and vegetables in a city burgeoning in the gold rush. His house there was demolished in 1964 to make way for a block of flats and its concrete carpark. While we don't know what he paid



The first Private School, Separation Street.

for the land, gold at the time was fetching 77 shillings an ounce, and a two-bedroom flat with one bathroom in the block was advertised for \$470,000 in March 2022.

To be eligible to buy land in Australia, August had to be naturalised and he took the oath of allegiance

before Judge Redmond Barry on 14 February 1853. Other highlights of Barry's illustrious career include acquitting some of the Eureka Stockade rebels the following year and sentencing Ned Kelly (1854–80) to hang.

Separation Street came into existence in July 1851 when land owner Peter Macarthur sold a few blocks on Northcote Hill and created a small lane to provide access. He named it Separation Street in honour of the recent split of the new state



of Victoria from New South Wales. To maximise the amount of land for sale he deliberately kept the lane as narrow as possible. It is still skinny with barely enough room for two cars to pass and a skimpy footpath that is completely blocked by bins on garbage collection day.

It was a German enclave from the 1850s, with the street also referred to as German Lane, but they had

all moved out by the 1890s and the market gardens were taken over by the Chinese.

About 200 metres to the east of the Schwerkolt property is the Old German Cemetery, where four of the nine children of August and his first wife, Pauline, are buried in unmarked graves. There is also the grave of the Gursansky family who arrived in Melbourne from Hamburg on the ship *Emmy* with the Schwerkolts in December 1849 and are forebears of WHS archivist Patrice Jennings

To get to the cottage from Northcote, August tied a couple of saplings to his belt and carried a load on them, like the *travois* American Indians pulled behind their horses. Some even say he transported his children to their new home this way when it was completed.

Our bike ride was done in glorious, late summer weather and took two hours to cover the 25 kilometres. Because the bike tracks are beautifully landscaped, very little of the surrounding terrain is visible but you do get a sense of how hard it would have been by the hills, some so steep we had to walk the bikes up them. Birdlife abounds and we saw kookaburras, currawongs, coots and sulphur -crested cockatoos. At Schwerkolt Cottage we received a warm welcome and a wonderful lunch. It is a ride or a walk I'd recommend to anyone interested in the history of the cottage or the family. August, aged 39, walked it in about four hours. That is as impressive as his acumen in buying 63 acres for £70/2/6 in 1861.

*Brendan Moloney*

**PICTURES (Clockwise from top left): Old Separation Street c1860; Old German Cemetery Northcote today; The author with Rosalie Whalen and his sister-in-law Virginia Whalen on 9 March.**





## POLICE COURT.

:o:

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1934.

Before Mr. G. H. Brown, P.M., and Messrs. Ellingworth and Sneddon, J's.P.

### UNLICENSED WIRELESS SETS.

For having a wireless receiving set on her premises without being in possession of a current broadcast listener's licence, Mary Gough, of Elgar road, Box Hill, was fined £3. On similar charges Marian Miechel, of Brougham street, Box Hill, was fined £2, and Kate Rudd, of Oxford street, Box Hill, was fined £4.

### FAILURE TO CONTROL CODLIN MOTH.

C. F. Cole, an inspector of the Agricultural Department, proceeded against John Stevens, of Burwood road, East Burwood, under the Vegetation and Vine Diseases Act 1928 for failing to eradicate codlin moth in affected trees owned by him. The inspector stated that defendant had taken some steps to eradicate the pest, but not sufficient to satisfy the department. Since the issue of the summons he had done further work. A fine of £3 was inflicted.

Frederick Willoughby, of Junction road, Tunstall, was similarly charged in respect of codlin moth and black spot. The inspector said defendant held about nine acres under lease, and this was one of the worst cases that had ever come under his notice. Willoughby was fined £6.

### NO LIGHTS.

Harry Johns, of Waterdale road, Ivanhoe, was fined £2 for driving a motor car without lights.

### TRAVELLING FIRST CLASS.

Alan Quinn and Walter Quinn, both of Ringwood, were each fined £1, with 3/9 costs, for travelling in first class railway carriages on second class tickets.

### HOTEL LICENSEE FINED.

Thomas Paton, licensee of Doncaster Inn Hotel, was fined £5, with 4/9 costs, for having his bar door open during prohibited hours.

### FAILURE TO DESTROY NOXIOUS WEEDS.

On charges of failing to destroy noxious weeds, the following fines were inflicted:—Frank Callaghan, Mrs. T. Hunt, W. Meredith, Alfred Dean, J. J. O'Connell, fined £3 each; Mrs. M. Cordner Mrs. M. D. Forbes, A. B. Godbold, P. A. Gove, Mrs. J. Harte, Elizabeth Hastings, Leslie McCrohan, S. J. Oliver, Mrs. B. A. Pfeiler, Mrs. Ellen Stott, A. E. Silberelsen, Mrs. A. J. Ternes, fined £2 each.

## THE SHEPHERD'S DOG.

### The Friend of Man.

Undemonstrative it may be, but the shepherd's love for his dog is very deep; nor is it by any means purely utilitarian. Certainly his team is his livelihood. The whole working of a station rests on the staunch shoulders of the dozen or two dogs that live in the kennels behind the men's quarters. But the bond goes deeper than that.

Together man and dog face innumerable hardships; together they tramp miles of rough country on their daily work of salvage through all the worst months of the year. They know no other companion in the bleak hours of storm and blind days of mist.

Man would be less than man who did not love that silent form that sips so tirelessly at his side, those loyal eyes that follow him with unflinching trust, unswerving love. How meagre the reward must seem to those who do not understand! A pat on the head, an unconscious softening of the voice, an aggressive championship of his dog, right or wrong, before all the world—such is the shepherd's concession to mere sentiment. But he sees to his dog's material needs with punctilious care. The man in search of a job, who arrives on a station with poor, ill-fed dogs, stands little chance with a sound manager. Your good shepherd puts his dogs and horses first.

Ten years ago (writes M.E.S.) I often saw a shepherd's team of eight or nine dogs bring a hundred pounds. Even in these lean days the head shepherd of a big station would scoff at an offer of fifteen pounds for his best dog. Nor do such prodigies always have beauty to commend them. A team renowned for a hundred miles, may show every size and form, every color and coat; they may be close-haired or bearded, bob-tailed, even ring-tailed, black, yellow, grey or piebald; but certain qualities you will find in each. The experienced man knows to look first at the eyes. In a good dog these are always full and prominent, and the head is broad, flat and intelligent. A deep chest and a large ball to the foot are also essentials, for a dog with a flat, spreading foot is a misery to himself and his owner. In rough bush country such feet suffer cruelly from the charred logs.

It is small wonder that the first-class dog is hard to buy and his price above rubies. Years of close association and tireless training have been spent upon him.

## AMUSEMENTS.

# RIALTO BOX HILL.

EVERY EVENING AT 8.  
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
APRIL 26, 27 and 28.

RONALD COLMAN & KAY  
FRANCIS

In  
"CYNARA"

also  
CHARLES RUGGLES

In  
"MURDERS AT THE ZOO"  
(Both pictures not suitable for  
General Exhibition)

Matinee Programme: Zasu Pitts  
in "Finn and Hattie," Episode 1 of  
the New Serial, "The Lost Special,"  
Comedies, etc.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 30, MAY 1 and 2.

See the Wonder Dog on the Stage  
and in the Picture.

CAESAR

In  
"TRAILING THE KILLER"

Also  
"HER FIRST MATE"

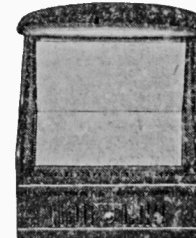
starring  
ZASU PITTS  
(Not suitable for General  
Exhibition)

## There is only One Briquette Grate!

### THE METTERS NO. 2014

(Makers of the Famous Early Kooka Gas Stoves)

#### SPECIAL FEATURES:



- 1—Grating 1/2-inch space between bars, with curved-up front.
- 2—Draught Control, special sliding damper to speed up or slow down fire.
- 3—Fire Bricks. Solid Fire Bricks, top brick sloping forward to cast heat in forward and downward direction.
- 4—Solid sides prevent falling ash, eliminates side draught.

- 5—Ash Pan totally enclosed, large size, positively catches all ash.
  - 6—Canopy shaped and placed to deflect rising heat downwards.
  - 7—Will also satisfactorily burn and give out a wonderful heat with any other fuel.
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Approved and Recommended by the State Electricity Commission. Obtainable in Black, Bright Copper and Nickel Finishes.

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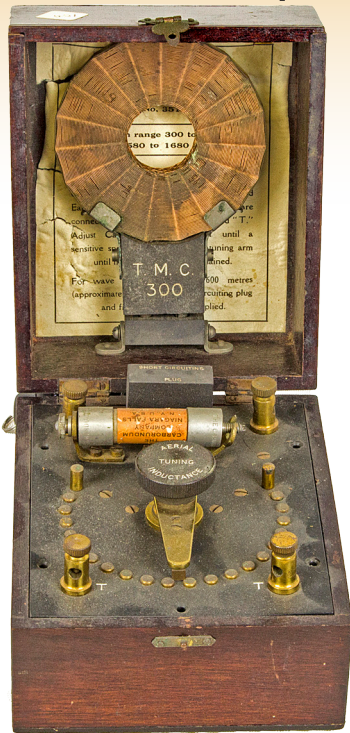
**WESTON'S TIMBER, HARDWARE &  
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125 STATION ST., BOX HILL. — Phones: WX1031-32.  
OPEN ON SATURDAY MORNING.

# FROM THE COLLECTION . . . .

NA715 and NA1801

## Audio - Crystal Set



ON the subject of technology, which our main article deals with this issue, we have in the Collection a crystal radio set in a hinged wooden box. The induction coil stands upright when the box is opened and is cross-wound to minimize capacitance between normally wound adjacent turns (whatever that means!).

The set has four aerial connections and a rotatable connection for tuning the aerial. This example appears to have been made commercially.

### Crystal Set History

The rectifying property of a contact between a mineral and a metal was discovered in 1874 by Karl Ferdinand Braun. Crystals were first used as a detector of radio waves in 1894 by Jagadish Chandra Bose, in his microwave optics experiments. They were first used as a demodulator for radio communication reception in 1902 by G. W. Pickard. Crystal radios were the first widely used type of radio receiver, and the main type used during the wireless telegraphy era. Sold and homemade by the millions, the inexpensive and reliable crystal radio was a major driving force in the introduction of radio to the public, contributing to the development of radio as an entertainment medium with the beginning of radio broadcasting around 1920.

# From cards to computers

*Continued from page 3*

Between 1998 and 2022 many changes were made and the system periodically upgraded. Starting the upgrades, the Society obtained a number of second-hand computers from a private school. Then a member of the Society donated another three replacement machines and a printer; then another donation came in of three second-hand computers. These computers brought the age of our system more into the current time.

The operating system was upgraded from Windows XP to Windows 10; InMagic was upgraded and a peer-to-peer network was created, allowing every computer to use any printer, scanner or photocopier on the network.

A 4.7Tb WD 'cloud' with the same amount of mirroring was installed in 2019. This gave the ability to safely store the data and provided some protection against data loss. There is still the need to do off-site backups and a project is current to get this installed.

The Society now has ten computer units, seven of which are hard wired to the network, with three using wi-fi connections. There are three shared printers, two flatbed scanners, one A3 scanner and one photocopier. All of these items are on the Network.

In 2018, the Society began digitising the photographs and documents, so the scanners have been working hard.

In 2019 the Society began investigating the possibility of using Victorian Collections to allow the data to be accessible on the Internet. This would allow anyone in the world to view the collection. In March 2021 all the data was uploaded and since then we have been auditing and releasing the records. Currently there are 13,431 records available to the public. The number concerning the database on Victorian Collections is made up of:

### Number of records in Victorian Collections database:

16,577

### Broken up into:

Number of NA artifacts records: 5,010

Number of ND documents records: 7,258

Number of NP photograph records: 4,309

Number of records for public view 13,431

### On the database, but not yet audited or released to the public:

2,146

The auditing and releasing of these 2,146 records will be carried out when Covid releases its hold on how we can work.

Our current web address is [whitehorsehistory.org.au](http://whitehorsehistory.org.au) or the database can be accessed through Victorian Collections on [victoriancollections.net.au](http://victoriancollections.net.au)

*Rob Innes*



## DIARY DATES\*

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

**Saturday, 9 April**

**1.00pm General Meeting**

*John Howell – The Only Woman at Gallipoli*

**Saturday, 11 June**

**1.00pm General Meeting**

*Jenny Brash – Vermont: A History*

**Saturday, 13 August**

**1.00pm Annual General Meeting**

*T.B.A.*

## 2022 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 7 May**

**Saturday 16 July**

**Saturday 3 September**

**Saturday 5 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 Jan–Feb 2022		315



Facebook Page 'likes' to date

1087

Is this where you live?



Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot  
(painting by Archibald John Stuart-Wortley)

## TALBOT STREET, MITCHAM

**T**ALBOT Street is a very short right-angled residential roadway, part of which is parallel to the railway line. One end opens onto Brunswick Road and the other onto Purches Street.

The 11th Governor of Victoria, Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot (1841-1929) was born in London, educated at Harrow School, entered the 1st Life Guards in 1859 rising in rank until he commanded the unit in 1885-6. He became a member of the House of Commons before serving in the Zulu War, Egypt and the Nile expedition when sent to rescue General Gordon. After being the Military attaché in Paris he returned to command the Cavalry Brigade, and later led the British Army in the occupation of Egypt. Talbot was regarded as 'the noblest figure of a man of war ever seen' and 'the highest type of Guards' Officer: haughty, distinguished, yet very human.'

During his time as Governor of Victoria from 1904 to 1908, his tour of duty was noted for his marked determination to achieve a visible improvement, and his reports to Britain favorably compared Victoria's economic situation to that of 1903.

During his tenure his wife, Lady Margaret Jane Talbot, actively promoted and advanced social welfare projects, including the Talbot Colony for epileptics, which opened in Clayton in 1907; and The Lady Talbot Milk Institute, which dispensed wholesome 'pure' milk to the needy. Also, in 1907 she opened the College of Domestic Economy.

After he had retired to England Sir Reginald welcomed Victorian visitors as well as working tirelessly for disabled WW1 servicemen.

He died on 25 January 1929 in London and was buried at Medenham, Buckinghamshire. To the end he remained the "very model of a modern major-general".

Source: ND6615

Yvonne Fitzmaurice

## 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

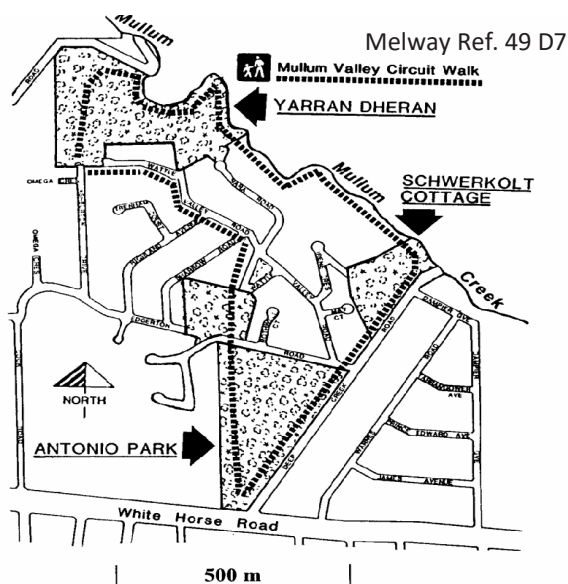
whitehorsehistory.org.au  
facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

### Email

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

### Postal Address

P.O. Box 272  
MITCHAM Vic 3132



**Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 4 May 2022**

## 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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