

A Pedagogue's Progress

IT'S back to school again for many: students and teachers both. Teachers who think they have it tough these days should spare a thought for their colleagues of yesteryear. Discovered in the office of a local primary school principal, the 1915 rules for teachers (who were predominantly female) would cause a mutiny among teachers unions today.

The rules include:

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8pm and 6am unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice-cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must sweep the floor at least once daily; scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water, clean the blackboards at least once a day and start the fire at 7 am, so the room will be warm at 8am.



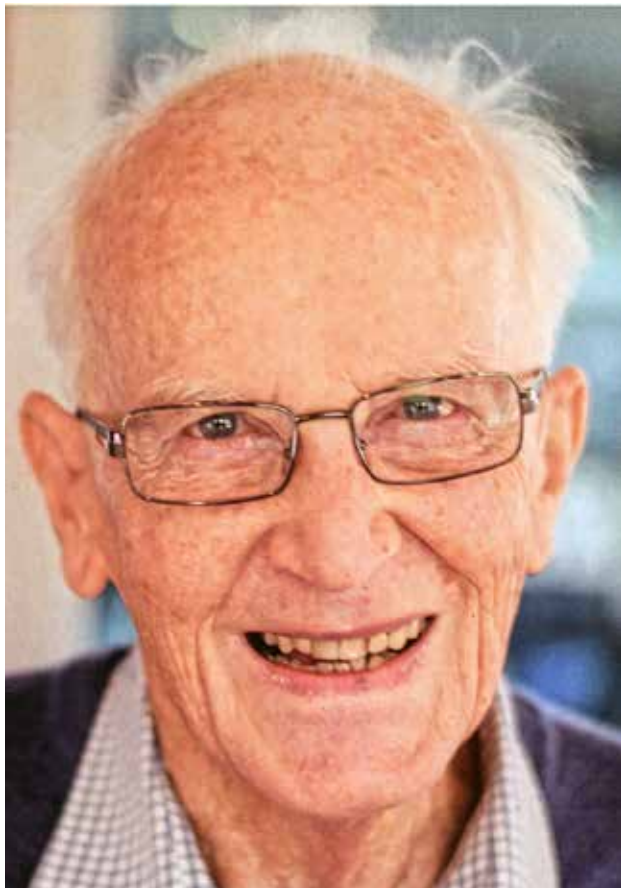
Vermont State School 1909

NEXT MEETING

General Meeting 1pm Saturday 2 February 2019

Rosalie Whalen & Bob Gardiner

BUSHFIRES, [1905] 1939, 1962



VALE Arthur Lunt

1 May 1933 – 11 December 2018

Dear Members

Happy New Year to you all.

On 16 January seventeen Wednesday volunteers commenced work for the year in the airconditioned comfort of the Local History Room.

Sadly Arthur Lunt passed away on December 11. Arthur was a very quiet worker, a very gentle person who also had a lovely wry sense of humour. We miss him. Pat, Bob and Barbara Gardiner were able to attend the service to celebrate Arthur's life and offer condolences to Irene.

The most important event on our calendar this year is our Museum re-accreditation. We have started work on preparing the paperwork needed.

Our General Meetings this year will be on the first Saturday of the month which is to avoid the various long weekends, such as Queen's Birthday holiday. The Working Bees will also be on the first Saturday, except in November, due to the Cup weekend being the first weekend of the month.

A reminder: that meetings and Wednesday Working Days are cancelled if there is a TOTAL FIRE BAN. Council closes the Complex on these days.

Keep Cool.

Vicki Jones Evans

*** Do you have any memories of your past that we could share in the newsletter? We would love to receive anecdotes that paint a picture of how things were in days gone by – not just what has changed, but actual living memories!**

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DECEMBER MEETING REPORT

Walking the Bay



GRAHAM Patterson's long-time walking program started in the 1980s, finished this year on the 90 Mile Coast. To avoid walking the whole thing twice Graham took his bike and would drop it off at the scheduled end point of each "leg" so he could ride back to the car.

An increasing pile of notes eventually became the basis for a book, which, from an introductory chapter covering early use of the coast and its original indigenous inhabitants, proceeds to take a trip around the coast focussing on nature and history.

You can gain access to the east coast of the bay using public transport; the west coast is more problematic. Graham cited the example of walking the coast verging the Werribee

Treatment Plant. He reached it by paddling across the Werribee River and only realised the area was off limits to hikers after he returned! In fact, a number of areas he hiked have since been declared nature reserves, meaning one can no longer repeat his feat.

An interesting fact he shared is that around 4% of the Victorian coastline is privately owned to the high tide mark (if you walk it at low tide you're OK). As we journeyed with him, Graham explained the (scant) aboriginal prehistory of the area, and the history behind European discovery and eventual mapping of the Port.

He told the story of William Buckley, one of several escaped convicts who (unlike most of them) survived and lived for 30 years with the local aboriginal tribes. When John Batman came over in 1835 and set up camp – in walked Buckley. He'd forgotten how to talk English until he was reminded by hearing it spoken in camp, and although he was later used as a translator, he never properly fitted in with European life thereafter. He eventually went to Tasmania, got married, then fell under a coach and died.

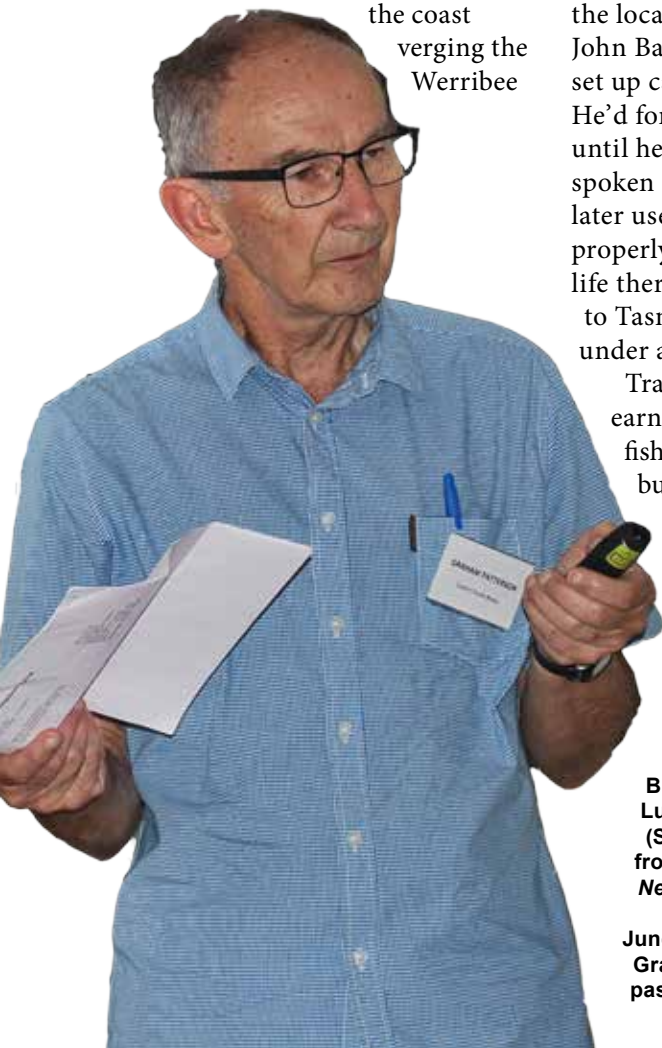
Traces still remain of how people earned their living (e.g. Chinese fishing; timber for firewood; lime burning for mortar). Graham also described some of the



leisure pursuits of the early settler: for example, the bathing arrangements in St Kilda. A ship had been sunk there and made into an enclosed bathing area. Because mixed bathing wasn't considered acceptable, the alternate availability of the facility for men or women was signalled by means of a flag (visible in the picture) – red for men and white for women.

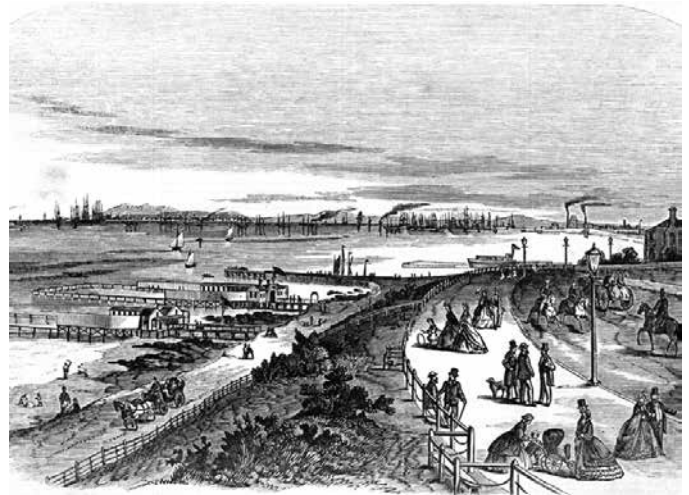
Many other aspects of Port Phillip Bay's history were covered by Graham – alas, too many to be included in this brief summary of a very interesting and well-illustrated talk.

Chris Gray



PICTURES (clockwise from top):

William Buckley, by Dr Ludwig Becker (SLV); St Kilda from *Australian News for Home Readers*, 25 June 1864 (SLV); Graham speaks passionately on his subject.



LARGE BUSH FIRES NEAR MELBOURNE

The quiet little township of Mitcham, only thirteen miles from Melbourne, was the scene of a great conflagration on Saturday last (11 February). The day was just such an one, when the least spark would start into a thousand jets of flame, and with the roaring hot wind blowing from the north, be carried into a great consuming fire. And this was the experience in this quiet secluded district. Starting out about 12 o'clock among the hills, with their thick scrub and undergrowth, the fire rapidly spread in a southerly-direction, fanned by a fierce north wind, consuming fencing, grass crops, orchards, outbuildings, and houses in an incredibly short space of time. The first property to succumb was that of Mr Watham, who lost his four-roomed house, beside outbuildings, his wife and children only escaping with difficulty. Then the fire travelled along the Deep Creek, and on either side. At Mr Schwerkolt's homestead it seized a stack of hay, which was soon consumed. Meantime he and his wife were fighting the flames and trying to save their house and its belongings. While they were doing this the flames spread to an adjoining homestead, that of Mr Kemp (the tenant at Schwerkolt cottage), which was soon enveloped. Running up the Deep Creek road it took the houses of Mr Gilchrist and Mr Edgerton, which were soon consumed. Then on to Mr Antonio's on the main road, a six-roomed comfortable house and stable, which were all likewise demolished. From this it proceeded across the road, over the railway

line, and took a line across the bush country till it exhausted itself.

It is one of the most destructive fires ever experienced in the district, which has been singularly free from this scourge. The scene of devastation was most heart-rending. Mr Schwerkolt's home was completely destroyed and he and his wife and children emerged with only the things they wore. Notwithstanding their trying situation, they gave their utmost assistance to Mr Kemp and his family in getting their goods out of the burning house and rescuing what they could from destruction. But around their home the scene was a sad one. Everything was burnt to the ground save the chimneys, into one of which a dog had crawled to die. Around the house were burnt ducks and fowls, while here and there a dead pig could be seen. An almost new wagon had been pulled out of the stable on to a clearing beside a pond of water in the hope of saving it, but almost before the stable had been burnt the wagon was utterly destroyed. Hives of bees were burnt, the honey running out onto the ground. Mr Kemp's, though a stone

house, was subject to the same treatment; the roof caught and all was over. Some few things were rescued, amongst which was a wedding cake of a newly married daughter, only married a few days before. Fortunately only the day before her wedding presents had been removed. Mr Antonio's was completely destroyed, and included in the destruction was a new piano, which unfortunately was not insured. The houses of Mr Gilchrist and Mr Edgerton were also completely destroyed, not a vestige of anything being left intact. All the fencing also was completely burnt. Thousands of acres of grass and fencing were utterly consumed. Most of the places were only partly insured so that their loss will be heavy. The families that were rendered homeless had to be accommodated in a two-roomed house that had escaped. Fortunately, on Saturday evening the rain came and stopped any further havoc. At one time it seemed as if the township itself would be caught in the flames, but the wind veered round, and it escaped. Hundreds visited the scene on Sunday, as it was a novelty to many who had not seen a bush fire before.



NP683 Repairing the cottage after the fires

Police warn youths of grave risk

NUNAWADING GAZETTE

158 MAROONDAH HIGHWAY, RINGWOOD. 3134. 870-3333

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ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS

WED., JANUARY 14, 1976

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AUDITED CIRCULATION 27,653

Croydon Mooroolbark Gazette, Box Hill Gazette, Lilydale Shire Express, Yarra Valley News, Knox Sherbrooke News, Ringwood Mail.

SHOTGUN DRIVERS

District police are alarmed at the growing practice of youths carrying rifles and shotguns in their cars.

Officer-in-charge of the Nunawading Crime Car Squad, Sen.-Sgt. Merv Pickering said it was an extremely dangerous trend which could lead to tragedy.

Concern was sharpened last week when the crime car squad investigated two separate incidents, both involving unregistered firearms, carried in cars.

The first, which occurred at the Ringwood Bowl, resulted in a Box Hill man, aged 28, and an 18 year old, Syndal youth being charged with a number of offences including assault with a weapon and possession of unregistered firearms.

The second incident occurred on Tuesday night during a police road block on Mt. Dandenong Rd., East Ringwood.

A 19 year old Croydon youth was arrested and charged with possessing and using drugs, being armed with an offensive weapon and possessing an unlicensed firearm.

Police allege the man and youth charged with the Ringwood Bowl offences accessed three young men and a girl as they were leaving the centre and threatened them with a shotgun and a .22 calibre rifle.

S/Sgt. Merv Pickering said the two incidents highlighted the growing tendency for youths to carry firearms in their cars as normal practice. Most were unregistered, he said.

Sporting

"No doubt many of these young people

originally purchased the firearms for purely sporting purposes," he said.

"But in moments of anger or stress a rifle or shotgun so close to hand in a car could become a potentially lethal weapon."

"Many people fail to realise that firearms of all descriptions have to be registered with the police," he said.

"A permit is even required for an air rifle if the shooter is under 18."

Obtaining a firearm licence was a simple matter of visiting the local police station and paying a small fee, he said.

But failure to have a licence when found in possession of a firearm meant a heavy fine and automatic forfeiture of the weapon, he warned.

S/Sgt. Pickering said the current police amnesty on firearms, which is valid until February 29, provided an ideal opportunity for owners to get rid of unregistered firearms.

Under the terms of the amnesty unregistered weapons could be sold to any licensed gun dealer or handed in at any police station, without fear of prosecution, he said.



Adventists set up tent city here

The Seventh-day Adventists' camp site in Central Rd., Nunawading, mushroomed into a "tent city" at the weekend when 1500 church members converged on it for their annual convention.

Church officials expect the numbers to swell to 5000 at weekends when the campers are joined by metropolitan visitors.

The convention, the 16th to be held at the Nunawading camp site will continue until Saturday, January 18.

Campers have come from all over Australia and as far afield as the U.S., Fiji and New Caledonia.

About 180 families have come in caravans — the rest are being accommodated in 400 on-site tents.

Public relations officer, Pastor J. Thomas said the tents took 50 volunteers 10 days to erect.

The clockwork organisation for which the convention organisers are renowned was threatened when a freak hail storm wrecked 48 of the tents.

However this crisis was quickly overcome and replacement tents obtained from church camp sites in Tasmania and Sydney.

The camp grounds are dominated by two huge marquees, one capable of accommodating 4000 people for meetings and church services. The other will be used for youth activities.

Another hive of activity at the camp is the canteen, which will provide provisions for "do it yourself" camp-

ers and prepared meals for those who want them.

• Above, Pastor Thomas (Moorool-

bark) makes friends with Pascall Calcar, 5, and brother Ronald, 5, of Nounna. A large watermelon helps,

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FROM THE COLLECTION . . .



NA3382

BATTENBERG NEEDLE-POINT LACE COLLAR

An 1880s Victorian Battenberg Lace collar in two tones of ecru. It is mounted on to pink polished cotton with paper backing. Tape is machine-made with infilling by hand. In the words of the donors:

We believe this collar may well be the work of our paternal grandmother, Elizabeth (Badger) C., or her maiden sister, Kate Badger, who both lived in Greymouth, New Zealand (South Island). Elizabeth was born 1860 and died in 1944.

Elizabeth married our paternal grandfather, Robert Leonard C., in 1884, in Greymouth. She and her sister Kate would be likely to be making items for their trousseaux in the 1880s, which is thought to be the period when the patterns for this style of collar were in vogue.

Our grandparents lived in or around Greymouth, where grandfather was teaching; and over the next decade their first five children were born. Our father Cyril Hubert was the 5th child. They returned to Victoria in 1896, and grandfather taught at Albert Park, and Drik Drik, before being appointed head teacher at South Purumbete school, where he taught for two and a half decades (1896-1921).

In Victoria another five children were born, making ten in total. Whilst at South Purumbete, grandmother Elizabeth helped by teaching sewing at the school, and also doing (gratis) alterations to garments for friends. She also taught singing and piano. The two younger daughters, Freda and Catherine, were expert needlewomen and made beautifully tailored clothes; also Freda delighted in fashioning good-quality soft toys for sale at their local Auburn Presbyterian church fete.

Grandfather Robert was an active and well-loved resident at South Purumbete. He played cricket, tennis, draughts, cards, assisted with local football and played violin and organ. He arranged inter-school cricket and draughts competitions, and the school garden in which the students learned to do the essential work won a State prize in 1907.

Given to the Whitehorse Historical Society by the four daughters of Cyril C. on behalf of the descendants of Mrs Elizabeth (Badger) C.

DIARY DATES

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.

Saturday, 2 February

1.00pm General Meeting

Rosalie Whalen & Bob Gardiner:

Bushfires, [1905] 1939, 1962

Saturday, 6 April

1.00pm General Meeting

T.B.A.

Saturday, 8 June

1.00pm General Meeting

George Cox:

Blackburn

Saturday, 3 August

1.00pm Annual General Meeting

T.B.A.

NOTE: Meetings will be cancelled in the event of a TOTAL FIRE BAN

2019 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 2 March

Saturday 4 May

Saturday 6 July

Saturday 7 September

Saturday 9 November

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

STATISTICS

Photographs catalogued	-	4273
Artefacts catalogued	-	4865
Documents catalogued	-	7547
Museum visitors November–December	-	347
Total Museum visitors 2018	-	2480
 Facebook 'likes' to December	-	760

Is this where you live?

PICTURES (from top): Alwyn Terence Till booklet; A view of Alwyn Street; NP3903 Alwyn Till in uniform.

ALWYN STREET, MITCHAM

SET in the pavement on the corner where Alwyn Street meets Mitcham Road at Rangeview, there is a commemorative metal plaque honouring a young man who did not return from WWII.

Warrant Officer Alwyn Terence TILL RAAF (c1921–1944)

Alwyn grew up in Mitcham, attended both the local school and Box Hill High School. He was training to be an accountant with a city firm when he decided to join the Australian Air Force.

Initially, his weekly letters to his mother were full of joy at all he was experiencing – until he reached England. Then, noticeably, there was a change in his style of writing as he progressed from being a carefree young man to one who faced the realities of war.

Prior to being posted overseas his service life began with the rank of Aircraftsman (AC2) with a daily pay of two shillings and ninepence. Not a lot, as he had to consider whether he could afford a meal or go to the movies.

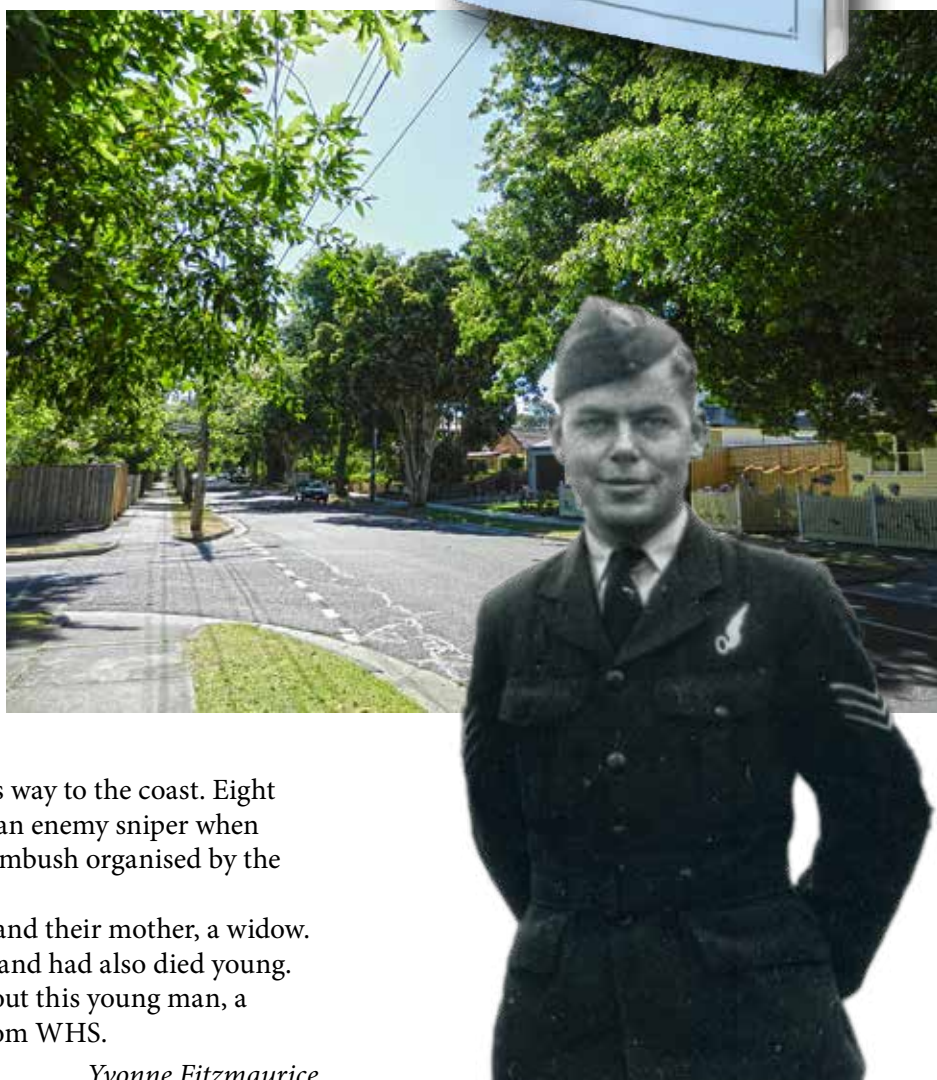
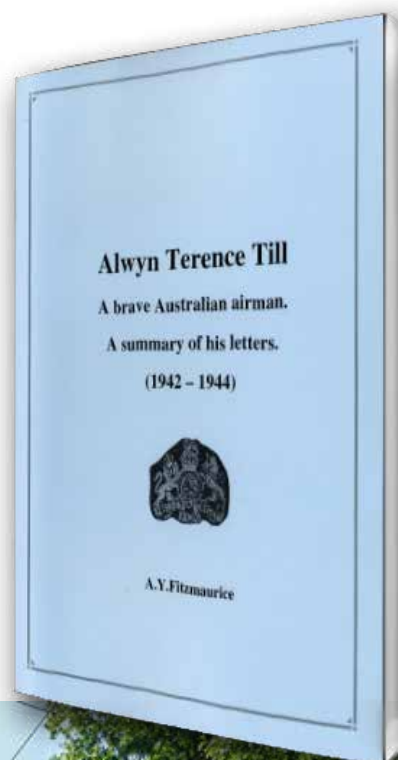
After initial training, where he spent his first Sunday day “marching up and down”, he was posted for basic training on Avro Anson aircraft. These postings were to places in Victoria and South Australia that were new to him. When he was sent overseas to England via the USA, he began combat missions in Bomber Command as a Flight Sergeant, flying in a Halifax. Finally, he became a Warrant Officer, posted to 635 Squadron as a Pathfinder Navigator in Lancaster bombers, based at Downham Market, Norfolk.

During a raid near Frankfurt, his aircraft was shot down near the Belgium/German border. Alwyn was the only one of a crew of seven to survive. He was recognised by a member of the Marquis as he made his way to the coast. Eight days after baling out, he was killed by an enemy sniper when taking a voluntary part in a roadside ambush organised by the resistance group.

Alwyn left behind a younger sister, and their mother, a widow. His father had been a soldier in WWI and had also died young.

If you wish to read the full story about this young man, a booklet (pictured) may be obtained from WHS.

Yvonne Fitzmaurice



WHS Committee Contacts

President

Vicki Jones-Evans
9873 3383

Vice-President

Peter McPhee

Secretary

Kathy Innes

Treasurer

Eddie Tan

Newsletter Team

Chris Gray
Wendy Standfield

WHS website

www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/
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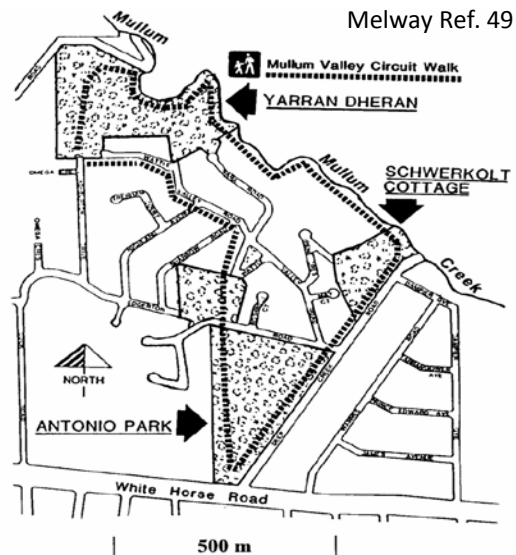
whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Postal Address

P.O. Box 272
MITCHAM Vic 3132

Local History Room (03) 9873 4946

Melway Ref. 49 D7



Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 6 March 2019

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

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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