



NEWSLETTER

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September–October 2018

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After dire meteorological predictions, Heritage Open Day was **A "FINE" ROMANCE**

DESPITE a somewhat foreboding weather forecast just over 800 people came along and enjoyed a cool but sunny day of fun for all the family. The old-fashioned children's games and picnic races in the Cottage Garden were a highlight with lots of children discovering non-electronic ways to have fun.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all of the individuals and groups who gave up their time to make this year's Heritage Family Day such a great success. The very special people who demonstrate the craftsmanship and artistry of days gone by really make this day special. Where else can you see spinning, weaving, knitting and lacemaking in the same room as Chinese brush painting? As always, the trains and meccano display were a magnet, along with the talents of the blacksmith and the wood turners.

The Rotary clubs of Mitcham and Forest Hill worked tirelessly to provide hot sausages for the hungry crowds, ably

assisted by our local MP, Ms Dee Ryall, who stepped up to help out with the busy lunchtime crowd.

With free pony rides, face painting and balloons there were lots of happy children enjoying a wonderful day out. Many families also received a tree seedling to take home which was supplied by Whitehorse City Council in line with this year's theme of "A Walk in the Park – Gardens and green spaces".

This year the Whitehorse Historical Society ran both a cake stall and a book stall as well as providing Devonshire Teas. These activities were very successful and raised some much-needed funds to assist with the work of conserving the history of the Whitehorse area.

Kathy Innes



For more Heritage Day news see page 4

NEXT MEETING

General Meeting 1pm Saturday 13 October 2018

James Nicholas: Mystery of Fairyland – Kew



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

THANK you to the outgoing Committee for their work for the Society. In particular, Pat for serving as President for the last two years. Pat is staying on the Committee. Bob Gardiner, who joined the Committee in 2007, has retired from the Committee but you will be relieved to know, is still volunteering with us.

We welcome two new people to the Committee, Harley Hall and Margaret Graham and Peter McPhee is our new Vice President. Kathy Innes is Secretary and Eddie Tan is Treasurer.

I started Heritage Day by attending a tree planting next to the Orchard Shed of a sapling from the Separation Tree by the Mayor, Cr Davenport, and the President of Mitcham Rotary, John Richard. This event was organised as part of the Heritage Week Theme and an attractive ParksWide-designed garden bed compliments the 4-metre red gum tree.

Kathy has given a report on our very successful Heritage Family Day on the front page. Many thanks to Kathy for doing such an excellent job organising the day as well as baking lots of goodies for the kitchen and the cake stall. Thanks also go to Harley for being such a great co-ordinator on the day and to Judy for doing such a good job managing the kitchen.

It was good to see such a great team of enthusiastic volunteers creating a very happy day for our 800, approximate,

visitors. Rotary's sausage sizzle was greatly appreciated by all. Thanks also go to Julie Jones and staff from Whitehorse Council who helped make the day a success.

Congratulations to our past Secretary, Rachael for winning the Roslyn Lawry Award at the Museums Australia (Victoria) Awards. Rachael was undertaking Cultural & Museum Studies at Deakin University and won her award for Excellence in her studies.

Sunday 21 October is the Council Spring Festival. If you would like to help out on our stall that day then please contact Kathy or myself.

November 11 this year is a very special Remembrance Day as it commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War. We will be commemorating the day, which is a Sunday, with an installation of hand-knitted poppies at the entrance to the Cottage garden. The poppies will carry the names of the Mitcham men and woman who served.

After a small ceremony we will serve refreshments and there will be a display in the Museum of World War 1 Artefacts.

At our next meeting James Nicolas will be talking on the house in Malmsbury St, Kew that became known as Fairyland Cottage. It sounds fascinating. I hope you will join us.

Vicki Jones Evans



Congrats Rachael

THE 2018 Victorian Museum Awards were held on Wednesday 29 August at Melbourne Museum.

The Victorian Museum Awards are now in their 25th year and celebrate the wonderful achievements of the museum and gallery sector. This year three individuals and seven organisations were recognised with Victorian Museum awards.

The winner of the Roslyn Lawry Award for Excellence in Cultural Heritage & Museum Studies, Deakin University was our own former secretary Rachael Cottle. Congratulations from us all, Rachael!

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A Tangled Web . . .

THE celebrations of the AGM being put to rest, the audience settled down to watch and listen to what turned out to be a fascinating talk by Vicki Jones-Evans (supported with demonstration by Leonie Martinson) of the history and variety of Lacemaking. A well-researched PowerPoint presentation meant that we could easily appreciate the developments and changes that it had undergone over the centuries.

The earliest form of “Lace” was found in Egyptian tombs – a sort of knotted net used to wrap around mummies. Ancient Egyptian art also depicts hairnets as early as 2130 BC.

However, Lacemaking as we know it seems to have first appeared in the 13th century, and, as Vicki informed us, was used to decorate church and household textiles. Terms such as “bobbin lace” and “needle lace” (describing the method of creation) were introduced to us as having first been in use in the 15th century, possibly being first practised in Venice. It is still one of the popular types made there today. The Island of Burano is probably now the centre of Venetian lace with shops selling lace of different types.

We learned that many different types of lace developed in different parts of Europe: Venetian lace from Italy, Brussels lace from Belgium and Flanders lace from Bruges. Early Spanish lace incorporated a gimp thread which outlined part of the design and this has been said to have been introduced to England by Catherine of Aragon after she married Henry the Eighth in 1509. Another legend is that Bobbin lace was possibly introduced to Malta by Lady Hamilton Chichester in 1833. They use a lot of silk and incorporate the Maltese cross in a lot of their designs.

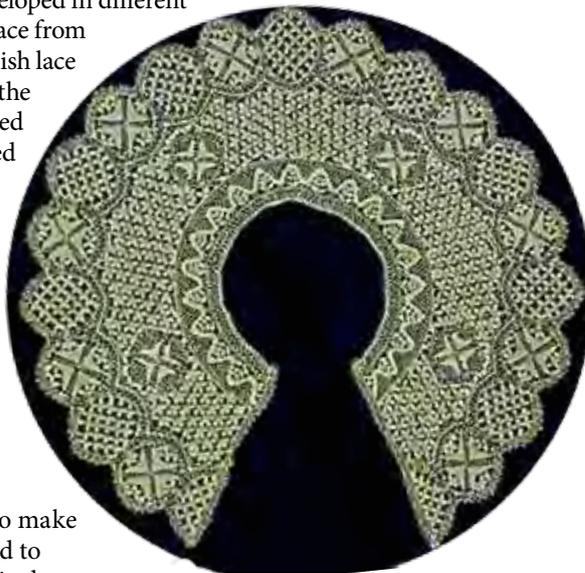
Vicki also mentioned the – perhaps surprising – fact that by the 18th century lacemaking wasn't particularly a female pastime. Women, children and men who were not able to do arduous work, and fisherman who were beached because of bad weather all made lace.

Machines were invented in the 19th Century to make net and later Nottingham machines were invented to manufacture lace with simulated bobbin lace. This then became much cheaper and handmade lace was no longer a viable industry. Another lace popular in the 19th Century was tape lace called Battenberg or Princess Lace. The tape was machine made and then used in a handmade needle lace design.

The uses of lace have always been many and various – and, as has already been mentioned, not only in female circumstances. By the 18th century lace was worn by men as a decoration on shoes as well as collars, cuffs and cravats.

The term “Lace” these days means a decorative fabric with a design of open spaces and denser areas formed by manipulating threads. Crochet, tatting, fine knitting, drawn thread work and bobbin lace all come under the common term of “Lace”.

Chris Gray



PICTURES (clockwise from top): Venetian lace (beneath title); Ancient Egyptian "lace" found in a tomb; Maltese lace incorporating the Maltese Cross; Men making lace (early 20th century)



Heritage Open Day

(continued from page 1)

Thank you for support (Volunteers):

- Mitcham & Forest Hill Rotary Clubs
 - Koornung Wood Turners
 - Melbourne Meccano and Electric Trains
 - Box Hill Spinners & Weavers group
 - Lace-makers Vicki, Liz and Leonie
 - Knitter – Lavinia Rushworth
 - Gunther Ilgontz – Blacksmith
 - Echo Wu – Chinese Brush Painting
 - Also Vivere Coffee Cart, Family Connections (Genealogy)
- Thanks also for the excellent entertainment provided by Brumbies Bush Band.

Raffle Prizes:

1st: Hand-forged Candelabra

Donated by Gunther Ilgontz (Blacksmith)

2nd: Yarra Valley Goodies

Donated by **DEE RYALL MP**
MEMBER FOR RINGWOOD

3rd: Coffee Hamper

Donated by 

4th: Bread Knife

Donated by the Innes family

5th: Hand-made Cot Quilt

Made & donated by WHS member

6th: Set of 8 Steak Knives

Donated by the Innes family

7th: Chocolate Hamper

Donated by 

Winners:

- 1st: Thomas Brown
- 2nd: Thomas Brown
- 3rd: Chris Gray
- 4th: Trish
- 5th: Phillip
- 6th: Claire Harding
- 7th: Claire Harding



From the Nunawading Reporter

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

Volume 66 Number 37

Friday, 25 September 1953

Price Threepence

NO BUILDING PERMIT

—oOo—

TEN POUNDS FINE FOR BLACKBURN BUILDER

A builder who erected a house in Holland road, Blackburn South, without first getting a permit from the Nunawading City Council was fined £10 in the Box Hill Court of Petty Sessions on September 17 and ordered to pay costs amounting to £5/2/6.

Defendant was W. E. R. Sinclair Churchill. John Ernest Wardlaw, building inspector to the city of Nunawading, gave evidence that on June 2 this year he had interviewed him on the site of a house being erected in Holland road. He asked him whether his wife were the owner of the land. Churchill said she was and she had authorised him to erect a house on the land. Mr. Wardlaw had then charged him with having erected the house without first obtaining a building permit. Churchill had said he had, but having prepared plans, had overlooked the matter. Mr. Wardlaw said a permit had been issued subsequently on July 23 and the building, as erected, fully complied with the uniform building regulations.

Mr. Downey, S.M., said he would like to know if defendant was aware that it was necessary to obtain a permit. What was his occupation? Was he building the house privately? Witness replied that Churchill was a builder and had built a number of houses here and there throughout the municipality. Mr. Downey then asked if any prior convictions were known. When Mr. Frank Lonie, of Maddock, Lonie and Chisholm, who appeared for the Nunawading City Council, mentioned one obtained against the defendant in July, the magistrate asked if it had been obtained before the information in the charge had been lodged. Mr. Lonie advising him that was not the case, it was disallowed as a "prior" conviction.

ONE STEP FORWARD

—oOo—

TOWARDS HEATHERDALE AND MIDDLEBOROUGH RAIL STATIONS

Although the Ministerial reply spoke of the considerable period of time that must elapse before there are railway stations at Heatherdale and Middleborough, it also left no doubt that the Railways Commissioners have given the proposals a certain priority.

Mr. R. J. Gray, M.L.A., has been making representations on behalf of residents of the two areas now being considerably built over and developed, the city councils of Nunawading and Box Hill and interested progress associations. Recently he introduced a deputation to the Minister for Railways, Mr. Coleman, on the question of a station at or near Middleborough road, in the two mile stretch between Box Hill and Blackburn. This deputation included Crs. Rooks and Heppner of the Nunawading City Council, and members of the Middleborough and District Progress Association.

Writing to the Nunawading City Council of representations made by him in regard to a station at Heatherdale, Mr. Gray enclosed the Minister's reply. Mr. Coleman said that after Mr. Gray's personal representations he had discussed the matter with the Railways Commissioners and they felt that in view of the considerable development of certain suburban districts an enlarged programme for the provision of

more railway stations would be justified. The shortage of loan funds however, had delayed completion of a large number of capital works and there was still a considerable lag in this, but once funds were available again and when priorities allowed, something would be done in this regard. This would not be for a considerable time, however, the Minister added.

Nunawading has thanked Mr Gray for his efforts in the matter and has asked him to let the council know what type of station is to be provided and approximate cost.

There's something
about  that
everybody likes!

FILL UP AT 

BOX HILL — D. CAMPBELL'S MOTORS, 41 Carrington Road. ● ALAN COFFEY MOTORS PTY. LTD., 1020 Whitehorse Road. ● A. W. McCAY'S AUTO SERVICE, 720 Station Street. ● T. MORLEY & SON SERVICE STATION, 391 Elgar Road. ● VENTURA MOTORS, cr. Canterbury Road and Station Street.
DONCASTER — VIC. CLARRKSON'S GARAGE.
MITCHAM — MITCHAM MOTORS, 506 Whitehorse Road.
TEMPLESTOWE — TEMPLESTOWE GARAGE PTY. LTD.
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under the spreading Separation Tree

BELOW: The planting of a sapling grown from the original Separation Tree, which was mortally vandalised some years ago, took place at a few minutes after 10am on Sunday 16 September – a fitting start to the Heritage Open Day.

L–R: Peter McPhee; Cr Prue Cutts; Cr Ben Stennett; Whitehorse Mayor Cr Andrew Davenport; Cr Bill Bennett; Mitcham Rotary President John Richard; WHS President Vicki Jones-Evans



DIARY DATES

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.

Saturday, 13 October

1.00pm General Meeting

James Nicholas: Mystery of Fairyland – Kew

Saturday, 8 December

1.00pm General Meeting

Graham Patterson: History highlights on the Port Phillip coast

Poppies for Remembrance

Sunday 11 November,

11am at the Cottage garden gate.

A short ceremony, together with a poppy display, commemorating WWI Armistice Day and the local people who served.

Museum display and refreshments.

2018 WORKING BEES

Please make a diary note and join us on the day.

Working Bees commence at 9.30am and finish around 12 noon with morning tea.

Saturday 10 November

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

OUR COMMITTEE

Vicki Jones-Evans – President
Peter McPhee – Vice President
Kathy Innes – Secretary
Eddie Tan – Treasurer

Committee Members

Yvonne Fitzmaurice	Rob Innes
Margaret Graham	Pat Richardson
Harley Hall	Chris Gray
Judith Hall	

STATISTICS

Photographs catalogued	-	4273
Artefacts catalogued	-	4849
Documents catalogued	-	7506
Museum visitors July–August		392

 Facebook 'likes' to August	-	738
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Is this where you live?

SHEEHANS ROAD, previously Sheehan's Lane; MALCOLM STREET previously Elizabeth Street; HARRY STREET, all in Blackburn South.

These three streets, grouped together, are the only remaining visible signs of a profitable pear, peach and lemon orchard. It had been carved out of virgin bush by Aquila Arthur Sheehan (also recorded as Arthur Aquila Hennis Sheehan). He had married Elizabeth Malcolm Forrester in 1878; they had nine children. It is not known when Elizabeth died, but she outlived her husband.

Arthur Sheehan, as he was generally known, (c1856–1922) is thought to be Aquila Hennis Sheehan, born 12 May 1856, son of Robert Sheehan and Eliza Ewers, of Enfield, South Australia.

It is known that in 1885 he bought a block of bush covered land situated alongside a rough cattle track called Delany's Road, now Canterbury Road. While the property was being cleared he worked as a railway man at Box Hill where the family lived until a new home was built. It took three years to complete, and in 1906 they moved into their white weatherboard house. It remained the family home for approximately 60 years and was still standing in the 1980s.

Arthur Sheehan, an active member of the fledgling community, was one of the foundation members of The Blue Moon Co-operative in Blackburn. Built after WW1, this cool store catered for all of the district's orchardists for many years. Previously, all produce was taken to the city markets.

After WW2 land was needed for housing and in about 1952 the orchard was subdivided. Sheehan's Lane was renamed as a Street, and Malcolm and Harry Streets were formed.

Arthur's son, George Arthur Sheehan (1895–c1962), a trained architect, supervised the land sub-division and selected the construction material, solid brick or brick veneer only. He also chose the buyers. The government classed these new streets as private roads, which made the new home owners responsible for any upkeep. They established a fund and with the money raised – coupled with working bees – they kept their streets in reasonable repair.

Once, on still vacant land nearest to Canterbury Road, a travelling circus rested. The new residents were surprised when two straying elephants looked over their fences.

Harry Street is named for another member of the family, Sir Henry Sheehan, a civil servant who rose to be Secretary to the Treasury, and the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank. He was knighted in 1937.

Malcolm Street was named for both Mrs Elizabeth Malcolm Sheehan and her son, Malcolm.

Sheehans Road was named for Arthur, the original owner.

A.Y.Fitzmaurice

Sources:

- Ancestry.com
- *From Orchard to Brick Veneer* by OS Green, 1985
- <http://blackburncreeklands.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/from-orchard-to-brick-veneer-malcolm-street-public-version.pdf>



NP636 Entrance to Blue Moon Co-operative 1977. Arthur Sheehan was a co-founder of the business.

WHS Committee Contacts

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Treasurer

Eddie Tan

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Wendy Standfield

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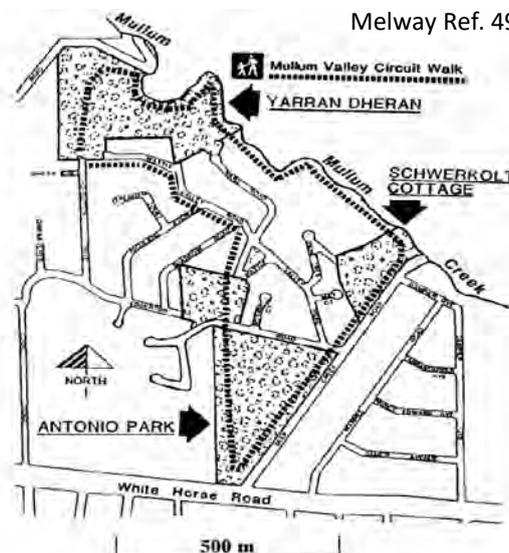
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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 7 November 2018

The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Mission Statement & Acknowledgement of Country



“The purpose of the Society is to foster historical interest and knowledge. To collect, document, research, preserve and exhibit items that show how people have lived and worked in the City of Whitehorse area.”

“In the spirit of reconciliation, Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners of the land now known as the City of Whitehorse, and pays respect to its elders past and present.”

CITY OF



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.



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