

New chairs arrive



(PICTURED FROM LEFT):
The three stages of our new
chairs' arrival

ON 10 April we were visited by Michael Sukkar MP who was surprised that we had not been successful in our Volunteer Grant Application to replace the chairs that were being used by our Wednesday Workers with ergonomic computer task chairs.

Michael generously offered to not only supply new computer task chairs but to also replace the heavy and worn visitor chairs.

On 8 November we received our order from Officeworks, which consisted of 32 extremely large boxes containing chairs that all required assembling. Harley Hall has done a magnificent job assembling all the chairs. The computer chairs have been welcomed by those volunteers who spend hours sitting at the computer. The new visitor chairs are stackable and the design provides assistance for people needing help when getting up.

We have expressed our sincere thanks to Michael and are looking forward to showing him the chairs when he is next able to visit.

Kathy Innes



NEXT MEETING

General Meeting 1pm Saturday 1 February 2020

Richard Conn:

Restoring old monochrome photographs



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



RIGHT: As with last year, Richard's "Land Auction Posters" generated considerable interest at the Spring Festival.

Dear Members

DURING the final quarter of 2019 (where did the year go?), the Committee and volunteers represented the Society at the Whitehorse Spring Festival. On our table children and adults had fun on our "have a go" typewriter (not one from our Collection). The consensus was that it made very satisfactory noises and felt different to a computer keyboard.

Dr Gary Presland gave an informative and interesting talk at our September meeting on the economics within Aboriginal society. In November we had a small but industrious group attend our working bee.

The Committee have decided to move the database to the free government-run and Museum-based Victorian Collections. This will save us money on software upgrades to our current database and will remove a large responsibility from Rob Innes. Victorian Collections is currently undergoing a major upgrade so it will next year before we can implement this change.

We applied again for a grant with the National Library of Australia for a significance assessment of our Collection and were unsuccessful.

Our annual Planning Day is scheduled for February. The proposed date is 17 February. If you are interested in attending contact Kathy or myself.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and New Year – which will be 2020 (where did the last 20 years go?)

Vicki Jones Evans

A wonderland of WHS Books



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Economics of the Aboriginal Society

IN October Gary Presland joined us once more to deliver a second talk on the life of the Peoples who preceded European settlement of our locality: the Kulin nation, and in particular the *Wurundjeri willam* clan.

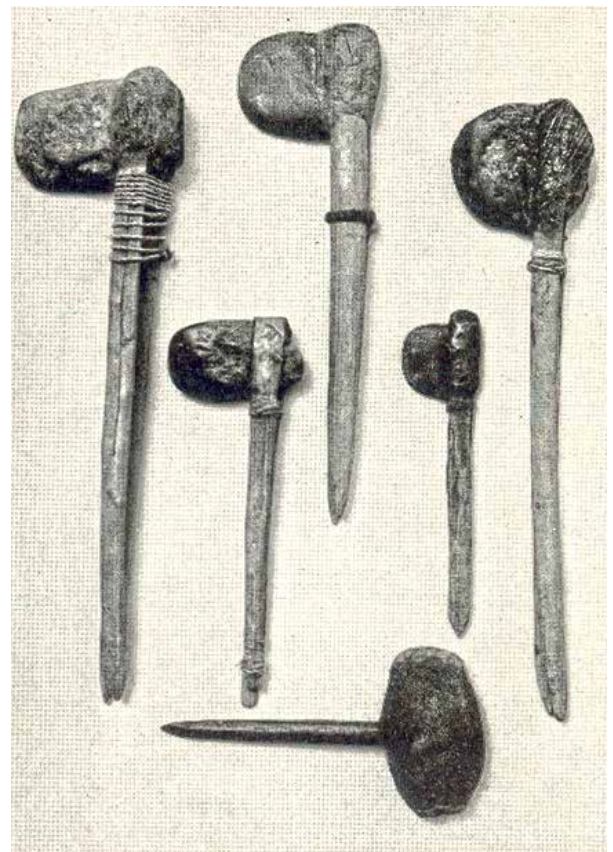
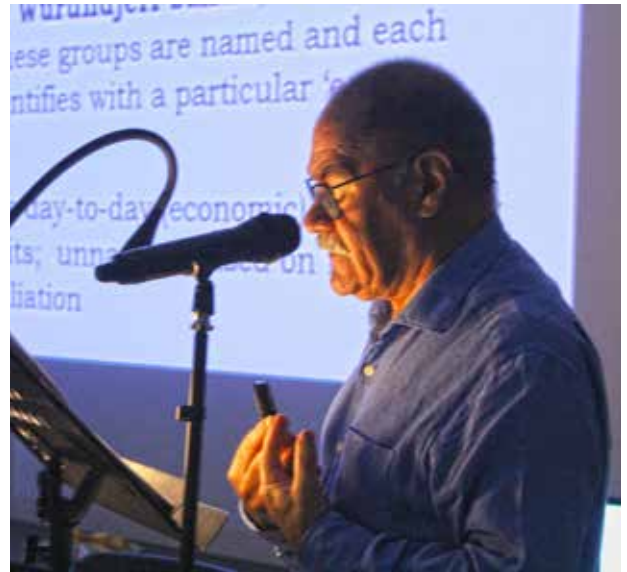
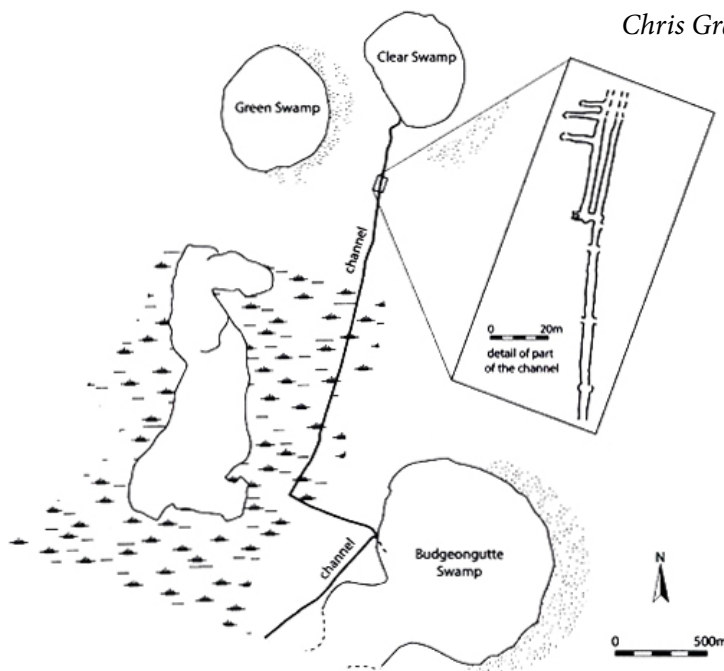
Having reminded us of the basic aspects underpinning his subject, Gary proceeded to delve into the specifics of aboriginal economics. He emphasised the ways in which gathering and hunting dove-tailed with land management techniques that included the use of fire. While it is true that it was sometimes used to drive game from cover, the major purpose of burning practices was much more subtle. It was a means of achieving a bigger supply of plant foods. Fire was applied to particular areas, usually with a frequency of 3-5 years. This maintained an open woodland regime, maximising the growth of herbaceous species; promoting species diversity, and also impacting on local animal species development.

Gary went on to mention contemporary accounts of methods of harvesting food from rivers: for example, eel hunting by means of the creation of complex artificial canals that forced the eels into holding pens, from which they could be gathered at will (see illustration below).

There is also clear evidence of the existence of quite extensive trading between the nations. For example, tools quarried and made in the south can be found to have been traded to clans living many hundreds of miles away, who would never have direct contact with the people who made the original items.

Gary's talk prompted enthusiastic questions, and I'm sure we will be looking forward to the next instalment on his subject.

Chris Gray



ABOVE: Tools that would be traded with far-off clans.

VICTORIA POLICE GAZETTE

POLICE RECORDS in 1921 – 1924

(Blackburn, Mitcham, Nunawading and Tunstall)

THE *Victoria Police Gazette* contains much interesting information, not only about local crime but about local missing persons as well, and it is surprising what can be found.

Although the following information is on open access the names have been omitted should there be relatives who are still alive. The Gazette date and page is given for any further research.

These entries are mainly about stolen goods. It has to be considered the thefts were made by men who may have been returned servicemen who were finding it difficult to either settle or find work due to the economic situation. Swagmen were still around until the next world war in 1939. Some never changed their life on the open road and remained swagmen until their deaths.

THEFTS

Mitcham 8 July 1921. A painter in Deep Creek Road had a soldier's badge and garments, all described, stolen from his home. To the value of £6/10/0. A man was arrested for the felony on the 27 July 1921.

Ref: VPG 14 July 1921, page 480. Column A.

Mitcham – Tunstall 30.7.1921. An engineer of Spring Vale Road, Tunstall, reported stolen from his home a quantity of jewellery, household goods, all of which were described in detail, and 5 shillings. [No further entries about this theft appeared in the VPG for 1921 and 1922.]

Ref: VPG 6 October 1921, page 671. Column B.

Blackburn-Mitcham 11.8.1921–15.8.1921. The Licensee of the Traveller's Rest Hotel, Blackburn reported stolen from her shed, a set of light buggy harness which she details. The value £7.

Ref: VPG 18 August 1921, page 558/568 [difficult to read] Column A.

Mitcham 15.3.1922. A clerk of Mitcham reported stolen from his verandah a dark olive green travelling rug with red and brown stripes and a fringe at both ends. Value £2.

Ref: VPG 23 March 1922, page 176, Column B.

Mitcham – Tunstall 1.8.1922. A dealer of Spring Vale Road, Tunstall, reported stolen his 'Robinson' orchard garden plough with adjustable handles, set low. Value £3.

Ref: VPG 21 September 1922, page 615, Column B.

Mitcham – Tunstall 1.8.1922. The perpetrator of the above larceny was apprehended by Constable G.H.Dockland, 5032, Mitcham.

Ref: VPG 29 September 1922, page 625, Column A.

Mitcham-Tunstall 22.3.1923. A fruit hawker of Spring Vale Road, Tunstall, reported stolen from his home a quantity of jewellery valued at £12. A 26 to 28-year-old swagman [named] who was staying at the house was thought to be the culprit. His description was circulated.

Ref: VPG 29 March 1923, page 216, Column A.

Mitcham 30.9.1924. A grocer, The Red Store, Mitcham, reported a forced entry (with a jemmy) through the front door of his shop, and a theft of a quantity of tobacco, cigarettes, biscuits, butter and cash £5/10/-. Total value £7/10/-. [There were no further entries for the year.]

Ref: VPG 2 October 1924, page 708, Column A.

WIVES AND CHILDREN – DESERTIONS

Mitcham 24.7.1924. A female tile worker of Whitehorse Road Mitcham charged a man with desertion of his illegitimate child at Mitcham. Names and descriptions are given. [No further entries for 1924.]

Ref: VPG 2 October 1924, page 705, Column A.

Mitcham 9.10.1924. A young woman of Whitehorse Road Mitcham charged a 28-year-old labourer with deserting his illegitimate child at Mitcham. Names and descriptions are given. [No further entries for 1924.]

Ref: VPG 16 October 1924, page 737, Column A.

MISSING FRIENDS

Tunstall 13.10.1924 A thirty-year-old man is reported missing from his home in Spring Vale Road since the 7th of October. A full description and name is given. He was later traced.

Ref: VPG 16 October 1924, page 737, Column A. & VPG 30 October 1924, page 766.

Mitcham 5.11.1924. A sixteen-year-old boy reported missing from his home in Church Street, Mitcham. He was believed to have been in the company of his cousin. [No further entry for 1924]

Ref: VPG 6 November 1924, page 787, Column A.

A.Y.Fitzmaurice

BE HAPPY, BUT BE SAFE

**All the
best
for '77**

Be happy — but
more important, be
safe.

That's our mes-
sage to you for
Christmas.

Please take care on
our roads. We want to
see you back in the New
Year.

Our picture depicts
the feeling of
Christmas through
the eyes of a young
boy.

Andrew Copeland,
three, met Father
Christmas at East-
land Shopping
Centre last week.

We hope Andrew
has a safe and happy
Christmas, too.

Cut this page out
and pin it to a wall as
a safety reminder
during 1977.

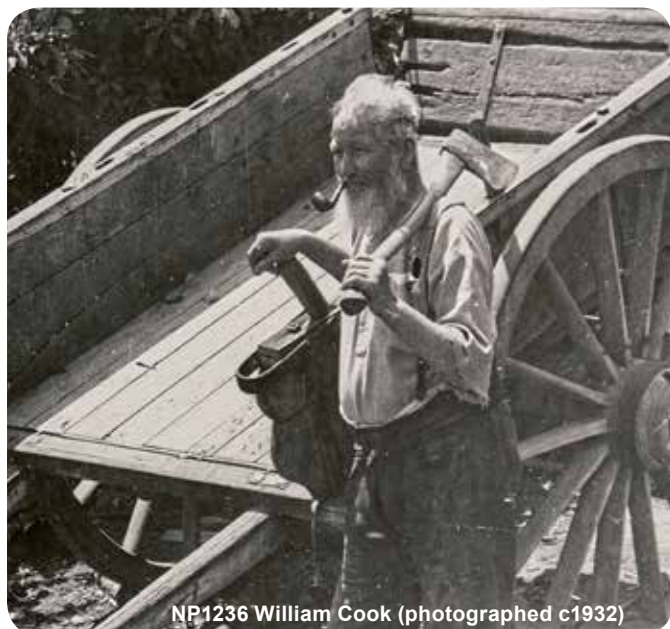
Don't forget — be
happy, but be safe.



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Is this where you live?

COOKS ROAD, MITCHAM.



NP1236 William Cook (photographed c1932)

THIS road was named for William Cook (c1859 – 1939), an orchardist, known as the ‘Cherry King’ of Mitcham. His birthplace is uncertain, but it is thought he was born of English parents in the northern area of Victoria. He married Jane (Jinny) Maggs in 1880, and had one child, Harriet Amey (1881 – 1962). They are buried together in the Box Hill cemetery.

Prior to Cook’s success as an orchardist he went to the goldfields of Western Australia in 1896, during the difficult economic period of the ‘boom and bust’. He left behind his wife and young daughter, both of whom went to live with her brother and his wife.

To support his family while he was away he arranged with a Station Agent, Mr Sweetman, to rent his property. Unfortunately the money was not always forthcoming, because Mr Chugg, the man chosen, was an inexperienced farmer.

While in the West between periods of prospecting he found employment as either a teamster or a wood cutter-cum-carter. His letters to his wife have given an insight into his Spartan life and the emotional toll it took on the family he left behind.

After two years he returned to his Mitcham property and made a success as a farmer growing fruit, mainly cherries, which were claimed to be the first to ripen each season.

Yvonne Fitzmaurice

DIARY DATES

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

Saturday, 7 December
1.00pm General Meeting

Wendy Lee
Tivoli Tales

Saturday, 1 February
1.00pm General Meeting

Richard Conn
Restoring old monochrome photographs

Saturday, 4 April
1.00pm General Meeting

Ross McMullin
Will Dyson, War Artist

2020 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 March
Saturday 2 May
Saturday 4 July
Saturday 5 September
Saturday 7 November

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

STATISTICS

Photographs catalogued	-	4333
Artefacts catalogued	-	4985
Documents catalogued	-	7681
Museum visitors September–October		369



Facebook New Page ‘likes’ to date **826**

FROM THE COLLECTION . . .

ND1981

Christmas card featuring Schwerkolt Cottage drawn by Jack Montgomery, April 1967 (proof)



MITCHAM—

Contrasting with nearby modern houses, in Deep Creek Rd., Mitcham, the humble 3-roomed cottage built in 1862-1864 by the German migrant August Schwerkolt and his family, on the southern slopes overlooking Mullum-Mullum Creek, still stands.

In the 1860's many resourceful German farmers settled along the Yarra valley between Heidelberg and the Dandenong Ranges, particularly at Doncaster and Mitcham. Schwerkolt was no exception and he quarried stone from the creek for his cottage walls, chimneys, well and cellar, and developed a vineyard and orchard. His descendants lived on the 5-acre property until 1963 when a demolition order was served.

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of the local Nunawading Council the cottage was not only reprieved but restored as a folk museum. Restoration includes pioneer relics, suitable furnishings, a wood slab barn (re-erected from the Dandenong Ranges), fences and the surrounding beautiful gardens. The building is of historic value since examples of colonial stone cottages are rare in Victoria. Schwerkolt died in 1887.

Reproduced from the original black and white study of
SCHWERKOLTS COTTAGE, MITCHAM
by Artist-Historian,

Jack Montgomery

Upwey, Vic.

DRAWN ON THE SITE, APRIL 1967

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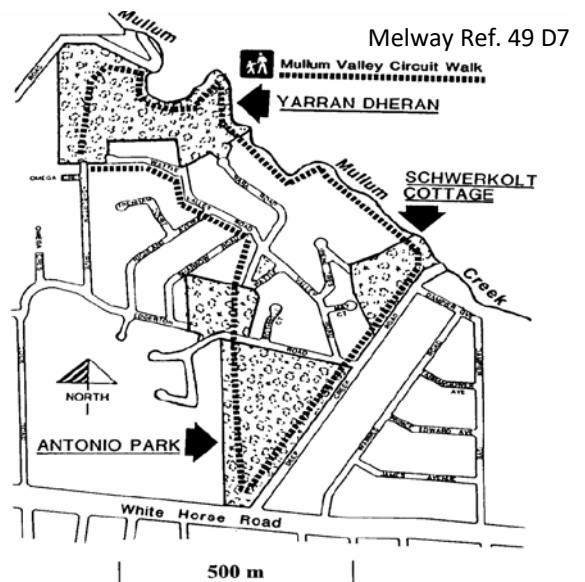
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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 8 January 2020

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



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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AFFIX
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