

NEXT MEETING

General Meeting 1pm Saturday 1 February 2020

Richard Conn:

Restoring old monochrome photographs



ABOVE: Rosalie with Jana and Nick

Dear Members

Happy New Year to all.

In December Rosalie and I had the happy task of showing the Cottage, Museum and grounds to a great, great granddaughter of Mary Schwerkolt. Jana and her new husband Nick were visiting from the USA and in Melbourne for the day especially to see the Cottage. The newly-weds were very interested in everything and enjoyed visiting Jana's heritage before they travelled on to New Zealand.

Shortly before Christmas the Council released a landscape concept plan for 21 Wattle Valley Road, Mitcham and invited comments which were due just before Christmas. Our Committee decided to ask Antonio Park and Yarran Dherran Advisory Committees to combine with us to make a joint submission on the landscape plan. Members of the two Committees were happy to meet with us and Margaret

Graham and I hosted a meeting in the Local History Room. Our three committees jointly agreed to also ask our ward Councillors to consider a master plan for our combined areas as well as offering suggestions for the landscape plan. We subsequently sent a joint email to Councillors Prue Cutts and Ben Stennett and to the Council's Project Officer.

On Monday February 17 we will be holding our annual Planning Day starting at 9.30am. Please let Kathy know if you would like to attend for catering purposes as lunch will be provided. All are welcome and Councillors Prue Cutts and Raylene Carr will be joining us again this year.

I hope to see you at our General Meeting with our photographer, Richard Conn sharing his expertise.

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



TIVOLI TALES TALK – Wendy Lee

OUR history is not just contained in objects; sometimes the best history is expressed through stories. We had such a treat at our Whitehorse Historical Society meeting last December. Wendy Lee, a long-time former resident of the district entertained us with tales of the early Melbourne theatre story, in particular her tales of the Tivoli theatre and contemporary theatre life in Melbourne.

Wendy was almost literally born in the theatre, with her mother a dancer and her father a vaudeville star who swapped a career in WW1 as an observer in the Royal Flying Corps over France for a career on the stage in Australia, eventually residing in an apartment in the Tivoli theatre. Her story of travelling at age 5, by herself, on the tram from the Tivoli to primary school in South Yarra and home again each day, spoke to us of another Melbourne, another time; almost another place.

She and husband Mike were living in the flat in the Tivoli when the building burnt down in 1966. Television had by this stage had its effect on live entertainment, and ultimately contributed to the demise of this aspect of Melbourne's rich cultural life.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Wendy and her family for some 40 years, had many wonderful experiences and heard more than a few stories. Wendy held weekly dance/exercise classes for her friends (The Last Chance Dance Company) for many years. We even did costumed gigs for friends' birthday parties: hilarious and heaps of fun! Some of Wendy's friends (including me!) even performed as part of the 2015 AFL Grand Final Footy Show Players Revue! One of Wendy's daughters is a well-known choreographer who gathered some older "talent" as part of the show that year. We can still be seen on YouTube for those brave enough to look!

(continued over page)



**ABOVE: Wendy shares her story;
(Left) Wendy with her father; (Below)
Backstage at the Tivoli.**



TIVOLI TALES TALK

(continued)

Wendy and husband Mike had a 50th Wedding Anniversary trip to the US, with another wedding in the Elvis Chapel in Las Vegas. Wendy enjoyed a new “wedding dress” costume presented to her by a friend prior to the trip – always a trouper!

There are so many other stories. Working as ground staff for an airline in Alice Springs as a teenager in the late 50's, marrying in Borneo in the 60's, owning and running a restaurant with her husband. Mrs Lee had a legendary reputation of being the best children's party giver in my daughter's class at the local primary school! An invitation to a Lee daughter's Birthday Party was much sort after and coveted. Needless to mention, grown-ups too especially loved an invitation to a Lee party.

Thank you, Wendy, for sharing a little of your memorable life with us at our meeting last December and reminding us of the importance of “people” stories in our local history. Your talk demonstrated the value in recording all sorts of stories from all sorts of people – unique stories to be enjoyed, shared and recorded. Whitehorse Historical Society is recording and transcribing many of these local stories and welcomes suggestions and ideas from our community. We all have an interesting story!

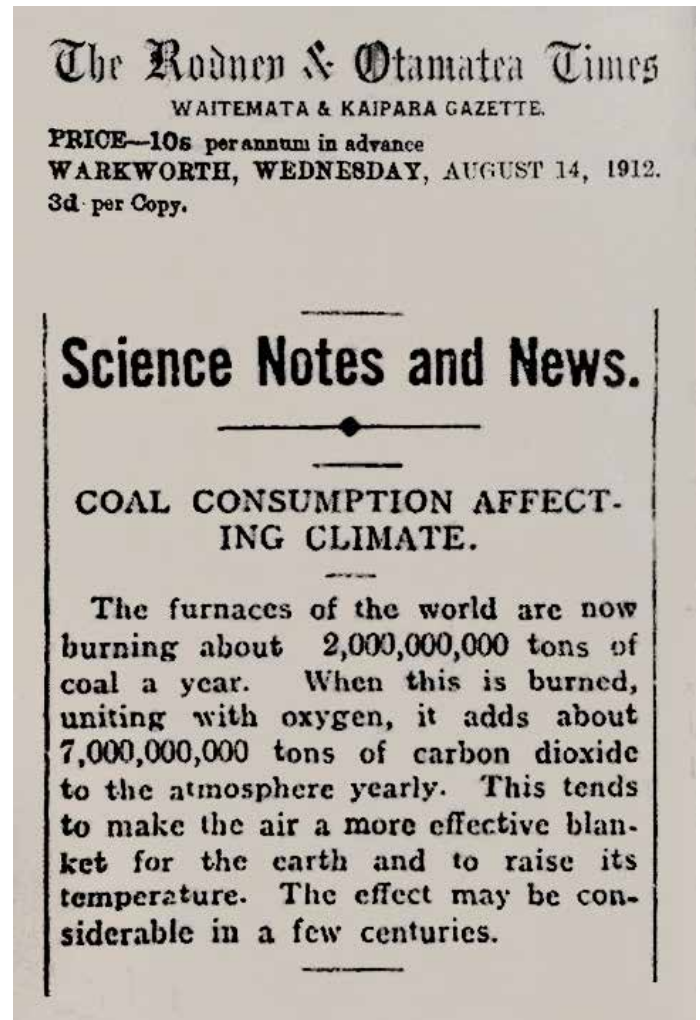
Me? Well, I'm trying to convince Wendy to write the story of her life, and will keep trying ...

Margaret Graham



Wendy's wedding outfit for her vow renewal in Vegas

Climate concern not a new thing



Join us for
PLANNING DAY 2020

Commencing 9:30am.
Lunch provided.
All Members Welcome.
Contact Kathy Innes for further details:
0409 230 058

(Camberwell, Surrey Hills and Box Hill News.)

THE REPORTER.

CIRCULATING IN BOX HILL, SURREY HILLS, CANTERBURY, BALWYN, CAMBERWELL, DONCASTER, BURWOOD, BLACKBURN, MITCHAM AND RINGWOOD
FERN TREE GUL'Y, BAYSWATER, CROYDON, MOOROOLBARK, VERMONT, EMERALD, SCORESBY, SASSAFRAS, TALLY HO, BLACK FLAT, &c.

VOL. XII. NO. 26

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1901.

ONE PENNY.

Railway Fare Anomalies.

The public will welcome with satisfaction (says the *Age*) the news that so soon as the Collingwood line is complete, the railway commissioner will put into operation a scheme for the remedying of suburban railway fare anomalies. Mr Rennick estimates that the line ought to be ready about June next, so the reform ought to be in operation early in the state financial year. Two years ago Mr Mathieson would not have dared to think of making any promise on this matter, but with a steadily rising revenue—the increase since July last year over 1899 totals close upon £50,000—he is able to relax the iron bands of caution. The department is now pursuing the work on a systematic plan, viz., first deciding what is and what is not within the metropolitan area. In England the suburban radius is continually expanding. A few years ago Enfield, in Middlesex, was a quiet country town, to which cheap fares and workmen's trains were as foreign as coal mines. To-day it has been enclosed into the metropolitan circle. Much the same thing applies to Melbourne, and provision must be made in any departmental scheme for reform expanding with population. The immediate need, however, is not arrangements for possible necessities in the future, but a remedy for existing anomalies. The sudden change in the rate per mile on the Healesville line from 1d. to 4d. immediately an imaginary boundary is crossed, for example, must be dealt with, and the divergence between the amounts charged for journeys direct to Box Hill or Ringwood, and journeys between intermediate stations, cries out for attention. The competition on Port Melbourne lines with the tramway and cab services renders the task of readjustment very difficult when a uniform system is the desideratum. Still it ought not to be impossible to devise a more logical code of fares than the present. Competent officers are working out the details, and from such particulars of their labors as have leaked out we gather that they require every ounce of patience in their composition.

Picnic at Olinda Creek.

The members of the Montrose Methodist Church and their friends to the number of about fifty celebrated the birth of the new year and century by a picnic at the Olinda Creek. The spot chosen afforded everything that picnickers could expect, and old and young joined in games, fishing, &c., to their hearts' content. Everyone was happy; good wishes were freely interchanged, and dull care for the time was at rest. Let us hope that it may continue in that state.

The Reporter.

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Unbiased by faction,
Irrespective of nationality or creed,
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A. PAIRMAN

—Late G. Kinloch—

Grocer, Tea and Corn Dealer,

HAVING Purchased from H. Smith, the Grocery and General Provision Business of the late G. Kinloch, with which he has been connected for some years, begs to solicit from Friends and Residents of Box Hill and District, a continuance of the favours bestowed on the shop in the past.

Every effort will be made to give satisfaction, all goods sold being of the best quality, at lowest rates.

Dairy Produce a Specialty. Boneless, Cured, Cakes and Wood always on hand.
A TRIAL SOLICITED.

Two Girls Drowned at Tunstall.

Two little girls named Fosbrook, aged about 10 and 8 years respectively, met their deaths by drowning on Friday afternoon in a waterhole near some abandoned brickworks at Tunstall. They had evidently gone to the hole to bathe, and the younger one became stuck in a snag, and her sister going to her assistance met her fate as well. This surmise is borne out by the fact that when the bodies were discovered by Mr D. McClelland about 7 o'clock, the younger child's body was held by a snag, and she had nothing on but her boots, while the elder girl had some of her clothes on, as if she had been out of the water, but had gone back when she found her sister in danger. Furthermore, it seemed as if the elder girl had been in the water about half an hour, and the younger one about twenty minutes longer. Constable Walshe and others who were apprised of the occurrence tried artificial respiration, but without avail, and Dr. Craig, of Box Hill, who arrived later, pronounced life extinct. The father of the children, who was employed at the Australian Tesselated Tile works at Mitcham, died about a year ago, and the only remaining members of the family are the mother and two younger girls, the youngest being under two years of age.

Box Hill Cemetery Trust.

On Saturday afternoon a meeting was held of the trustees of the Box Hill cemetery, when there were present:—Messrs Service (chairman), Cox, Meier, Bamford, Rodgerston, Parer, Sergeant, H. Ellingworth, T. Cook, and J. W. Aspinall (acting hon. sec.) Mr W. Ellingworth, J.P., having resigned from the trust, it was decided, on the motion of Messrs Cox and Rodgerston, that a letter of thanks be sent to him for his past services. There was a good deal of discussion as to filling offices under the trust, the debate being initiated by a motion of which Mr Aspinall had given notice that the offices of secretary, gardener, and gravedigger be combined, and that applications be called for the position. This proposal was negatived by 7 votes to 3. During the discussion it was pointed out that members of the trust were ineligible for any paid office under the trust. On the motion of Messrs Aspinall and Cox, it was decided that applications be invited through the local press for the position of secretary at £15 per annum. On the motion of Messrs Meier and Rodgerston, it was decided that applications be also invited for the combined position of gardener and gravedigger at £30 per annum, and 10s. per grave on week days, and 15s. per grave on Sundays. Applications must be sent to the acting secretary, Mr J. W. Aspinall, not later than the 19th inst. The next meeting of the trustees will be held on Monday, 21st inst.

JOHN PEPPER,

BOOT AND SHOE MAKER.

Canterbury Road, CANTERBURY

Is this where you live?



NP1293
A young
Charles Husband

HUSBAND ROAD, FOREST HILL is situated south of Canterbury Road on boundaries of two sections of land that were originally owned by E Edwards and W J Course, and runs between Springvale Road and Stevens Road.

It is named after Charles Edward Husband (1863–1939), who was a Nunawading Shire councillor from 1902 to 1908 and 1911 to 1917, and was Shire President for the Shire of Nunawading in a year not given. Cr Husband was also an original councillor of the first 1925 Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham Council for Tunstall Riding. He held Office from September 1925 to August 1929 when he was defeated by Cr Plant.

The Reporter - Friday June 7 1935

Mr. C.E.Husband celebrates the event of his first settling in Forest Hill in May 1894.

In recounting some of his experiences since then, Mr. Husband had lively recollections of Springvale Road as it used to be, metalled only in patches and with quagmires at intervals. One of those was directly opposite his gate, and it was into this that the late Councillor Morton of the then Nunawading Shire, was precipitated while on a tour of inspection. Briefly stated, the result of that experience was that the road was metalled soon afterwards. Humorously, Mr. Husband includes among later developments – electric light, electric trains, high railway fares and high rates. In the past two or three years, as he rather poetically puts it, “A few of the valiant pioneers have dropped anchor in the harbour of rest.” He concludes his reminiscences by trying to imagine what changes another forty-one years will bring to the district.

DIARY DATES

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

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

Saturday, 6 June

1.00pm General Meeting

TBA

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

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.

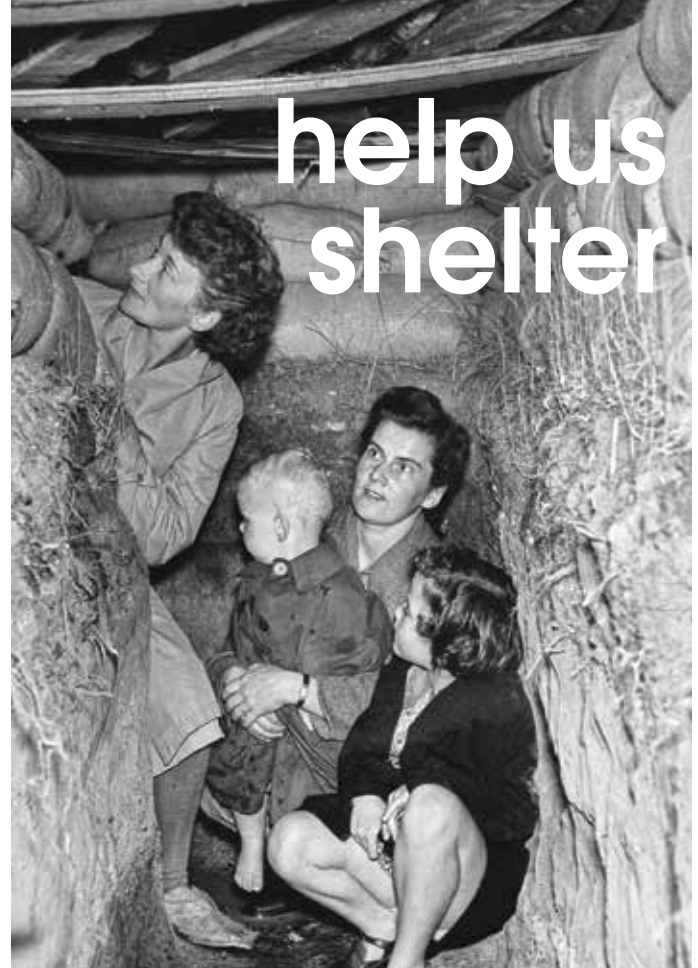
STATISTICS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------|
| Photographs catalogued | - | 4333 |
| Artefacts catalogued | - | 4988 |
| Documents catalogued | - | 7681 |
| Museum visitors September–October | | 483 |



Facebook New Page 'likes' to date 834

Early in the war, it was feared that Australian cities such as Melbourne and Sydney would come under attack from air-raids, and many suburban householders dug shelters in their backyards. In this picture, c.1942, these women are practising for the cameras, as the raids themselves never came.
(Picture: State Library of Victoria)



THE WHS files have very little information regarding the safety precautions taken locally during WW2, namely the air raid shelters.

There are only two references to their existence. In one of Alwyn Till's letters to his mother he reassured her that their shelter would dry out after the rain. Nothing else was mentioned in subsequent communications, so it is assumed that he was correct.

The other is a transcript of a conversation with Rob Collier. His memories record that when he was a boy an air raid shelter had been dug in their garden and it was where he and his friends used to ferment apples. *'As boys we'd go down there, and of course it smelt to high heaven, but Sam's brew was pretty good.'*

Does anyone else have any stories about air raid shelters or life in the Nunawading area? If so we would be pleased to hear from you, either in person, by letter or email. The contact details are listed in the newsletter.

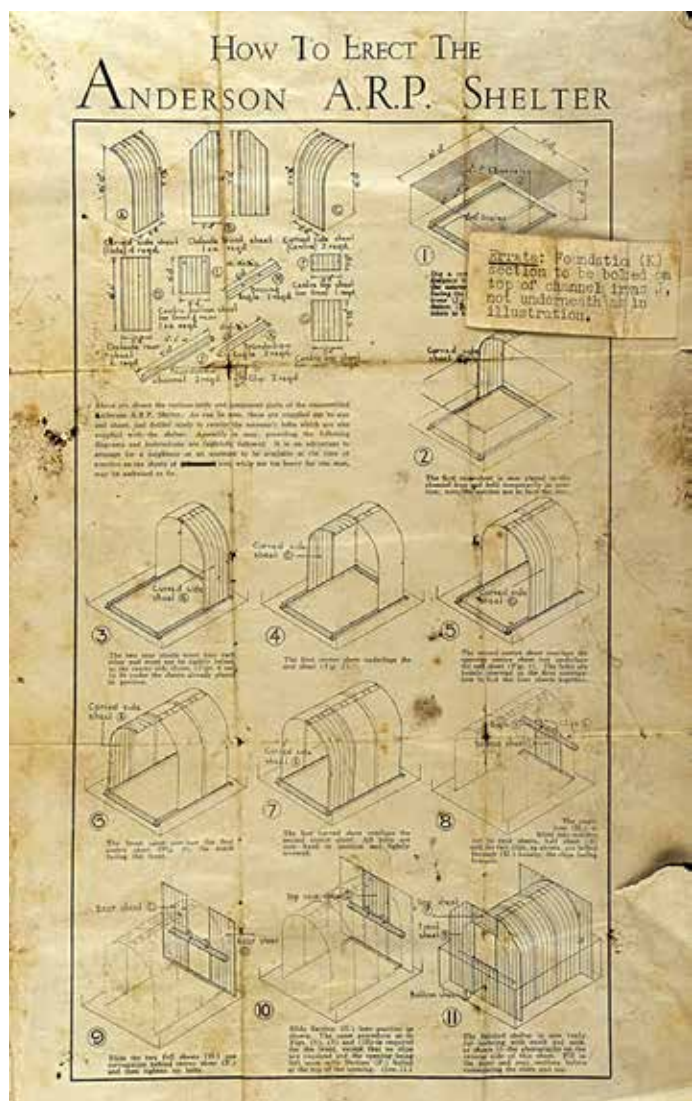
Yvonne Fitzmaurice

Source:
(ND5021) A Y Fitzmaurice *Alwyn Till, a brave airman* page 9

This prefabricated, British-designed, Australian-made Anderson air raid shelter was purchased and erected by the Adams family of 405 Gardeners Road, Mascot, Sydney. Bessie Adams and her sons purchased the shelter a few weeks after the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour and the shelling of the coastal suburbs that followed.

Anderson shelters were designed before the outbreak of the Second World War and issued free to many British families. They were named after the British Home Secretary and Minister for Home Security, John Anderson. Although the shelters were made here, Australian families like the Adams had to buy them.

(Picture: Australian War Memorial)



WHS Committee Contacts

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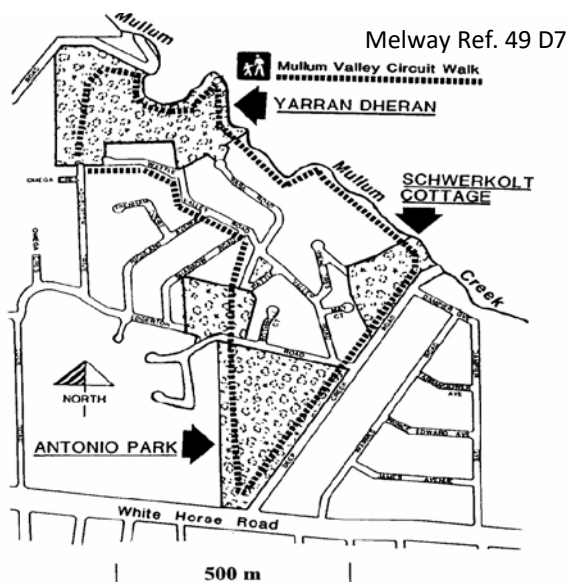
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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 4 March 2020

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.*



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AFFIX
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