

THE BLACK CAPE fascination and preservation

SEVERAL years ago, an elaborate black lace shawl cape was displayed at the end of the parents' bed in Schwerkolt Cottage. Bit of a mystery object; no records as to provenance or any connection to the Cottage. Just a beautiful object. Semi-circular, corded lace encrusted with tiny jet seed beads. A ruffled silk band at the neck. The sort of cape a lady could wear to the opera or to a reception at Government House a century or more ago.

Without a documented story, such objects encourage us to wonder, be fascinated, then drawn into the life and history of a garment. Who made you? When were you made? How long did it take? Were you made in Australia, or in Europe? Who owned you? What ship did you come to Australia on? How many times were you worn, and where did you go when you went out? Who admired you? We simply don't know, but what a story if we did!

I was asked to help preserve you. The years were beginning to take their toll. The weight of your corded lace, jet beads, and time were all showing. Then we found some hail spot net that suited you beautifully and I was given the task of catching your beauty to a new backing to give you more years, so you could be seen by many in the Museum.

Armed with silk thread, a strong light, sharp scissors and a magnifier I began. Probably 10 hours later I finished. You were firmly attached to a fine new backing. We look forward to displaying you appropriately in the future. In the meantime, thank you for the honour and enjoyment of working with you.

Margaret Graham





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

OUR Wednesday workers have been meeting weekly and using our QR Code sign-in system (*see below*) successfully. Using the QR code allows us to have up to 24 people in the Local History Room and therefore all Wednesday workers can attend at the same time.

We will be using this to check-in for our General Meeting on Saturday 10 April at 1 o'clock in order to access a maximum attendance of 24. We can help with signing in if you do not have a mobile phone. It will be like old times as we will be meeting in the Local History Room (LHR) due to its size and not the Visitor Centre. You will need to book to attend the meeting by either phoning Kathy on 0409 230 058 or emailing the Society.

The Planning Day in February was limited to the Wednesday Workers owing to Covid restrictions, but was very successful. We discussed and mapped out our ambitious plans for the year. These being:

- moving our database to Victorian Collections,
- purchasing our new showcases and mannequins,
- panels for the Visitor Centre,
- finding homes for our old showcases,
- publicity and general meeting plans for this year.



On Wednesday 10 March our six new showcases and six new mannequins were delivered. We found homes for four small showcases and the map drawers. As we have been unable to find homes for the five large showcases the Committee decided to send these Abbey Auctions to be auctioned. Displays are being assembled and transferred into the new cases.

The first Working Bee for over a year took place in March and the Cottage and LHR were thoroughly cleaned. The Museum cleaning was undertaken during our showcase transfer operation.

Museums Victorian Collections staff are processing our database and we look forward to it being online soon. In the meantime we are preparing new worksheets and cataloguing manuals.

The City of Whitehorse Heritage Week planning is underway. The Heritage Family Day will be looking very different this year. In order to be Covid-safe we will be having a Heritage Family Picnic Day. Council will be providing some entertainment and we will offer food and drink in the form of a sausage sizzle, Devonshire teas and a cake stall. We hope to be able to have some of the old fashioned children's games and races. All our usual generous trades and craft people will, we hope, be able to join us again next year.

For those of you interested in Vermont history we have found a new website online that you may like to look at: vermonthistory.weebly.com

And if you live near the shops on Mt Pleasant Road, Nunawading, you may be interested in this Community group who are looking to improve the adjacent pipe track for the local residents:

www.facebook.com/NunawadingCommunityCorner

There is also a new local free on line newspaper that can be found at www.eastsidernews.org.au

I hope to see you in April. Don't forget to book with Kathy either by email or phone to attend. Ross McMullin will be speaking on the war artist, Will Dyson.

Vicki Jones Evans

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Museum revamp under way



EXCITING times! Our new cases were delivered by Showfront on 10 March. The six mannequins and six display cases were manhandled off the truck and into the Visitor Centre.

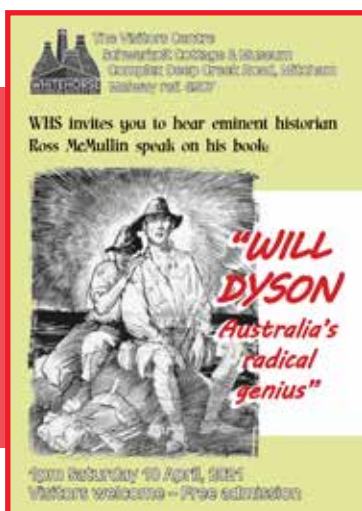
Following Harley's mammoth effort in removing the old cases from the museum, our sparkling new ones were installed in their new home on 13 March.

A special working day was organised for 16 March when eight willing workers spent the day assisting Vicki and Patty assembling and putting in place the displays they had designed.

More working days to come – and watch this space for more news.



PICTURES (clockwise from top left):
The cases arrive; cases installed in the museum;
designing the Afternoon Tea display.



COVID RESTRICTIONS:

- We are only allowed a maximum of 24 people
- If you are planning to attend you will need to book by contacting Kathy

Email: whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Phone: 0409 230 058

Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter

CIRCULATING IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BLACKBURN AND MITCHAM AND DONCASTER.

Vol. 50, No. 1.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for Transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1937.

PRICE: TWOPENCE

A VALUABLE WORK.

At the East Burwood Fruit-growers' meeting last week, Mr. F. G. Beet reported that representing the Southern Growers, and with Mr. Boardman of the V.F.M.A., he had attended the distribution of apples among the children of five schools in thickly populated areas. This was done with a double purpose—to give the children much-needed fresh fruit and to educate them in its importance as a regular article of diet and thus to increase consumption. Promises of further supplies were immediately made by growers present at the meeting and sufficient fruit for two loads is in sight. This will be left at the East Burwood Cool Stores. Apart from the question of policy, the present benefit to the children of poor people should be enough to recommend this work to every humane person, and, it is hoped, it will continue as long as there is fruit available.

ESSAY COMPETITIONS.

The Shire President (Cr. J. K. Lawson), Dr. Liebert, Cr. F. E. Palce, and the shire engineer (Mr. N. G. Roeszler) have donated prizes to the value of £2/2/- for essays by school children in the shire. The competition is to be conducted on Thursday, 20th inst., under the supervision of the respective head-teachers. The competitors have been divided into three groups, each with a different subject. That for the third and fourth grades will be "Our King"; for the fifth and sixth, "Our Royal Family," and for the seventh and eighth, "The Coronation of King George and Queen Elizabeth." The adjudicators will be selected by the among head teachers outside the district. The prizes will be presented by the Shire President and will be embossed with the seal of the council. It is the hope of the donors that this competition will foster among the children a spirit of loyalty to the Throne and fix in their minds the world-wide significance of the recent Coronation.

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385 BURWOOD ROAD, GLENFERRIE E.2.
Near Rawbourn Town Hall. Phone: New 5066, 5077.

MEMORIAL TREES PLANTED.

Between sixty and seventy parents were present at the school on Friday, 7th inst. They were welcomed for the boys by Ted Nation and Eric Gray, and for the girls by Ena Williamson and Verna Cuttle. All the pupils spoke very well. After a short introduction by Mr. A. L. Maher, the head teacher, Cr. W. R. Tainton gave a brief address on the coronation, and then read the Governor's message. The children then formed up in the grounds and saluted the flag. Cr. Tainton presented the medals, after which the parents adjourned to the school for afternoon tea provided by the Mothers' Club. The planting of memorial trees, one for each family in the district, was carried out by the children. One row was named the King George row and another the Queen Elizabeth. In addition to those, twenty-four trees of different varieties presented by Mr. Frank Fisher were planted along the school fence.

THE CORONATION.

On the afternoon of Friday, 7th inst., coronation celebrations were conducted in the hall. Many parents attended, and an apology was received from Dr. Judkins. The Governor's letter was read by the Rev. J. Simpfendorfer, chairman of the School Committee, who afterwards distributed the medals. An enjoyable programme was then contributed by Miss Joan Snell, Miss Smith and Miss Pitthard (recitations), Messrs. Dawson and N. Ray (duet and songs), Miss Isa Payne (elocution). Addresses on "Our Flag" by Mr. Ray and "A Trip to the Coronation" by Mr. J. E. Payne were much enjoyed. A vote of thanks to the artists, to the members of the Mothers' Club (who provided afternoon tea) and to the hall committee which lent the hall free of charge, were moved by Mr. Simpfendorfer, and seconded by Mr. F. Jutson, head teacher.

MEETINGS.

Abolition of Poverty
PUBLIC MEETING
To Form Branch of United Electors of Australia (Non-Party Political) in Flinders Electorate
THURSDAY, 27th MAY, 8 p.m.
Horton Girls' Hall, Linsley Street, Box Hill.

AMUSEMENTS.

RIALTO
Reservations. Phone WX1418.
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
20th, 21st, 22nd MAY.
***"His Brother's Wife"**
starring
Robert Taylor
Barbara Stanwyck
Wallace Beery
in
"Old Hutch"
Matinee, Saturday at 2.15.
***"EAST MEETS WEST"**
***"OLD HUTCH"**
MONDAY, TUESDAY WEDNESDAY,
24th, 25th, 26th MAY.
✓ **Fred MacMurray**
Gladys Swarthout
in
"Champagne Waltz"
ROSS ALEXANDER
in
***"HERE COMES CARTER"**
COMING!!
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
27th, 28th, 29th MAY.
ALL IN COLOUR
Popeye the Sailor Meets
Sinbad the Sailor

REGENT
Reservations. Phone WX1418.
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
20th, 21st, 22nd MAY.
George Arliss
in
***"East Meets West"**
Robert Young
Barbara Stanwyck
in
***"THE BRIDE WALKS OUT."**
*Approved by the Censor as Not Suitable for General Exhibition. All other features not so marked approved for General Exhibition.

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Is this where you live?



William Nicholson (photographed c1860)

NICHOLSON STREET, NUNAWADING

NICHOLSON Street, Nunawading, is another street in a group named after earlier politicians. It runs between Whitehorse and Springfield Roads and is parallel to and between two other streets, named after rivals Mc Cullough and O'Shanassay.

William Nicholson (1816-1865) was born in Whitehaven Cumberland, England, the son of a farmer. On his arrival at Port Phillip Bay in 1842, aged 26 years, he set himself up as a grocer, before later becoming the successful head of a merchant firm, W Nicholson and Company. Later he became the director of the Bank of Melbourne and several other companies. In 1852 he joined the Legislative Council, and advocated for the secret ballot system which was refined and finally adopted in Victoria in 1856. After a two-year sojourn in England he was again re-elected and became Premier and Chief Secretary in 1859 when he defeated Premier John O'Shanassay. Much of his political life was spent trying to pass a bill which would allow small farmers to settle upon grazing land appropriated by the squatters. It was eventually passed in a weaker form and this failure led to Nicholson's resignation in 1860. He did not hold office again. In January 1864 he became severely ill and died two weeks before his forty-ninth birthday. He was survived by his wife and four sons.

He has been described as 'a plain, plodding fellow, good natured, candid and self-confident; he took pleasure in his wealth and position and the knowledge that he was self-made. In many ways he was typical of the radical merchant of the day.'

Nicholson Street, a major north-south artery in modern Melbourne, is also named after him.

Source: ND6615

Yvonne Fitzmaurice

DIARY DATES*

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

Saturday, 10 April

1.00pm General Meeting

Ross McMullin – Will Dyson, War Artist

Saturday, 5 June

1.00pm General Meeting

Jenny Brash – Vermont: A History

Saturday, 14 August

1.00pm Annual General Meeting

Helen Harris OAM – Blackburn Outdoor School

Saturday, 9 October

1.00pm General Meeting

Dr. Gary Presland – Coranderrk

Saturday, 4 December

1.00pm General Meeting

TBC

2021 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 1 May

Saturday 3 July

Saturday 4 September

Saturday 6 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 January–February	-	379



Facebook Page 'likes' to date

1014

FROM THE COLLECTION . . .

NA4702

Australian Army tankard

AN Australian Army tankard with Australian rising sun badge on front. The tankard is made of pewter, with a glass base. On the tankard all the conflicts that the Australian fought in are commemorated from World War I to Vietnam.

Donated for the collection from the Returned Services League, Mitcham Sub-Branch, 26 McDowall Street, Mitcham when it closed early 2014.

Inscription:

The Australian Army Tankard, World War I, World War II, Mesopotamia, Flanders, German New Guinea, Gallipoli, France, Palestine, World War II, North Africa, Crete, Malaya, S.W. Pacific, Timor, New Guinea, Java, Bougainville, Borneo, Greece, Syria, Singapore, South Africa, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam.



Where was I when . . .



. . . Harold Holt disappeared?

I was old enough to be aware of the incident, but too young to have much interest in the doings of politicians. But obviously many people do remember!

Yvonne Fitzmaurice

Here in Melbourne and my very class-conscious English mother-in-law was staying with us – she was shattered that ‘someone like him (a leader of people) could do something like that’!

Kathy Innes

I remember where I was when we got the news that he was missing. We were all into spear fishing and as Dad was an Army officer we often went to the Portsea to dive on the bayside rather than Cheviot Beach which was on the ocean side and I had just returned from a spear fishing trip to Bird Rock near Mornington when we heard the news on the radio. We occasionally met Harold Holt on the beach at Portsea and I had a huge crush on his handsome aide/security officer.

Pat Fincham

I remember where I was when it was announced he had disappeared – I was at the Myer Music Bowl listening to one of the Sunday afternoon concerts. It was 17th December – my Father's birthday.

Peter McPhee

Mrs Holt, to avoid the press, secretly went to Delgany, then a school for deaf children. My wife Barb's family was heavily involved with the nuns running the school. Years later I managed a shopping centre in Toorak where she had had a fashion shop 1967.

WHS Committee Contacts

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9873 3383

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Kathy Innes

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Eddie Tan

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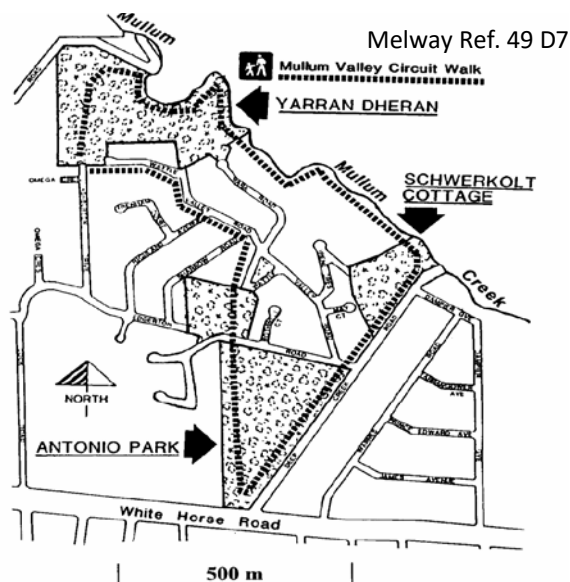
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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 5 May 2021

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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