

BOUQUETS FOR VICKI

CANNOT think of a better candidate . . .
. . . was my immediate reaction when I learnt Vicki Jones-Evans was about to be nominated for a Deakin Community Award for service to our local community. I, and many others were hardly surprised when Vicki was awarded her honour by the Hon. Michael Sukkar MP, Federal Member for Deakin, on April 6, in a ceremony at Yarra Valley Grammar.

I am a bit of a 'new chum' to Whitehorse Historical Society compared with many others of much longer standing. However, I have been involved with other local community groups for approaching fifty years, so can speak with a little knowledge of how they run and their meaning to members and the general community. Without hesitation I can say volunteering with Whitehorse Historical Society stands out, owing much to the Presidency of Vicki. Only recently did I learn of her twenty-five years of involvement, and twenty-one years as a Member of Committee. That, Ladies and Gentlemen, is commitment!

Without good leadership, Community groups flounder. Regardless of interest, membership, funding, Local Government support, anything else. It is not always easy managing a group of volunteers with diverse personalities, skills, and abilities, needs and wants. Then there is necessary consulting with Whitehorse Council as our governing body. And, too, comes the meeting of requirements for an accredited museum, with the training of people in correct procedures – everything from when to wear the white gloves to entering the correct data into the computer database. Vicki excels in all these tasks in a quiet, friendly, and consistent way.

Very well done Vicki, on your award and recognition! Many of us who work with you think you deserve a 24-carat gold cup for some of the races you have run and won for the Historical Society, but we are nevertheless delighted you have been recognised by the greater community with your Deakin Award!

Margaret Graham





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

IN April, on a Wednesday, Charlie Schwerkolt visited the Complex to have a meeting with Council staff about celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the family company, Waverley Forklifts, on the property. Rosalie invited Charlie, her nephew, to morning tea with us in the Local History Room. Harley, having a background in construction lifting, had a lot in common with Charlie, so they had a chat.

During Harley's general maintenance he had been cleaning the buggy and thinking of how to move it to the Orchardng Shed. Do we find a grant to apply for? Ask Council to help us? And along came Charlie who offered to move the buggy and operate the forklift himself free of charge.

Harley oiled hinges and did some repairs to the barn doors so that they could be opened. And on Thursday 11 May the weather was perfect, not a breath of wind, and Charlie and his employee Paul, and Harley liberated the buggy.

Thanks to the careful planning by Harley and Charlie the operation went like clockwork and the buggy sailed over the fence and down the hill to the Orchardng Shed in all its glory.

We are very grateful to Charlie Schwerkolt for his generous support of our Society.

The moving of the buggy will be something we will be able to report as an accomplishment by the Society in our Re-accreditation.

We will be the first Community Museum to undertake Reaccreditation using the new Portal and we now have access to it. Our sub-committee are busy working on the documentation in preparation for a site visit now scheduled for early July.

Hopefully all will go well and our June meeting proceed so that Jenny Brash can finally present her twice-postponed talk. I hope to see you then.

Vicki Jones Evans



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Usually our speakers' talks are recorded in the newsletter by one of our members; this time the speaker himself has provided another interesting article as an extra treat. Enjoy!

the Virgoe camera



PICTURES: Sgt Percy Virgoe (right) at Seymour Camp, Victoria, April 1917; Sgt Virgoe's camera.

THE useful little Kodak folding Vest Pocket Camera (VPK) was unofficially carried by countless thousands of the Empire's soldiers during WWI. Carrying a camera was soon banned for most Allied soldiers, but it seems the bans came later or were widely ignored by Anzac troops. One estimate has it that maybe half of all Australian soldiers who landed at Gallipoli had the VPK that fitted so conveniently in their tunic pocket. This seems a huge number, but a search of the Australian War Memorial photo collection brings up vast numbers of Gallipoli images and most of them were taken by ordinary diggers.

Frank Hurley's memorable and official images from the WWI fronts are as carefully crafted as his famous Antarctic images taken with Ernest Shackleton, but he felt constant competition from the ordinary men around him. He said: "The Kodak appears to be a part of the equipment of the Light Horse".

One of those men he referred to was certainly Percy Ernest Virgoe of the 4th Light Horse Regiment. Who knows whether Percy had the 1915 model that allowed details to be pencilled directly to the backing of the film. Perhaps not, because as you see he regularly used the camera body itself as his record!

Britain declared war on Germany on August 4, and 30-year-old Percy followed suit as fast as the mother country's loyal Dominions. His first Attestation Paper is dated August 22, so he was keen to serve!

The early scratchings that can be seen on his VPK include 'Steele's Post, Walker's Ridge, Courtney's Post, Lone Pine', and 'Gaba Tepe.' Then there is also '1815 Lemnos and Imbros' [surely 1915] He was in the Paymaster's Office, but then got sick. Lemnos might have referred to a hospital stay for rheumatism that saw him transferred to Egypt and then Bristol, UK, where he was also treated for dysentery. Percy was unmarried, but not unloved. While in Bristol, his parents wrote for details of his illness, as did a Miss Sissie Law from Melbourne. By September 1916 he had been returned to Melbourne (and Sissie?) and was given a Medical Discharge.

It was mentioned earlier that August 22 was his first enlistment date, because his record has a second enlistment on November 15, 1916 and soon after he scratched 'Artillery Camp 27-1-17'. The next lot of scratchings on his camera say 'Mauritius Is. 5-6-17', 'Sierra Leone 5-7-17' and 'Devonport Eng. 20-7-17'. They must be from his second voyage of departure from Australia.

He perhaps saw more sights than action, as the camera body also mentions 'Belgium 1917', 'France-Paris', 'Le Havre', 'Versailles', 'Rouen 1918' and 'Southampton 31-4-18'. Soon after arrival back from the Continent he fell ill again, and his record shows him with influenza and in Harefield Military Hospital by July 1918. Unlike many, he survived influenza and the end of his service came when he was discharged back in Melbourne as Sergeant Virgoe, in April 1919.

John Howell

The Great Buggy Move



PICTURES: (above) "Kehre Wieder" Courtesy of Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society; (below) The buggy, hidden in the Barn Photographed in 1995; The buggy in its new home in the Orchard Shed.



ONE of the original items on display when Schwerkolt Cottage was opened to the public in 1965 was a beautiful buggy dating to the 1880s. It was made by Thomas Craine of Kilmore, who was a prominent carriage maker of the era.

It belonged to a well-to-do orchardist, Mr J. G. F. Winter, who coincidentally emigrated on the same ship (the *Emmy*) as August Schwerkolt. He lived in High Street, Doncaster in a house known as 'Kehre Wieder'.

The buggy, together with pieces of harness, was purchased from his estate in June 1965 by the Nunawading City Council at a cost of £20.

It was installed as the major exhibit in the Barn and has resided there for almost 57 years, gradually becoming less accessible with the closure of the Barn doors, and suffering from exposure to the elements and possum droppings.

When the Orchard Shed was erected 2007, there were plans to move the buggy undercover; however, the arrival of a Council tractor exhibit put paid to this.

The Committee was aware that something needed to be done and, at the 2022 Planning Day it was decided that a grant should be sought to cover the cost of moving the buggy. Harley Hall undertook a feasibility study and identified that by moving some of the farm equipment from the Orchard Shed to the Barn, space could be made to display the buggy.

Then came the fortuitous visit by Charlie Schwerkolt, with his exceedingly generous offer to provide equipment and manpower from his company Waverley Fork Lifts to undertake the move. In the blink of an eye our problem of how to move the buggy was solved.

The first part of the move was to remove the farm equipment from the Orchard Shed and transport it up to the Barn – which was quite a job in its own right.

The second stage was to wheel the buggy out of the Barn and then, with Charlie at the controls, use the Manitou Telehandler to carefully lift the buggy over the Cottage fence and transport it the 300 metres to its new home. The move completed; the buggy was placed in a prime position where it can be viewed in all its beauty by visitors to the Complex.

Our photographer, Richard Conn, recorded the event for posterity and has made a short video which is available on our website.

A huge vote of thanks must go to Harley for all the planning and work before and during the move, and to Charlie Schwerkolt and Paul from Waverley Forklifts for the use of the equipment and their efforts on the day.

Kathy Innes
24 May 2022

NEW TOWN HALL

:O:

CONTRACT LET FOR BUILDING. OVER £40,000 INVOLVED.

At its meeting on Tuesday night Box Hill City Council accepted the tender of Messrs. Rispin Bros., of Collins street, Melbourne, for the erection of a new town hall at a cost of £40,424.

Moving the acceptance of the tender, Cr. Young said there had been very little opposition from ratepayers, the trend of opinion being that the council was taking a wise step. The city owed a great debt to former councillors for their foresight in securing the site in White Horse road. The officers of the council and Cr. Gawler should also be thanked for their work. Box Hill was going to have one of the finest town halls outside Melbourne.

Seconding the motion, Cr. Mahony said previous councillors should be thanked for providing such a magnificent site and for setting aside money in a special account to enable the present council to proceed with the work. The hall should be fully paid for in three years. He considered this an outstanding achievement in finance.

Cr. Gawler stated the ground plan was designed by the officers of the council (Mr. Cole and Mr. Kerr) and not by architects, and they went to great trouble in finding out the best features for incorporation in the plan. Box Hill is going to have an extremely good workable building. He wished the front elevation could have been in stone, but the cost was too great, and he was sorry the council decided, against his advice, to carry plaster on brick walls. He would have preferred a brick front; architects are now realising the beauty of brick.

Cr. Archer said great credit was due to past councillors, particularly ex-Crs. Ellingworth and Baker. Thanks were also due to Cr. Gawler, who gave a great amount of his time as honorary architect, and to the officers. If the hall was to be built from actual rates it would be impossible, but, with the money coming from a different source without advancing the rates, and the anticipation of having the hall paid for in three or four years, he considered the achievement a masterpiece in finance.

Cr. Ellingworth said wonderful work had been done by the executive officers and Cr. Gawler. The financing of the building placed no drag on the ratepayers.

Cr. George considered the present council also deserved to be eulogised. The city had saved probably £1000 by the collaboration of the officers and Cr. Gawler, and the council was to be congratulated on having such capable officers as the town clerk and engineer.

The Mayor (Cr. Boyland) said he was proud to have occupied the chair when this matter was decided. Mr. Kerr and Mr. Cole had given much time to the project in addition to their ordinary duties, and Cr. Gawler had given his services as architect for the benefit of the ratepayers.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Building operations will commence immediately. The contract provides for completion of the building by March 31, 1935.

NEW FOOD DISCOVERY.

The idea of taking a pill and calling it a meal approaches reality with the announcement of successful medical treatment with a highly nutritive substance derived, after five years' experiment, from the common cotton seed by Professor Kaspar Schmitt, of Heidelberg, in Germany (writes the German correspondent of the "Observer").

The substance, obtained by a process of extraction and evaporation, resembles yellowish flour and contains, as does no other known product, the vitamins A, B, C, and E altogether. The vitamin D, according to one analyst's report, may be activated readily.

Containing 50 per cent. albumen and the extremely high mineral content of 7.5 per cent., the cotton seed extract has been fed to hospital patients with results indicating a new method of enriching human nourishment that may revolutionise dietetics. The pulverised cotton seed extract may be added to every conceivable food, increasing the nutritive value 20 to 30 per cent. Two of the cotton seed tablets a day, according to Professor Schmitt, suffice for three meals a day, and there is a likelihood of the cotton seed pill becoming the "iron ration" of the future for soldiers, explorers, ocean flyers, and also for civilians in times of food shortage.

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CAMBERWELL COURT

:O:

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1934.

SERIES OF CHARGES AGAINST TWO MEN.

Vincent Tattie and Selby E. Emery were charged with at Surrey Hills on December 11 stealing two long-handed shovels, valued at 15/-, the property of the M. and M. Board of Works.

A. F. Angus, labourer, said he was in charge of men doing work in Riversdale road. At 5 o'clock he collected all tools and locked them in two boxes. Next morning he found the locks broken and two shovels missing. He identified the shovels in court as the missing property.

Detective Davis stated that he went to a house in Durham road, Surrey Hills, on April 29, and saw the accused Tattie. Under a wall at the rear of the house he found a long-handle shovel. Tattie said a man named Selby Emery brought it to the house when he was lodging there. Witness went to Winmallee road, Balwyn, and brought Emery to Durham road, where he showed him the shovel in Tattie's presence, and said to him, "Have you seen this shovel before?" He said "No." Emery said he had lodged there, and left about two weeks ago.

Both accused pleaded not guilty. On oath, Tattie denied stealing the shovel, and stated he had only been out at night once in two years, as he was a sufferer from bronchial asthma, and was receiving the invalid pension. Under the house were several sets of working tools placed there by Emery. He saw the shovel there and assumed it belonged to Emery.

The case was dismissed.

Vincent Tattie, Phyllis May Tattie and Selby Emery were then charged with breaking into the wash room of a dairy, and stealing a table with glass top and a chair, valued at £3, the property of J. W. Young. They were committed for trial at the Court of General Sessions on July 2.

The two men were then further charged with stealing a scythe, an adze, a reaping hook and pair of shears. This case was dismissed.

Selby Emery was then charged with having in his possession a gun, a pair of hedge clippers and a spirit level suspected of being stolen. This case was also dismissed, as was a charge against Tattie and Emery of having in their possession a sledge hammer and a small shovel suspected of being stolen.

Phyllis May Tattie was then charged with having in her possession a number of sheets and radio valves suspected of being stolen. This case was adjourned for two weeks.

DAPHNE POWELL: A LEADING LIGHT OF MITCHAM REP.

IN 1992 Daphne Powell was the guest of honour at a luncheon held at the Haslemere Avenue home (Mitcham) of founding member of the Mitcham Repertory Group, Max Grant. The occasion, to celebrate Daphne's 80th birthday, paid tribute to a lady who had played a leading role both in amateur drama and civic service.



This hand-written script by Daphne Powell was for a Pageant performed by the Mitcham Repertory Group on the Nunawading oval when the train carrying the Queen and Prince Phillip during the 1954 Royal Visit passed by.

Frances Daphne Cunningham was born at 26 Cranley Gardens, Muswell Hill, Croydon, England in 1912. Her early interest in acting and theatre went unfulfilled until she commenced working and was able to pay for speech and drama classes. Joining the St Andrew's Dramatic Society, Muswell Hill, fuelled her desire to be a professional actress. Daphne married Cecil Powell at St Andrew's on 5 June 1937 and a family of two children, Malcolm and Valerie, resulted. The upheaval of migration to Australia followed, the family settling in Mitcham in 1947.

Practicalities of life dictated that Daphne find employment. In 1954, Daphne began work at Thatcher's Steel Fabrication factory, Springvale Road, Nunawading, having previously been employed at Tucker Eyelet factory. In 1960 Daphne joined the Commercial Practice Department of RMIT, a position held until 1963.

From then on Daphne's working life was balanced with her membership of the Mitcham Repertory Group and her own continuing studies in music, speech and

drama. Having become, with Max Grant and Phyl Mudge, a founding member of the M.R.G, Daphne went on to produce the group's performance of the Pageant for the 1954 Royal Tour. Daphne's debut performance with M.R.G was in the group's first production, *Quiet Weekend*, the rehearsals for which were held in the Warne's Road, Mitcham, home of Daphne and Cecil.

In the early 1960s Daphne undertook speech and drama training through the Trinity College of Music, London, becoming a fellow of the College in 1967. Beginning in 1960 and continuing until 1980, Daphne took on private tuition of young aspiring actors in speech, elocution and drama. (Among them was a very young Gillian Armstrong).

In 1961 Daphne appeared in several television episodes of *Consider Your Verdict* produced by Crawford Productions. Her teaching career continued with employment at Tintern CEGGS, Ringwood in 1962. After Cecil's death in 1965, Daphne pursued creative drama through the Technical Division of the Education Department. A move to a fulltime teaching position at Moorabbin Technical College in 1968 became part time in 1969, with a simultaneous part-time appointment at Sandringham Technical School. She also taught speech classes at Mitcham and Box Hill. From 1973 to 1975, Daphne was President of the Speech Teacher's Association of Victoria, before retiring from teaching in 1976.

Daphne's civic involvement was unstinting. An active member of Christ Church Anglican, Mitcham, Daphne was a writer of letters for Amnesty International's 'Prisoner of the Month'. She was a foundation member of the Mitcham branch of Community Aid Abroad and organised their Walk Against Want for many years. She was a foundation member of the Ringwood Ladies Probus Club and became an audio describer for the blind at Melbourne theatres. An adjudicator at Eisteddfods locally, she was also invited to adjudicate at Adelaide and Sydney Eisteddfods. She had the pleasure of conducting a successful theatrical tour group through Japan, Russia, Scandinavia, Paris and Stratford-Upon-Avon. With other members of M.R.G, she was approached to become a reader for 'Talking Newspapers' recording the *Nunawading Gazette* and *Ringwood Mail* for the print handicapped for ten years.

In 1996 she won the Lyrebird Hall of Fame award and in 1988 was invited to Government House in recognition of her voluntary work. Daphne died on 14 January 2004 and her funeral service was held at Christ Church Anglican, Mitcham on 1 February 2004.

Giselda Bannister

DIARY DATES*

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

Saturday, 11 June

1.00pm General Meeting

Jenny Brash – Vermont: A History

Saturday, 13 August

1.00pm Annual General Meeting

Helen Harris – A personal perspective on the Blackburn Open Air School

Saturday, 8 October

1.00pm General Meeting

Rosalie Whalen - Our Favorite Germans (and how they got here)

2022 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 3 September

Saturday 5 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 March–April 2022		598



Facebook Page 'likes' to date

1098

Is this where you live?



Duncan Gillies

(Photo by Talma, from Melbourne *Punch*, 17 September 1903)

GILLIES STREET, MITCHAM

GILLIES STREET, MITCHAM is situated between Ormond and Victoria avenues and is parallel to Deakin Street in the area west of Mitcham Road and north of Whitehorse Road.

Duncan GILLIES (1834–1903) entered parliament in 1861 and was an MLA for twenty-three years. He held seven ministries and was Premier at the end of the Boom Years in the 1880s.

Gillies was born in Scotland, arrived in Victoria as a young man in 1852, and was a successful miner before becoming a 'professional politician par excellence'. From the start of his parliamentary career he had studied questions of order, procedure and convention and his growing respect for the Constitution placed him on the conservative side. Gillies's government worked consistently to bring about Federation but his determined efforts to initiate closer co-operation between the colonies invariably failed to interest Sir Henry Parkes.

He was the 14th Premier of Victoria, and historians have little sympathy for him because his reputation was one of extreme financial mismanagement. This was based on his and some of his ministers' overconfidence as both borrower and spender; thereby presiding over Victoria's self-destruction. After his government was beaten, he became Victoria's Agent General in London, before becoming Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in 1902, a position he held until his death in 1903.

Source: ND6615

Yvonne Fitzmaurice

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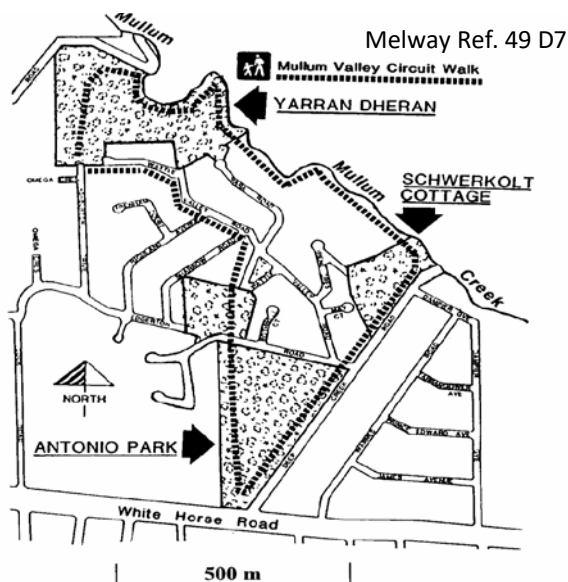
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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 6 July 2022

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
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acknowledges the
support of the
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THE WHITEHORSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED THROUGH THE COURTESY OF MICHAEL SUKKAR MP, FEDERAL MEMBER FOR DEAKIN

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