

NEWSLETTER

Series 30 No. 4

July–August 2022

ABN 44 352 041 634 Inc. AO 012235J



FAMILY DAY IS BACK!

THE Heritage Family Day is returning after a two-year Covid hiatus and will be held between 11am and 4pm on Sunday 11 September. Heritage Family Day is a major part of Whitehorse Heritage Week and entry and all activities are free.

To assist with social distancing, displays this year will primarily be in marquees around the property; however, our ever-popular old-fashioned children's games and picnic races will still be held in the cottage garden.

There will be the opportunity to see lost trades such as woodturning and blacksmithing together with demonstrations of lacemaking, tatting and basket making, plus a display by the Box Hill Spinners and Weavers.. Tours of the cottage and grounds will be available and you'll discover where the original houses were on the property.

Brumbies Bush Band will play their fabulous music, plus there'll be an animal farm, storytelling tent, Chinese brush painting and a craft activity provided by the Box Hill Community Arts Centre to keep the kids entertained. A brand-new attraction will be a Giant Bubble experience where both kids and adults can have a hands-on opportunity to make their own giant bubbles and also watch a giant bubble demonstration.

The Vintage Drivers Car Club will display their vehicles and Whitehorse Square Dancing Club will have demonstrations during the day.

With such a fun-packed day, make time to enjoy a delicious Devonshire tea from the kitchen in the Local History Room or enjoy a sausage from the Rotary Sausage Sizzle. Delicious coffee will be provided by Vivere Coffee and goodies will be available at the Society's cake stall where everything is homemade at extremely reasonable prices.

Kathy Innes



NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, 13 August 2022 1.00pm Annual General Meeting

Helen Harris OAM -

*A personal perspective on the Blackburn Open Air School
(or how I learned to hate plum jam)*



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

WE are the first Community Museum to undertake and achieve Reaccreditation under the rebranded CMAP (Community Museums Accreditation Program). Our sub-committee worked on the documentation in preparation for a site visit by Museums Accreditation Manager, Amelia Marra on Wednesday 6 July. Amelia presented us with a CMAP Accredited Museum sign.

This accomplishment follows four months of work by the Reaccreditation Committee on updating our Collection Policy including several Appendices such as the Preventative Conservation Plan, plus a Forward Plan and Interpretation Policy.

The meeting included a walk around the site, a look at our storage and display areas and a discussion on our Forward Focus; which, along with an emphasis on supporting Community Museums, is a new feature of CMAP.

At the June meeting Jenny Brash finally presented her thrice-postponed talk. We had several visitors as well as members attend, including the Heathmont History Group. Jenny's talk was very enjoyable and everyone lingered for a chat over afternoon tea.

One item that came out of our revision of documents in preparation for reaccreditation was that our Constitution needed to be revisited. Since the new Act of 2012 the Society has been operating under the Model Rules and we now need to create our own specific set of Whitehorse Historical Society Rules. A resolution to enable this will be put forward at the Annual General Meeting. Another issue identified is that, under the Deductible Gift Recipient rules, we now need to register as a Charity. You will receive full documentation advising you these proposals prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Vicki Jones Evans



Amelia Mara (centre), surrounded by our Accreditation team.

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JUNE MEETING REPORT



A childhood in Vermont

ONCE upon a time the area now known as Vermont was impenetrable bushland; only Aboriginal tribes were able to live within the dense confines of the forests. A few timber cutters and charcoal burners made forays into the area and a survey which divided the forest into large selections was unable to attract many investors. Later, these large selections were further subdivided and only then, gradually, did white settlement intrude. This was a magical place for children however, and the speaker at our annual general meeting, Jenny Brash, painted for us an affectionate and attractive picture of life in the rural setting of 1940s Vermont.

An outing by train, bypassing the little station of Tunstall, took Jenny, her mother and siblings on picnic outings to the bushland where the Rangeview shops and housing estates surrounding Mitcham Road, now exist. Jenny's very interesting talk reminded us of a time when families, post-war, struggled to build their own homes due to shortages of building materials. Her own family benefited from the allowances to servicemen of materials including bricks, denied to others; Jenny's family thought their modest, brick house, wonderful.

Vermont became a place of lush orchards, (apples, citrus, peaches), and large poultry farms. Canterbury Road and Boronia Road were dirt tracks with no grading or guttering. Potholes in the dirt roads were filled in with broken tile remnants from the Australian Tessellated Tile Factory. Pannam's Store and the Confectionary store supplied the grocery needs of residents and were places of delight for young children. The weatherboard Anglican Church, St. Luke's, was the spiritual centre of Vermont, with a thriving choir, and was a centre of activities for the tight-knit community.

PICTURES: (Above) Pannam's corner store c1940s; (Right) Weeping Elm being transported to Campbell's Croft in 1984.

To the children of early Vermont, delights were to be found in roaming the bush, leaping the Vermont Primary School fence to 'rescue' luscious apples from the trees in the neighbouring orchards and purloining beautiful unused tiles from heaps in the tile-yards – only to experience parental wrath for such nefarious activities.

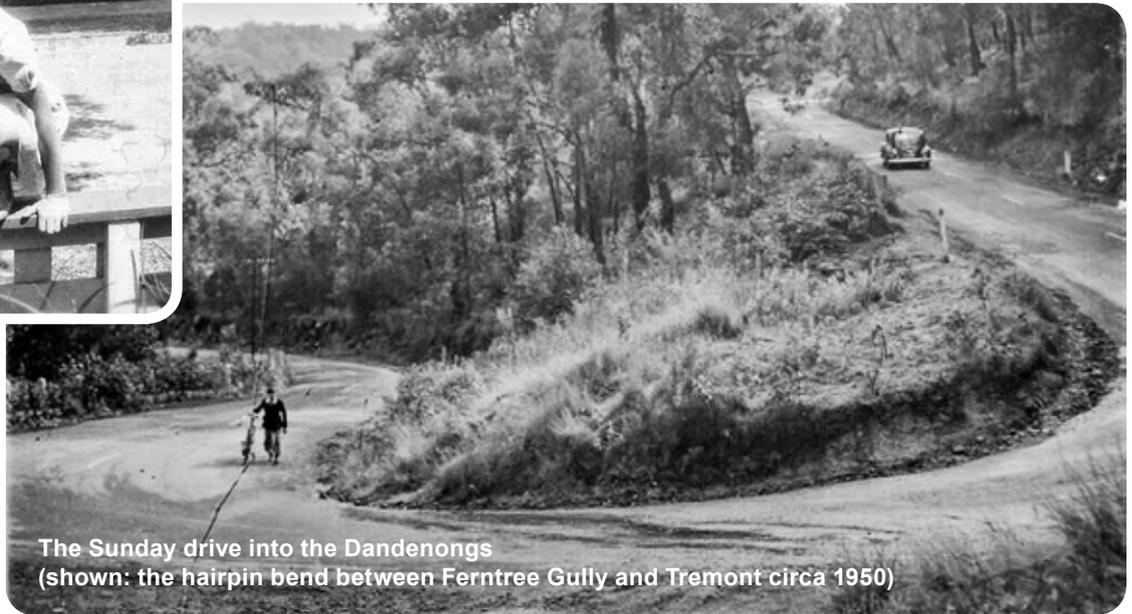
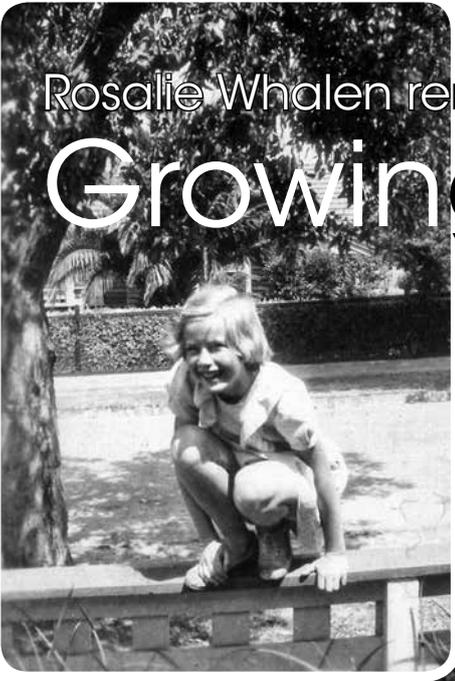
Evocative black-and-white photographs enhanced Jenny's presentation. They provided intriguing glimpses into the plaster-and-lathe hut housing the family at Campbell's Croft, and the startling image of an 80-year old Weeping Elm, rescued from destruction, being transported on a lorry. Now replanted near the large spreading Oak trees at Campbell's Croft, the Weeping Elm survives as witness to Vermont's development. Three times postponed, Jenny's presentation was well worth the wait.

Giselda Bannister © 2022



Rosalie Whalen remembers

Growing up in the 1950s



The Sunday drive into the Dandenongs
(shown: the hairpin bend between Ferntree Gully and Tremont circa 1950)

SCHOOL games for the girls were skipping, rounders, swapping cards and even playing marbles at one stage. Hopscotch was a favourite but the grid needed to be drawn on the ground. I used to keep a supply of good clay rocks from our local creek for when chalk was not available. Our playgrounds were strictly segregated gender-wise. Our headmaster had us trained to stand still the moment the first bell rang for class, then on the second bell we had to walk quietly and briskly back to our classrooms.

At mealtime we all had our set places to sit at the kitchen table and the evening meal was soup, meat and three veggies and dessert. Never chicken. It was a luxury. We had it specially at Christmas and one of our hens would be sacrificed on the wooden chopping block at the back door. My father would chop its head off while we all watched. Sometimes it would run headless around our back yard with us all in hot pursuit. Once it took flight and ended up at a neighbour's place and had to be found and retrieved.

There was no such thing as canned pet food. Our dog was fed table scraps. Having a dog meant fleas! There were no flea collars and the only way of combating them was to wash the dog regularly with smelly soap but inevitably they would find their way into our clothing after playing with the dog and they would end up in our beds and feast on us all night leaving itchy bites. Just when we thought they were eliminated, six weeks later their eggs would hatch and the cycle would be repeated.

For special occasions when I needed to look presentable my mother would wet my hair at night and wind strips of old sheeting in columns all over my head and that is how I slept. Not that comfortable but in the morning my hair would be a mass of curls.

The iceman made his deliveries on his horse and cart and it was fun stealing a chip of ice to suck on the way home from school on a boiling hot day. It was also considered unhealthy to drink water while we were playing sport and we were forbidden to go anywhere near the taps until afterwards.

Cars had bench seats front and back which meant six adults could be transported along with as many kids as there were knees to be sat upon. There were no seat belts or head rests and kids could slide from the front to the back or stand up if they felt like it.

Sundays we would go for a drive to the Dandenong Mountains and listen to Crosbie Morrison on the radio on the way home. He was our radio naturalist guru. Our old car often used to break down or get a flat tyre, but it seems my father could always get us going again. He always had to remember to fill up the petrol tank on Saturday morning, because it was unobtainable on Sundays. Everything was closed from noon Saturday. Everything had to be carefully budgeted for to last the week as most employed people were paid cash on Thursdays.

In 1959 my brother had to do his National Service Training at Puckapunyal and our Sunday drives became a visit to him for 14 weeks.

CAMBERWELL COURT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1934.

Before Mr. H. L. Jackson, P.M., and Messrs. Barstow, Fyffe, Williams, Lee, Mrs. Tilley and Mrs. Margaret Henty, J's.P.

William J. Milrea was charged with behaving with an offensive manner at the Camberwell Junction on July 21. Evidence was given that he was pushing and interfering with Thomas Bainbridge, a newsboy. Bainbridge, it was stated, pushed him away, and defendant retaliated to such an extent that he pushed Bainbridge through a shop window, causing damage to the extent of £12. Defendant, against whom there were two prior convictions, was fined £1, or seven days. The bench refused his application for time to pay, and accused elected to "do" the seven days.

Gordon V. Clarke, of Sassafra, was fined £10 for driving a char-a-banc through Burwood at a speed of 45 miles per hour, the maximum allowed by the Act being 30 miles per hour.

The City of Camberwell obtained orders against 40 ratepayers for the non-payment of rates.

STATE SCHOOL BROKEN INTO.

FATHER AND SON CHARGED.

Stanley Bromage, 40 years, and Leslie Bromage, 18 years, both of Anderson street, Richmond, were charged at Box Hill Court on Thursday last week with having on July 19 broken and entered Mont Albert Central school, and stolen pencils and other articles.

Evidence was given by Constable N. Quinton that about 12.30 a.m. on July 20 the wireless patrol car was proceeding along Church street, Richmond, when the two accused were seen. They were intercepted about 50 yards from where they resided in Anderson street. In the lining of the overcoat of the younger accused the police found 13 dozen pencils. Bromage, senr., was carrying a cigar box containing pencils. Beneath his overcoat, which he was carrying, was the child's overcoat produced, while in his pockets were a child's purse and a bunch of keys. On being asked where he obtained the pencils, Bromage, junr., replied, "They are mine. I sell pencils for a living. I had them sent to me." Bromage, senr., said, "We found them on the river bank near the bridge." It was found that the Mont Albert Central School had been broken into, and the articles found in possession of accused were alleged to be those missing from the school.

The men, who pleaded not guilty were both committed for trial.

CHINA'S UNWANTED BABIES.

More than 21,000 dead bodies of infants were picked up on the streets of Shanghai last year, and the newspapers took slight notice of the fact because it was considered too commonplace to have news value. It happens every year in this great Chinese city, and although the exact number of little victims has varied it has always been in the tens of thousands. A similar infant mortality has been found throughout most of China, according to "The People's Tribune" of Shanghai, which claimed that deaths of new-born children have been estimated to run into the millions annually. The great bulk of these babies, according to this organ of the Kuomintang or Nationalist party, representing the Chinese National Government, were exposed to die by parents unable to provide for them.

Birth control has been opposed by certain "scholarly" elements in China. "The People's Tribune" noted at the same time as it declared that Chinese women of education feel differently and resent the attitude of the old-fashioned male scholar that women exist merely to bear children and perform domestic service. What is more, women physicians and nurses know, said this Shanghai review, just as intelligent men know, that the 21,000 dead babies found in the streets of Shanghai in 1933 did not represent the total of unwanted babies, but only the number that survived the "terrible attempts" which "ignorant and poverty-stricken Chinese motherhood must resort to in lieu of other methods of family limitation."

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CAMPAIGN.

Reporting to Blackburn and Mitcham Shire Council on Monday night the health inspector (Mr. R. J. Gray) stated that preliminary work in connection with the campaign for immunisation of all children in the shire against diphtheria had been carried out. It was the intention of Dr. Fergie, the newly appointed medical officer of health, to visit the schools in the shire and deliver addresses on the subject of immunisation to mothers. Diphtheria is at present fairly prevalent throughout the shire.

WANTED TO RENT.

Part house, near Mont Albert tram terminus, reasonable suit 2 adults. "M.H." Reporter Office.

THE FLYING DOCTOR OF AUSTRALIA'S INLAND.

Dr. Vickers, the flying doctor of the Presbyterian Australian Inland Mission, stationed for several years at Cloncurry, and working over an area of hundreds of square miles in the interior of Australia, including rugged mountain and forest country, has now been appointed the first flying doctor of the newly created Australian Inland Aerial Medical Service. Dr. Vickers has been doing some splendid work in this vast and little known portion of this great continent. His plane, "The Victory," has now flown more than 100,000 miles for the mission without serious accident, bringing relief to the sick and injured, and has been the means of saving many lives. The plane is equipped with a special compartment to enable stretcher cases to be conveyed to hospital. Dr. Vickers is to tell of his work at the evening service at the Presbyterian Church, Box Hill, on Sunday next.

FRUITGROWERS!
ALL FRUIT FOR EXPORT MUST BE
Free from Arsenate of Lead
Washing with Hydrochloric Acid is the Only Reliable Method.
Investigate the possibilities of the
AUTOMATIC FRUIT WASHER
Made by
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127 WHITE HORSE ROAD, BOX HILL.
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FRUIT GRADING MACHINES FOR PEARS, APPLES & ALL VARIETIES OF FRUIT, DEHYDRATORS, &c.



Spraying is an absolute necessity to ensure . . .
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Obtainable from—
Mount Waverley—S. C. Brown
Westons—J. O. Fyffe
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Mitcham—A. E. White & Son Pty. Ltd.
Blackburn—R. Bradley
Forest Hill—T. D. Quakley
East Burwood—F. Sherrington
Box Hill—W. A. Fildes & Son
Ask our local agent for a copy of our hand-book, "Clean Fruit," which gives a wealth of information on all spraying matters.
NEPTUNE OIL CO. LIMITED.

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. will be held at the Visitor Centre, Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road Mitcham commencing at 1.00pm on Saturday 13 August 2022.

MEMBERS will receive a special package of materials related to this year's Annual General Meeting. The package includes:

- The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.
- A Proxy Form for the use of those who cannot attend the meeting in person and who wish to appoint another member to vote on their behalf.
- Notice Of a Special Resolution to Adopt Revised Rules to govern the Society.
- Explanatory Notes providing details of the changes in the proposed new set of Rules.

Whitehorse Historical Society is in the process of obtaining registration as a Charity and, in order to be eligible the constitution, or Rules, have to be amended. Also, the recent re-accreditation process drew attention to the need for several other minor changes. These are all explained in the notes. So members are encouraged to attend this meeting and support your Committee by voting in favour of the new Rules.

Members should check that their annual subscriptions are paid, noting that unfinancial members will be unable to vote or speak on motions at the meeting.

Museum panels

THE creation of the panels destined to be displayed in the museum, is coming along apace. Here is a "teaser": a section to be included on the one devoted to Fruits and Flowers.

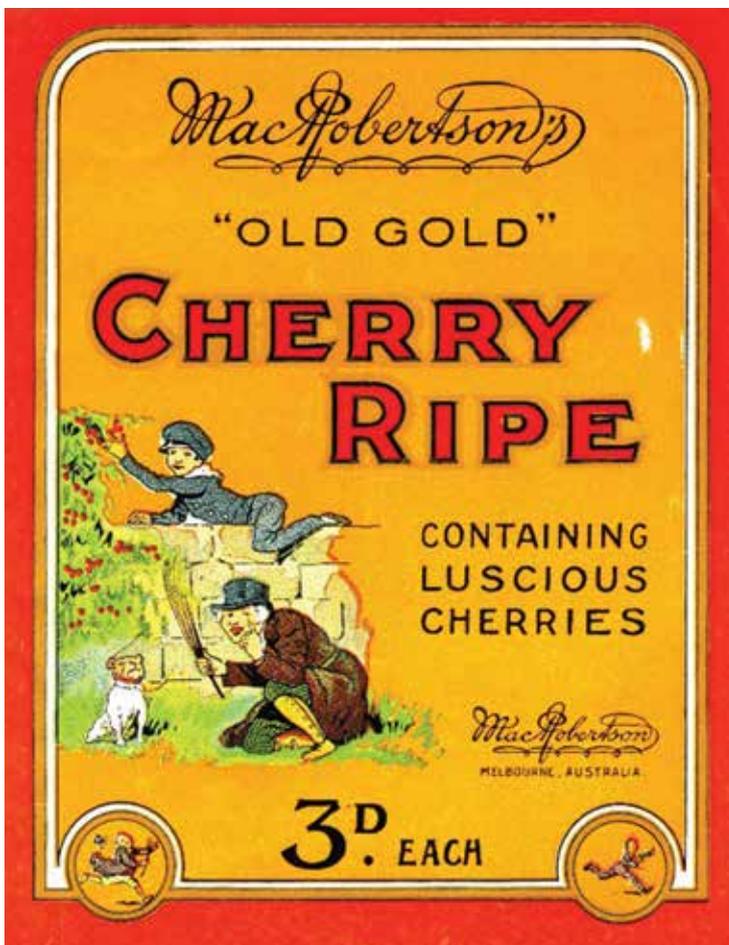
THE CHERRY STORY

Edward Henry (Harry) Pearce was one of the district's best-known orchardists. In 1907 he started working at Bailey's orchard in Springfield Road, later becoming manager. When a proposed subdivision of the property failed in 1924 Pearce bought the orchard. It flourished and he grew a large range of fruit including peaches, apricots, plums, lemons and apples. Despite the difficulties in growing cherries, Harry Pearce grew 2% of the state's cherry crop and became known as the "cherry king" because of the quality and quantity of his fruit. He supplied McRobertsons with cherries for their famous Cherry Ripe bar.

Another grower, Charles James Bedford, developed a variety of large, dark cherries named the Bedford Cherry.

"Mum used to send us, with a billy-can, up the little bush tracks around Mitcham to the cherry orchards. For 3d they'd fill up the big billy-can with all those beautiful cherries. They seemed to be so much bigger, and nicer tasting, than they are today.

Joyce Kotze: 'All those beautiful Cherries', in *A Bucket Full of Flowers* (2002) p.36.



DIARY DATES*

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

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)

Saturday, 10 December

1.00pm General Meeting

*Dr Gary Presland
Corranderrk Station*

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	-	4468
Artefacts catalogued	-	5045
Documents catalogued	-	7876
Museum visitors May–June 2022		454



Facebook Page 'likes' to date

1126

Is this where you live?



William Nicholson (1816-1865)

NICHOLSON STREET, NUNAWADING

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

William Nicholson (1816-1865) was born in England, in Whitehaven, Cumberland, the son of a farmer. On his arrival in Port Phillip Bay in 1842, at aged 26 years, he set himself up as a grocer and later became a successful head of a merchant firm, W. Nicholson and Co. Later he became a director of the Bank of Melbourne and several other companies. In 1852 he became a member of the Legislative Council, where he advocated 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 that 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 49th 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.'

Source: ND6615

Yvonne Fitzmaurice

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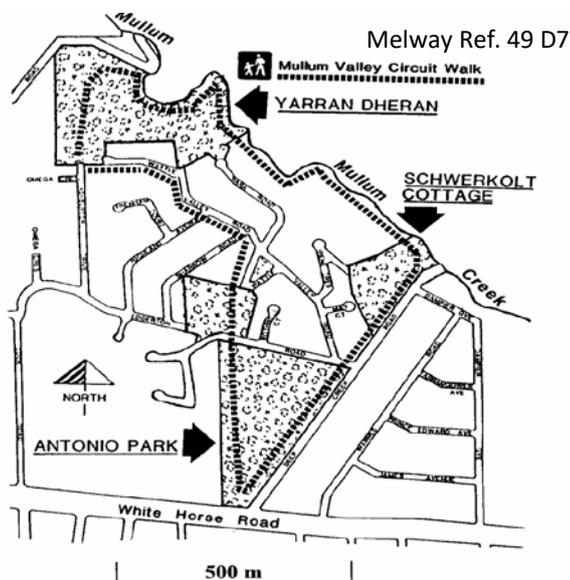
whitehorsehistory.org.au
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Email

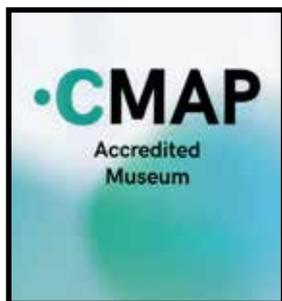
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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 31 August 2022



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, present and emerging."

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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HERE