

Goodbye Barb

20 December 1933 – 24 October 2022

IT was the early 90s when I first met Barb. The company building Eastlink was planning to fence off the area around the Cottage, a move opposed by many residents - and in Barb they found a passionate ally. She spoke militantly at meetings, insisting Council involve itself in fighting the initiative. The result is the tunnel – and the parkland we are able to enjoy to this day.

Barb and I ended up President and Secretary respectively, and a more dedicated and hard-working colleague would be impossible to find. We worked as a team, and though a gentle and lovely person of whom I have many fond memories, she was not afraid to stand up for what she thought was right – in her words, “get her Irish up!”.

One day we were working together and she mentioned that they were talking about

accreditation for local museums and she explained what it meant, so we looked into it. The Museum Accreditation Program came out and gave us the information we needed to bring us in line with professional museums. It was a gigantic job! We were among the first three volunteer museums to get it, and we were rather proud of that!

Another aspect of Barb’s dedication was her willingness to help people “out of hours”. She would often come around to the work room and the good will of the society was strengthened as a result.

I recall another thing that we sometimes had to thank her for. A spider lived in the museum and several times set off the alarm. Living so close, Barb would always be the one who came over and reset it!

Valda Arrowsmith



BOB and Barb Gardiner purchased land in May Court in the early 1960s and built their home close to Schwerkolt Cottage; thus emerged their abiding interest in the Cottage.

Barb became Acting Convenor of “Friends of Schwerkolt Cottage” soon after it was opened to the public in 1965 with it being affiliated with the Nunawading Historical Society, and I remember attending a range of events she organized.

Throughout the years since, Barb has been a joy to know. Always smiling, happy, kind and exuding warmth. Nothing was too much

trouble and she could whip up a fund-raising sausage sizzle at Bunning’s at the drop of a hat!

Valda Arrowsmith and Barb worked together as a great team and their enthusiasm was infectious.

In 2013, after my partner died I found I had Wednesdays free and what better way to spend them than in their company with others at the Local History Room, despite it being a 20-kilometre drive from Glen Iris.

Over the years it has been my privilege to know Barb and hopefully her sunny personality will linger on as we all remember her.

Rosalie Whalen





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

ON Wednesday 16 November we welcomed our new Federal Member for Menzies, Mr Keith Wolahan to the Local History Room and showed him around the Museum and Cottage. The Schwerkolt Complex now sits in the Menzies electorate.

We are delighted to have been advised that the Federal Volunteer Grant 2022–2023, which we applied for under the Menzies electorate, has been approved. We asked for money for a back-pack vacuum cleaner to make it easier for cleaning in the Cottage and a microwave convection oven for the kitchen. The funds, \$1,948.00, have to be for the benefit of our volunteers and will be dispensed in the middle of 2023.

Kerriane Stone is the new Heritage Programs Officer, replacing Julie Jones. Kathy and I will be meeting with her monthly and after our first meeting we are delighted to be working with Kerriane.

One item that we have been discussing with Council was the work on the Cellar. The rebuilding of the stoneworks was finished in time for Heritage Day,

however the installation of a fence along the top had been delayed. After the recent rains in early November the rainwater was not draining from the entrance to the Cellar and was pooling under the door. We contacted Council about the problem and in the meantime Harley dug a drainage channel to clear the water.

On Friday 11 November workers excavated the entrance slope, dug a drainage pit and laid down fresh gravel. The fence along the top is now built and some rearrangement of rocks on the top undertaken ready for landscape planting has now taken place.

Our application for Charity status with Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission has been approved.

We have had a busy year with the major achievements of the new Rules for the Society, Charity Status, Reaccreditation and resuming Heritage Family Day. I look forward to celebrating these achievements with you at afternoon tea following Dr Gary Presland's talk at our December meeting.

Vicki Jones Evans



Peter MacPhee accepts our Reaccreditation Award from Amelia Marra (extreme left), Manager of Accreditation Programs AMAGA Vic, along with other recipients.

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Rosalie Whalen: Our Favourite Germans and how they got here

WE were treated to a special speaker at our October 8 General Meeting – our very own Rosalie Whalen, giving us a detailed account of German migration to Melbourne during the 1860s, and the voyages, both physical and emotional they made to get here.

While I am sure the decision to migrate to the other side of the world is never made easily, we can only imagine with what difficulty this choice was made 150 years ago. Rosalie helped us understand the reasons and causes for these enormous decisions. Not only our well-known – to us – August Schwerkolt, but other notables and ordinary German immigrants who contributed to the foundation and establishment of the city of Melbourne.

I do enjoy these special excursions into the history of our city, and in particular, the people who made their stories our stories. Migration always takes courage and a willingness to take on the unfamiliar while using the known and familiar as a coping mechanism.

For example, while I knew a little of the establishment of the Royal Botanical Gardens and their founder Von Mueller, there was much I learnt from Rosalie's research. Rosalie skilfully gave us an insight into the man and a wonderful portrait of him who gave us not only the beautiful gardens, but also the useful blackberry!

We can only marvel at the resourcefulness of these early settlers as they carved lives and livings from a landscape (vastly different to what was to them 'civilised' Europe) in 'uncivilised' Melbourne.

Thank you for a wonderful excursion into another segment of our history, Rosalie! While I had grown up knowing quite a deal about the British migrant orchardists and farmers of the eastern suburbs, due to my grandparent's friendships, I knew little of the considerable influence of German settlement. Now I am encouraged to read much further.

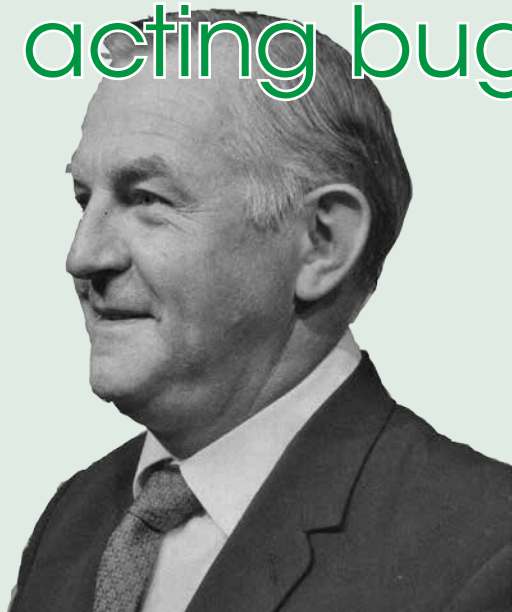
Margaret Graham



PICTURES: (Above) Photograph of the oil painting depicting Max Schramm; Baron Ferdinand von Mueller; (Below) Mr & Mrs H W Winter.



the acting bug



OSSIE Maxwell Joffre Grant was born on 28 March 1915 at Beechworth, of Scottish, English and German ancestry. Early in life, he moved to Bulla and was raised by an aunt. His introduction to the world of theatre was a production of *No, No Nanette* at the Princess Theatre. The eight-year-old boy was stage-struck from then on. He became an actor in the 1920s and in the 1930s undertook training in elocution, dancing and singing after moving to Murrumbidgee. As a member of Murrumbidgee Musical Society he had opportunity to take on leading roles. This creative period was interrupted by war service in the RAAF. Based at radar stations in the Northern Territory, Max was able to produce and direct service concerts.

In civilian life, Max worked in the printing industry and was a founding member of the gay men's society 'The Boilers Society of Victoria'. In 1952 Max moved to Mitcham and in 1953 became a founding member of Mitcham Repertory Group with Daphne Powell and Phyl Mudge.

Max's contributions to the MRG and the cause of local amateur dramatics were many and varied. When Max retired from MRG in 1993, he had directed fifty-three of the one hundred and thirty plays performed by them in that forty-year period. His farewell production was *Separate Tables*. He had assisted other amateur companies with their productions, including: three productions for The Avenue Players (Blackburn) and a production of *Auntie Mame* for Dandenong, Cheltenham and Samarital Light Opera Companies. His production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* was the first performed in the new Nunawading Arts and Entertainment Centre in 1986. He was also a foundation member of the Nunawading Arts Council in 1966 and was director of the council's Art Festival for two years. He served as MRG's President in the years 1953-64; 1970-72 and 1987.

Twice awarded Nunawading Citizen of the Year, in 1959 and 1988, Max died on 22 September 2000. His funeral service was held at Le Pine Chapel, Box Hill.

Giselda Bannister

A short clip from from the *Sun News-Pictorial* of Saturday, March 9 1940 highlights how some things have changed in 80 years!

More Houses Needed At Mitcham

To the Editor.

SIR,—The acute shortage of houses at Mitcham demands immediate attention by the Housing Commission. Families are compelled to leave Mitcham and Vermont because it is impossible to obtain houses in the district. Numbers of houses have been sold recently and tenants have nowhere to go. Also many people from other suburbs wish to settle there, but cannot find accommodation.

The railway station is crowded every evening with workers from the tile works at Vermont and Mitcham and other industries returning home to near suburbs of Melbourne. Many of these would live in this district if homes were available.

Apart from relieving the congested areas of the city, there are enough people in our own district to justify a housing scheme. Hundreds of acres of good land are lying idle.

Why cannot the Housing Commission get to work at once and build group settlements for industrial workers in the outer suburbs? Comfortable cottages with a cheap rental of, say, 12/6 a week rent purchase, would be the ideal home for this locality.

The money has been made available by the Government, so there is no need for delay.—Yours, etc.,

PROGRESS (Mitcham).

WHITE HORSE ROAD, MITCHAM.

Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter

CIRCULATING IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BLACKBURN AND MITCHAM AND DONCASTER.

Vol.47 No. 50

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1934

PRICE: TWOPENCE

A VETERAN SAILOR'S REMINISCENCES.

John McWatt, Glasgow's oldest ship's rigger, who is now on the retired list, cherishes haunted memories of four-masted sailing ships and their struggles to round Cape Horn.

John, who is 72 years of age, and resides at 123 Shields Road, in the Kinning Park district, is sad at heart for several reasons.

He does not look his years, but ship-owners refuse to sign him on, as he is over 65.

Then, too, the day of the sailing ship is practically over, and, though fit and strong, he knows that he is finished as far as the sea goes.

John also mourns for the young sailors of to-day. They learn nothing, he says, about the wiles of the ocean with their complicated instruments and other gadgets.

His eyes brightened considerably now as he dipped into the past, and the tang of salt water seemed to permeate his home as he spoke.

His father and his father's father having served on sailing ships, it was natural that John should follow their lead. At 14 years of age he made his first acquaintance with the sea on the sailing ship Ulba, which set off from Kingston Docks.

Sailors at that time were paid £3/10/- a month, and apprentices 30/- a month. Three pints formed the daily allowance of water, with so much coffee, tea and flour. In these hearty days no one worried overmuch about the quality of the food, and few grumbled about hard work.

The Cook's Pudding Cloth.

"On the Clan Stewart, on which I sailed in 1888, a cook, whom we nicknamed 'Dirty Sam,' was shipped at Liverpool," John related. "The crew played a hose on him every morning, and, on account of the greasy nature of his skin, the water just jumped off.

"One Christmas Sam prepared a pudding. Being unable to find a suitable cloth big enough he put the pudding into the legs of a spare pair of dungaree trousers, which he tied at the foot. When the pudding was taken from the copper it was discovered that the dye had come out of the dungarees and gone into the flour.

"When the disappointed crew, ready to plunge into the Christmas dinner, saw the 'blue duff' they were so disgusted they chased the cook all over the ship and then tattooed him in a dozen places.

Boiling Water for Pirates.

"On one trip we were attacked by Chinese pirates. Driven ashore, the ship had grounded on sand, and, try as we might, there was no moving her.

"Suddenly an unearthly shriek rent the air, and a band of about 50 wild-looking scamps came dashing towards the ship.

"The crew, which numbered 20, prepared for battle. Boiling water in pails was thrown overboard and kept the pirates in check.

"The band was augmented from time to time, and we began to have fears for our safety; but when the situation appeared most hopeless a strong breeze sprang up, and, about half an hour later, while we fought and struggled with the fiends whom we had so far prevented from coming on board, our ship slowly moved off and carried us out of danger. I can still remember the look of thwarted rage on the faces of the pirates.

Left Behind.

"Captain Bone, the noted author, was an apprentice when I was before the mast. He is now commodore of the Anchor Line. I met him on the City of Florence. He was a clever and willing boy, and we had many talks together.

"He will remember an occasion when the crew threatened to mutiny. Along with the others I refused to go on duty, and the situation was alarming until, still grumbling, we returned to work.

"Sailors are a queer lot at times," John explained, "and liable to imagine grievances.

"Can you imagine the feelings of a young sailor when he arrives at the docks in a foreign port, thousands of miles from home, and finds that his ship has sailed? I landed from the Tartar at Melbourne once, and spent a pleasant afternoon with several friends. With the carpenter for company I forgot about the ship for several hours. Then my mate tapped me on the shoulder and reminded me that the Tartar was sailing that day.

"We ran to the docks, only to find that the ship had sailed an hour previously. I was clad in a thin dungaree suit with only a few coppers in my pocket.

"In desperation we hastened to the agent's office. With his help we boarded a steamer for Adelaide, and then went by train to Port Augusta, which we reached in time to catch our vessel."

POULTRY STOLEN.

Returning home late on Saturday night, Mr. Cadle, of Springvale road, found that about 30 of his best pullets and chickens were missing. Coops were overturned and chicks were taken from under sitting hens. About 2.30 Mr. Cadle was awakened by a police wireless patrol, who had apprehended a man carrying a sugar bag in which were chickens and fowls.

CHRISTMAS TREE.

Children (under 14 years) of deceased or retrained soldiers in hospital are invited to the Box Hill R.S.S.I.L.A. Christmas tree on Saturday, 22nd inst.

VERMONT.

SCOUT FUND HELPED.

In aid of the Vermont Scout Rover funds, the 1st Croydon River crew presented the "Wild Man from Borneo" in the scout hall on December 5. A good attendance thoroughly appreciated the boys' efforts.

AMUSEMENTS.

RIALTO BOX HILL.

EVERY EVENING AT 8.
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 14 and 15.
CHARLES RUGGLES

in
"MELODY IN SPRING"

Also
MYRNA LOY and CLARK GABLE
in

"MEN IN WHITE."
(Both pictures for General
Exhibition.)

Matinee Programme: "Melody in Spring." Episode 10 "Phantom of the Air." Comedies, Gazettes.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 17, 18 and 19.

SIR CHARLES KINGSFORD SMITH
featured in his own story of
"THE OLD BUS"

also
JOHN BOLES

in
"BELOVED."
(Both pictures suitable for General
Exhibition.)

Box Plan at Theatre. Phone, WX1418

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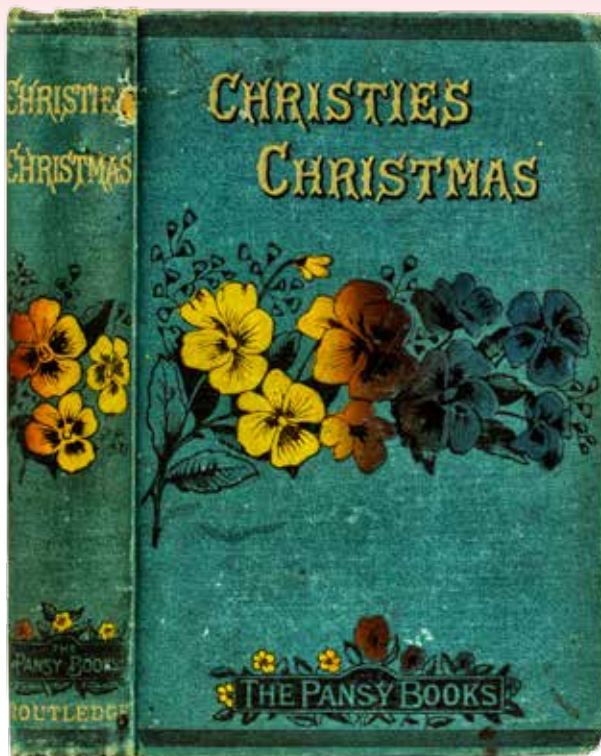
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FROM THE COLLECTION . . .



NA202

Christie's Christmas (1887) by "Pansy"

"Pansy" was a very busy woman!

In addition to being a mother, a pastor's wife, a mentor, and a member of a dynamic and close-knit extended family, she was a prolific author. Her books have been printed in numerous editions all over the world.

While her books are often referred to as children's literature, they are powerful examples of how a life should be lived for Christ that apply to readers of all ages. From her very first book, *Helen Lester* (1865), to her last, *Memories of Yesterdays* (1931), her purpose was to win others to Christ. The writing contest that began her career as a published author set her life's work for the Saviour in motion.

The sheer number of Pansy Books published is staggering. At the height of her career, she was selling 100,000 books a year—a feat for any author, even today.



. . . and the authoress . . .

Isabella Macdonald Alden (November 3, 1841–August 5, 1930), nickname and pen name "Pansy", was an American author.

Alden was interested in Sunday school primary teaching, and had charge of more than a hundred children every Sunday for many years. She was interested in temperance also; was involved in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and the principle of total abstinence was maintained in all her writings.

Most of her works are didactic fiction with religious principles, which concentrate on translating Biblical precepts into acceptable Christian behavior in a modern world.

DIARY DATES*

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

2023 Speakers to be advised

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 4 March

Saturday 6 May

Saturday 15 July

Saturday 2 September

Saturday 4 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	-	4497
Artefacts catalogued	-	5112
Documents catalogued	-	7896
Museum visitors September–October		549



Facebook Page 'likes' to date

1184

Is this where you live?



STANLEY STREET, MITCHAM
Lord Stanley photographed in 1914

Original street names to present day (Part Two)

Peel Street Mitcham

Changed by Shire Council from Purches Street 1932

Almer Ave Blackburn North

Changed by Shire Council to Peter Avenue 1932

Sandy Street Nunawading

Original street in Springfield subdivision 1861

Stanley St, Mitcham

after Victorian Governor Changed by Shire Council
to Somers St. 1932,

Railway Ave, Mitcham

Changed by Shire Council to Tennyson Street, 1932

Station Street , Vermont/Vermont South

Now Terrara Road

Station St Mitcham

Changed by Shire Council to Victory Street, 1932

Walkers Road, Blackburn/Nunawading/Mitcham

Changed to Springfield Road

Stanley Road, Blackburn

Changed to Wellington Avenue, 1934

Yvonne Fitzmaurice

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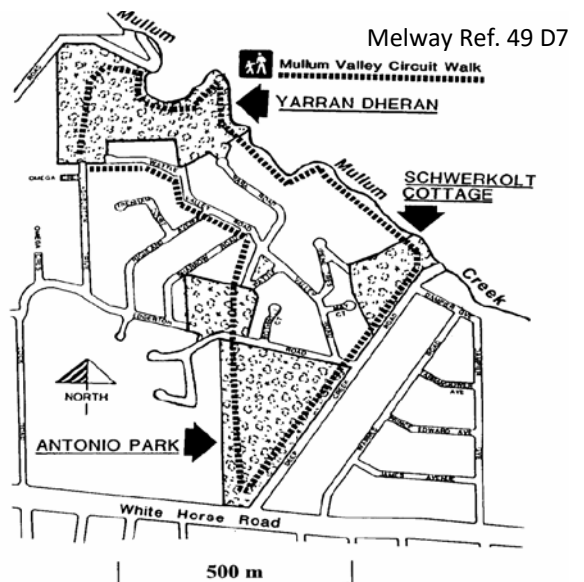
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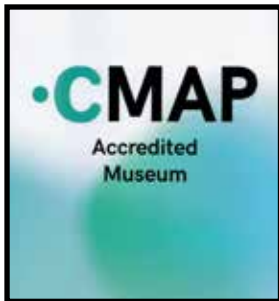
whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 11 January 2023



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

Sender: Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. & Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

Deep Creek Road, Mitcham, VIC 3132

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