

Farewell Yvonne

I have worked alongside Yvonne for years now, and a time when she was no longer at WHS seemed hard to imagine: but, sadly, one no longer has to imagine. At the end of October last year we held a farewell morning tea for her – hopefully not the last we see of her, but to mark the end of a long regular attendance each Wednesday.

Yvonne came to be a constant and reliable source of stories for the newsletter, including the *Is This Where You Live?* series (see page 7). I also worked with her on the posters for the General Meeting speakers, which she organized; as well as on the reissue of the *What They Did* booklet.

But how did Yvonne come to be a WHS volunteer in the first place? I had to find out, and she was happy to oblige.

It was 38 years ago that Yvonne saw an ad in a newspaper about a talk on *The Mitcham Murder*, which she went along to and was greatly impressed. She had a background in genealogical research which further piqued interest in joining.

Although there was a gap during which Yvonne wasn't at WHS, she came back and continued to work with Peter Simenauer. "The first job I had was to go through all the documents. Peter was the one who encouraged me to write; when I started on the Alwyn Till story, I asked 'How do I cut it back?', to which he replied 'Don't cut it – make it bigger!'".

When asked about her favourite aspect of working at WHS, Yvonne did not have to think too hard: "Research was my favourite part – learning about the area. It was a big help in helping me settle and 'become an Australian'". (Yvonne originally hails from New Zealand).

I'll leave the final words of this to Yvonne: "I've enjoyed my time at Whitehorse. I have learned a lot. I'm very impressed about the place – I really am – the way it's run. I'm proud to have been a member . . . it's all plusses".

Chris Gray



Judy Hall holds Yvonne's Life Membership certificate whilst Yvonne holds her flowers.

**NEXT
MEETING:**

Saturday, 4 February 1.00pm General Meeting
Ray Peace – Behind the Curtain: The Story of the 1812 Theatre (Upper Ferntree Gully)



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

HAPPY New Year to you all.

At our very successful General Meeting in December with Dr Gary Presland we welcomed some visitors who had come specially to hear Gary's talk. Of course, afterwards we had a delicious afternoon tea and a good chat.

During the meeting we had some problems with the power flickering on and off. The next day we found out that the Energy company had subsequently turned the power off to the site because of major problems.

The Wednesday was to be our last Working day and our volunteers' Christmas lunch and we had to cancel. It was a cold day and we didn't fancy an outdoor picnic.

It took two weeks to fix the problem and the Council brought in a portable generator to enable the attendants to open the Cottage on the weekend. The public toilets were closed as they needed power.

The cables under Deep Creek Road and into the property to the power pole in the Cottage garden were replaced with four cables. The old cables had very possibly been there since Council restored the Cottage in 1964. The air-conditioners will now work very well, just in time for the hot weather.

The Wednesday volunteers started back on 11 January. We enjoyed our postponed lunch and Kerrianne Stone joined us to meet our volunteers. The day was a leisurely start to the year, handling some enquiries, getting sorted for the year ahead and catching up over lunch.

Our Planning Day is scheduled for Monday 20 February and if you would like to attend please contact Kathy.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on Saturday the 4th February when Ray Peace will be speaking on the 1812 Theatre at Upper Ferntree Gully.

Vicki Jones Evans



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DECEMBER MEETING REPORT



WE were privileged to share the knowledge of Dr Gary Presland at our December meeting. Gary is a long-time friend of Whitehorse Historical Society, and we all enjoy the depth, warmth, and knowledge of his talks.

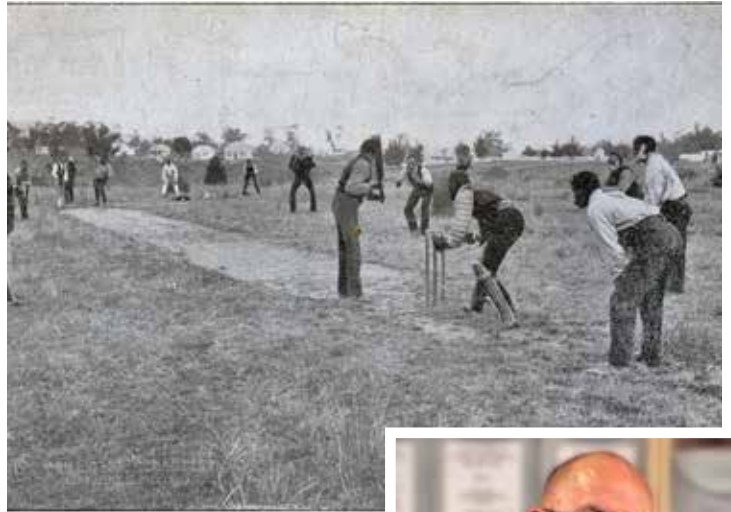
Gary illustrated and helped us understand the intricacies of Coranderk mission, its foundation by European administrators, and its many and varied impacts on countless people of the Kulin nation from late 1862 until the mid-1920s. We heard of stories and influences both good and bad of encounters between those of us who were here first and those of us who came later – like all stories spanning diverse cultures and understandings, this story has been a complicated one. But, as with every such story, knowledge can lead to better future outcomes.

Dr Gary Presland is the perfect person to teach and share with us. First, he is a 'local', with obvious local area knowledge and research fitting easily with the interest of our members. I can proudly say I started the same undergraduate degree as Gary in the early 1970s. While I failed to complete the course due to family reasons, Gary went on to stellar heights, always with an interest broadly in history, archaeology, and the natural environment, sharing a passion for these fields that's infectious through both his writing and talks.

Thank you, Gary, and we do look forward to a future talk sharing your knowledge and understanding of lands we share with those past, present, and future.

Margaret Graham

Coranderk



Canterbury Road Trip



From Canterbury, the road east is hilly – a mature dissected undulating terrain of Lower Paleozoic and Devonian sandstone. It rises gradually from the Hills of Surrey, Box and Forest to the “Monts” of Ver and Heath, and eventually Mont rose. This geological nature has had great influence on our history. Hills cause rain, and the local combination of climate, build and soil led to forested country, so attractive when wood was the basic fuel for cooking, heating and industry. The combination was also the basis for our orchard era of about a century (1860s–1960s), producing apples, pears, peaches, lemons, plums and cherries. The same conditions had encouraged the First Peoples’ use of the land, especially along the creeks, and also provided the modern names for the districts: von Mueller’s “Ver mont” an example, and Heatherdale and Heathmont. This environment has also been the base for past and present effective horticulture – commercially as in the former Halls Flower Farm on Terrara Road, or privately in our own gardens. Despite bush clearance for a residential suburb, indigenous and native botanical characteristics can still be admired at Abbey Walk, Campbell’s Croft, Bellbird Dell, Buckanbe Park and Morack Golf Course. The local historical importance of Geology has also been evident in the stone quarries of Moore Road and the Tesselated Tiles clay pits of Rooks Road.

Not only Geology, but also Geography has been important to local History. Here, the major factor has been the proximity to the Melbourne population centre. For our rural era, this provided markets for wood, fruit, vegetables and flowers. At first on overnight trips by horse-drawn cart, and later in railway goods vans, local produce was transported to central Melbourne. However, by the mid-20th century, Melbourne was coming to us, consuming the farms as the suburban sprawl changed what were the outer eastern suburbs from rural to urban.

But again the Geology is influential, for what have developed are essentially residential rather than industrial urban areas, in large part a result of the hilly terrain, which offers views, makes treed streets inviting, and discourages industry. Contrasts with the broad meadows of the western suburbs are obvious and wide-ranging.

When Canterbury Road reaches Vermont it meets the Mitcham Ridge – far more obvious when coming from Heathmont, but also clear on the level journey from Vermont to Mitcham.

Just to round off this quick road trip, two other comments are of interest to the interplay between geology and history. Down the hill, east from Vermont, history uses geology to put Eastlink on top of the Heatherdale Creek. Further on Canterbury Road, at Heathmont, history both avoids and uses the build, as rather than plunge into the Dandenong Creek it takes a large left bend at Heathmont to use the Wicklow Ridge, before descending into the Croydon Sunkland. But I am travelling too far from Vermont and too wide from gardens . . .

Gerry Robinson

IN a number of interesting ways, Canterbury Road shows the interplay between Geology, Botany, Geography and History. Apart from the “Shenley Wiggle” at East Camberwell, the road is straight from Burke Road to Vermont. The Wiggle is a clear example of the impact of History on Geology as the Outer Circle railway was carved out in the 1890s; but for much of the rest of its journey it is the other way round – Geology influencing History.

Past the bend, the road continues east, where diagonally across the road at Canterbury comes the train line! Formerly on the south since Camberwell, from now on it is north, and soon quite a distance from Canterbury Road. That move of the train line from Canterbury Road across to Whitehorse Road has had obvious long-term historical implications for many suburbs, including Vermont. So too had the earlier decision not to run the line along Burwood Highway with left turns up Morack and Terrara Road, seen as Railway and Station Roads on early survey maps.

From THE REPORTER.

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

VOL. XIII. NO 29

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1902.

ONE PENNY.

ATTENTION.

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Station Timber Yards & Saw Mills,

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BOX HILL,

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Has on Sale:—

Flooring, Lining, Weatherboards, Hardwood, Red Gum, Palings, Posts and
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P.S.—NO CONNECTION WITH ANYONE ELSE WHATEVER.

SPECIAL



NOTICE.

The Public of Box Hill, Surrey Hills, Camberwell and district are
hereby notified that **THE CO-OPERATIVE COUPON COMPANY,
LIMITED**, of 107, Swanston street, and 130-132 Flinders Street, will
continue to issue Coupons up to JUNE 1st, 1902.

That all Coupons will be Redeemed at their full face value as usual.

That up to JUNE 1st they will be redeemed in 500 or Half-Book
quantities as heretofore.

That after that Date they will be redeemed in any quantity as pre-
sented, or accepted as cash in part of full payment for goods.

That all Goods displayed in the Company's Showrooms are now FOR
SALE or Redemption.

That the Company will Continue to Carry on Business as Retail Mer-
chants at their present address.

That large shipments of Choice Goods are now being imported speci-
ally for RETAIL PURPOSES.

That the Values offered by the Company are THE BEST to be obtained
in Melbourne.

THEREFORE, Continue to Collect Co-operative Coupons in the
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In making your purchases Support the Company who provided you
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NA5116 An ubiquitous crowbar

MANY years ago a gentleman who lived close to the Cottage came into the Museum struggling under the weight of a huge crowbar, a solid forged iron rod about 3" diameter and over 6ft long, with one end shaped to a flat point (this type of crowbar was used in quarries to lever rocks etc.). The gentleman said very sheepishly, "Er,

this crowbar really belongs here. My father borrowed it from the Schwerkolts years and years ago. He always intended to return it, but time went on and then he died a few years ago and it's taken me until now to return it!"

It can be seen leaning against the dray in the covered section of the building behind the museum.

From **THE REPORTER.**

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

VOL. XIII. NO 29

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1902.

ONE PENNY.

AUSTRALIAN TESSELATED TILE COMPANY'S EXCURSION.

Judges : Messrs E. E. Walker, J.P., and T. S. Luke. Starter : Mr W. Chalmers. Handicappers : Messrs F. Crosling, H. A. Wilkins, and R. Dowling. Sports committee : Messrs B. Timmons, L. Walker, W. Rigney, J. Crew, F. Crosling, H. A. Wilkins. General committee : Messrs E. E. Walker (chairman), W. Chalmers, R. Dowling, A. Clifford, F. Liebentritt, W. Bewley and M. Smith. Hon. Secs. : Messrs T. S. Luke and L. Walker.

The first annual excursion of the proprietary and employes of the Australian Tesselated Tile Co., Mitcham, was held on Saturday. A special train had been chartered for the occasion, and this left Ringwood at 8 o'clock, picking up excursionists at Mitcham, Blackburn, Box Hill and Melbourne, and conveying them to the place of rendezvous, Mordialloc. The start was made in close and muggy weather, but soon after the sea-side was reached there came a most agreeable change, with a cool breeze blowing in from the sea, and the day turned out an ideal one for picnicking, and no

wonder a thoroughly enjoyable day was spent by old and young. The general committee, with their genial manager, Mr E. E. Walker, J.P., at the head, are to be congratulated upon the excellent arrangements made for the comfort and enjoyment of the excursionists, and we are sure that all will look forward with eagerness to another such pleasant outing next year. A well-arranged programme of sports was carried out without a hitch, the most attractive events being the tile-laying contest, and the married ladies' race. All concerned in the management and carrying out of the programme have good cause to shake hands with themselves. Mr Keast, M.L.A. was present all the time, and took great interest in the proceedings, and was entertained, with other visitors at dinner and tea by the proprietary, and it was just such entertainment as pleaseth the heart of the scribe, for there was no speechifying. About 8 p.m. the large crowd of excursionists boarded the train on the homeward journey all well pleased indeed with their capital day's outing at the sea-side.

DIARY DATES

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

Saturday, 4 February

1.00pm General Meeting

Ray Peace – Behind the Curtain: The Story of the 1812 Theatre (Upper Ferntree Gully)

Saturday, 1 April

1.00pm General Meeting

George Petruo – The Art of Sacrifice

Saturday, 3 June

1.00pm General Meeting

Max Beck – A Different Earth

2023 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.

STATISTICS

Photographs catalogued	-	4509
Artefacts catalogued	-	5115
Documents catalogued	-	7900
Museum visitors Nov.–Dec. 2023		203



Facebook Page 'likes' to date

1192

Is this where you live?

Original street names to present day (Part Three)

Highbury Road, Vermont South

Formerly Boundary Road.

Canterbury Road, Blackburn Nunawading/ Forest Hill

Named after Viscount Canterbury. Formerly Delaney's Road.



NP1792 Dr Stanley Cochran

Cochrane Street, Mitcham,

Named after Dr Stanley Cochrane. Formerly Central Avenue.

Ceylon Street, Nunawading.

Formerly Simla Avenue.

Efron Street, Nunawading.

E section formerly Colbar St, after Colin & Barbara Savage.

Forest Road, Blackburn/Nunawading.

Originally part of Lake Road, named for Forest Hill.

Banksia Street, Blackburn.

Formerly Gardiner Street, name changed, 1956–8.

Good Governs Street, Mitcham.

By owners, after 'God Governs', name refused by Council.

Hartigan Street, Blackburn.

Changed by Shire Council from Vine Street or Poplar Street in 1932.

Highbury Road, Burwood/Vermont South

Changed from Sth Boundary Road

Yvonne Fitzmaurice

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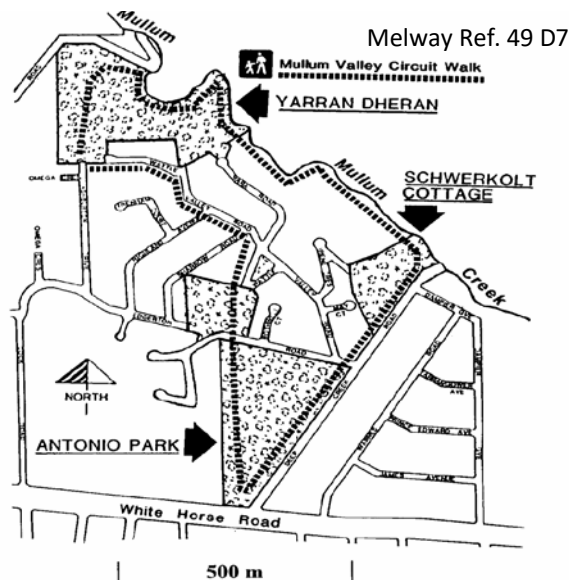
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Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 1 March 2023



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 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.*



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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