

## The launch of the panels



### PICTURES

(This picture): Vicki welcoming the guests to the official opening;  
(Below) Guests enjoying the new displays.



(Above) Deputy-Mayor Cr Prue Cutts launching the "From Then Until Now" Brochure.



**NEXT  
MEETING:**

**Saturday, 3 June 1.00pm General Meeting**

*Evie and Hardy Kielnhofer –  
The Uplands: A Grand Estate of Vermont*

*Dear Members*

As you can see from the photos on the front page our Official Opening by Cr Prue Cutts, Deputy Mayor, of the new Panels in our Visitor Centre was a big success. Over forty people attended including Keith Wolahan MP, Michael Sukkar MP, Councillors Ben Stennett and Raylene Carr, Council officers Iain Finlayson and Kerriane Stone, Helen Harris OAM from Box Hill Historical Society, Heathmont History Group members including Gerry Robinson, members of Our Society and Visitors.

We received many compliments on the Panels and the new history Brochures. Chris Gray, Patty Boxhall, Giselda Bannister and I were involved in the design and content. Chris did the major work and has done a fantastic job. Margaret Graham's grandson, Milo Wade designed the "From Then until Now" main Brochure for his Year 12 Design portfolio and did a marvellous job. Harley Hall with assistance from Bob Gardiner prepared and updated the wall display cases for the hanging Panels and had the place looking spic and span for the Opening. Kathy Innes organised the event and co-ordinated, and baked her delicious scones, for the afternoon tea. Judy Hall and Wendy Standfield kept the tea flowing from the Kitchen. And we received many compliments about the Opening. Even the weather co-operated and instead of the forecast rain, we had some sunshine.

On Saturday 15 April we hosted a quiet Association of Eastern Historical Societies' Meeting in our Local History Room. The weather did not co-operate on that day.

At our General Meeting in April George Petrou was a most engaging speaker and he very generously donated a copy of his book, "The Art of Sacrifice" to the Society. Half of the profits on the books are donated to various veteran charities.

Our speakers for the June meeting will be Evie and Hardy Kiellnhofer, who are dedicated to researching and sharing the history of Vermont. Their excellent website is: <https://vermonthistory.weebly.com/>

*Vicki Jones Evans*



ABOVE: One of the panels now hanging in the museum.

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## APRIL MEETING REPORT



# Discovering *The Art of Sacrifice*

Albert Jacka VC

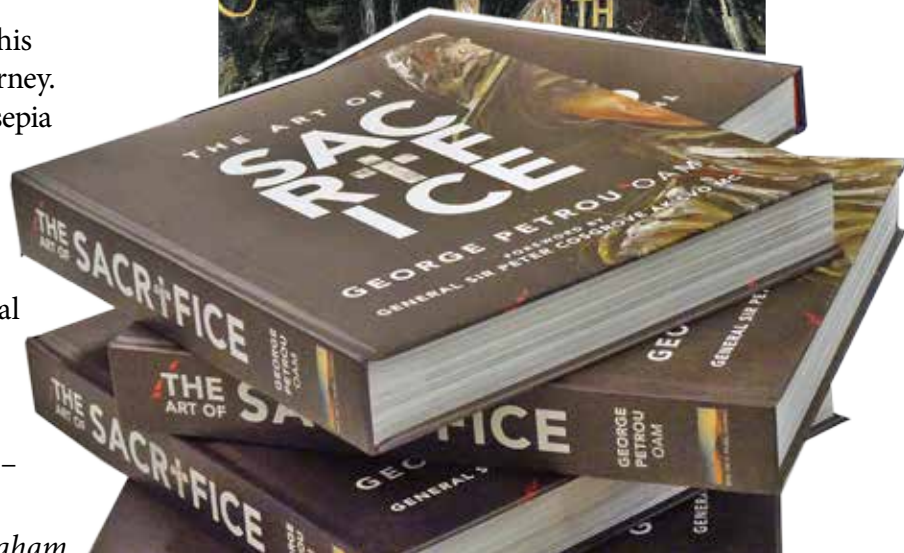
IT began when I was handed a brochure giving me details of a speaker for our April meeting. Being April, we do try to place an emphasis on Anzac Day and those who have served our country. Little did I realise I was about to discover a gem.

I usually contact speakers by email and can glean enough information to assess their talk and then proceed to 'book' them for one of our meetings. April's speaker, artist George Petrou OAM, and I danced about one another for some days until we finally spoke. I was not disappointed. George and his talk also did not disappoint those present at our General Meeting. George is a great storyteller: the best sort, with the ability to interweave his own story with the stories of his artistic subjects, and then to convey those stories meaningfully to his audience through his artwork.

From his 'from somewhere else' beginnings, through a successful graphic designer career to his latest publication, George took us on a great journey. His interpretations of faces long hidden in tiny sepia photographs, along with portraits of living Australian legends, gives memorialisation another lens and certainly makes us think. George is travelling to France soon and plans to participate with others at Australian Memorial Sites along the Western Front on Anzac Day.

George kindly donated a copy of his book *The Art of Sacrifice* to Whitehorse Historical Society, and I do encourage you to seek it out – it is well worth a look!

Margaret Graham





# The story of Nurse Maggs

THROUGHOUT the early part of the 19th century Mary Ann/Marriane Maggs née Hardidge was a well-respected midwife in the Mitcham area. Her qualifications are unknown, however the Census records for that period always gave her occupation as HD (home duties). Therefore, it is reasonable to assume she did not have formal training. During this period of settlement when doctors were often hours away and trained nurses were scarce, women had to rely upon either 'handywomen', relatives or their experienced neighbours, many of whom had many children of their own. The women attending these births usually did this in a voluntary capacity, although for a very few women this would have been an income-earning activity. Nurse Polly Maggs, as she was fondly known, had personal experience due to having had eleven pregnancies, with only one girl dying aged three weeks. It is recorded that during her time as a midwife she successfully delivered over 500 babies.

Mary Ann Hardidge (16 May 1860 – 29 September 1941) was born in Doncaster, Victoria. Her birth name was sometimes written Marianne; she was the daughter of John William Hardidge (c1831/5 – 1874) and Mary (Hase) Brown (c1832 – 1909). Before buying land in Doncaster Road, her father had settled in Bulleen as early as 1857. He died in the Melbourne General Hospital when Mary Anne was 14 years of age, and her mother died later at their Doncaster home.

Mary Ann, a domestic servant at the age of twenty, married James Maggs (c1862 – 1925) on 4 October 1880 at Gore Street, Fitzroy, with Rev Thomas Porter officiating. Her husband James was born in Nunawading and was the youngest child and only Australian-born son of James and Harriet Maggs, a Somerset family who were orchardists. This family arrived in Australia on 5 November 1852 aboard the fever ship Ticonderoga, and were held near Point Nepean until the typhus epidemic was cleared.

James, with Amy, followed the family tradition by selecting an area adjoining his brother Samuel's orchard in what is now Kalinda Road. The newly-weds constructed a four-room house and stables, both buildings made of palings with an iron roof. Here, between 1883 and 1899, they had six sons and five daughters (one of whom died at three weeks of age), each usually born two years apart. It was a happy marriage until 1900 when, aged 38 years, James started keeping late hours and neglecting the family. He had been seriously ill with Bright's disease (a kidney complaint), and while he was confined to bed his neighbours visited. This was when he became attracted to one of their wives.

Official records give intimate details of the relationship, which culminated in 1906 when Mary Ann finally divorced James for adultery with Theresa Shanks, the wife of neighbour John Shanks. The journey to reach this decision took six years. Her first suspicions were aroused when Theresa regularly visited her husband. Mary Ann forbade her entry to the house, but when James became

*(Continued on page 8)*

(BELOW): The Hardidge house in Doncaster.





# 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 45

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1902

ONE PENNY.

## The Reporter.

*"Unwarped by prejudice,  
Unbiased by faction,  
Irrespective of nationality or creed,  
Justice mete we out impartially to all."*

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1902.

### Box Hill Police Court.

At the Box Hill police court on Friday before Messrs Bishop (chairman), Ingamells, and Malcolm, J.P., two of the local butchers, Messrs C. Franklin and J. Horneman were proceeded against by Inspector Pope, of Nunawading shire, under section 271 of the health act, for dressing carcasses for sale as food for man on premises not duly licensed for slaughtering purposes. The inspector not being in a position to prove that the carcasses had been offered for sale asked to have the cases withdrawn, but Mr Fbsworth, who appeared for defendants, objected to this course, and pointed out that the charges must be dismissed. The cases were accordingly strack out with £1 4/- costs in all against the council.

### Fatal Accident at Ringwood.

Mr Joshua Bond, a well known resident of the Mitcham district, met with an accident on Monday afternoon, which unfortunately resulted fatally. About half past 4, Mr Bond was loading a basket with empty bottles on his cart in front of the Burnt Bridge hotel, Ringwood, when the basket slipped, and the horse started off and Mr Bond fell backwards on the road. He was taken into the hotel and on recovering he was sent to his home in Mitcham. About 9 o'clock he fainted, and died shortly afterwards. A post mortem examination was made by Dr Craig on the following afternoon. No marks of violence were found on the head or body, and the doctor ascertained that death was due to heart failure from shock. An enquiry was held on Tuesday night by Deputy-coroner Grant, when the above particulars were elicited, and a verdict was returned in accordance with the medical testimony. A large number of friends attended the interment at the Box Hill cemetery on Wednesday afternoon. Deceased, who had not been in robust health for some time, was only 48 years of age.

### Proposed Extension of Boroondara Cemetery.

The result of the ballot taken by the Kew council (by post) on the question whether the Kew recreation ground, adjoining the Boroondara cemetery, should be sold to the cemetery trustees, was announced at the Kew council meeting on Tuesday. There were 1132 votes recorded in favor of selling, and 408 against, majority in favor of selling, 664. The council agreed to ask the minister of lands for permission to sell the land.

### A Sad Occurrence.

Some three weeks ago a girl named Florence Lindsay, an employee at the Australian Tessellated Tile works, Mitcham, was accidentally struck on the head by some tiles that were being carried on a tray by some other girls. Little notice was taken of the mishap at the time, and the girl went to work as usual for eight days afterwards, and then complained about being unwell. She got worse, and had to be taken to the Melbourne hospital, where she succumbed on Monday. She was 15 years of age, and was a step-daughter of Mr Lavell, of Box Hill. The interment took place in the Box Hill cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, Mr Otto Preuss having charge of the mortuary arrangements. Much sympathy is felt for the relatives in their bereavement.

### Support Your Newspaper.

"The greatest aid you can give your news paper is your job printing (says the Numurkah Standard.) If you do not feel able to run an advertisement, surely you can afford to give the newspaper your cards, dodgers, billheads, memo-forms, letter-heads, envelopes, and all business printing to execute. The newspaper man needs it, and it helps him to pay for setting up the thousand and one free notices he gives you and your district; don't give it to the printer, outside job printing office, or itinerant canvasser, who can give you no such return, and neither gives time, money or brains in helping you to build up your town. The time may come when a newspaper may live simply upon the revenue derived from advertising and subscriptions, but no ordinary local newspaper can now exist without the auxiliary support derived from job printing. Therefore, if you want a good local newspaper—one that can still further help you and your district—give it your job printing."

### Incandescent Gas Lighting.

An immense advance has been made in the Comfort, Efficiency and Economy of gas lighting, by the introduction of the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Burner.

This invention has wrought a revolution in the Gas Lighting business. By it the BEST and CHEAPEST LIGHT KNOWN can be obtained. These Burners can be fixed on existing fittings.

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F. TIPPER, Manager.

### OPEN COLUMN.

[Whilst welcoming communications from all who consider they have anything of local or general importance to write about, it must be distinctly understood that we are not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents. We must ask correspondents to state their views as briefly as possible, and to bear in mind that any screech of a scurrilous character will be promptly dumped into the W.P.B.—Ed. R.]

### RIDING ACCOUNTS.

DEAR REPORTER,—In your issue of May 23, a letter appeared signed C. D. Hall, in which he used my name freely, and in reply I beg to say that if Cr C. D. Hall had completed his letter at the word grievance on the fifth line, it would have shown at least that he possessed common sense. The first five lines of his letter is as follows:—"I see by your report of the Nunawading council meeting, held April 28, that Mr Rawlings, by permission of the council, ventilated what, if it were true, would be a serious grievance." The rest of his letter is not worth referring to, as it savors strongly of spite, thinly veiled with sarcasm. Now to the point. In your report of the council meeting of April 14, the following appears:—

"Riding accounts.—Cr Hall moved, in accordance with notice given, that the secretary be instructed to keep separate riding accounts."

Does this not imply that the secretary is not keeping separate riding accounts. As Cr Hall seems to require information, I have much pleasure in supplying same as follows:—

"The council's minute book, page 555. Meeting of 17th Sept., 1900. Cr Rawlings moved, and Cr Hunter seconded, that the secretary be instructed to in future keep the accounts of the shire strictly in accordance with section 242 of the "Local Government Act 1890," and the present system of riding accounts be discontinued; a financial statement to be submitted to each finance meeting of the council.—Carried."

Cr Hall was present at this meeting, and did not protest nor have his vote recorded against. In conclusion, I cannot do better than quote the above-mentioned section 242:—

"When any municipal district is subdivided the council shall cause at least one half of the net income of the municipality in every year to be apportioned among the subdivisions in proportion to the amount of general rates received therefrom respectively in each year, and the amount so apportioned to each subdivision shall be placed to a separate account, and shall be expended in works in such subdivision."

Thanking you in anticipation,—  
Yours, &c.,

A. RAWLINGS.

Box Hill, 2/6/02.



# THREE SCORE YEARS AND TWO

(The Denise Moorhouse articles)

## FACTS AND FABLES OF MITCHAM AND DISTRICT

THE LOCAL ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1962

### SCHOOL

**W**HEN you attended school about fifty odd years ago and you were a naughty boy it was the cane or the real hard strap. Probably the worst punishment of all was to be put in that place called the “Black Hole of Calcutta.” Apparently Mitcham had one also.

#### **Read on for Mitcham in the early days.**

It has already been stated that Mitcham school opened in 1883, with a Mr Edgoose as head master. No figures are available as to attendance, but by 1905 a count of an old school photograph reveals 90 pupils, with a staff of three.

The school consisted of one large brick room, in which all classes were taught. The original room can still be seen, but internally it has been altered. One end of the room was a gallery, with tiers raised one upon the other, and here the “babies” sat. More sinister was the space under the gallery. This was pitch black in darkness and was referred to by the pupils as the “Black Hole,” where the very worst offenders were put locked in, and left to fight the terrors of the black

hole. Once emerging from the black hole, the boys felt safe to indulge in the worst fancies of creepy, crawly things, and unknown monsters. The black hole was quite a deterrent to would-be mischief makers.

Mr. Mellor was head master, and his particular hobby was producing operettas and musical plays. The brick hall in Britannia street was Mitcham’s centre of entertainment, and here all 90 pupils would take some role in the play. Mothers frequently complained of the cost of the elaborate costumes, but visitors came from miles to hear the operetta and orchestration.

Mitcham can now be very proud of the school’s new swimming pool, but in 1905 the school was equally proud of their tennis court. There were no fences around it, and a wild ball meant running for hundreds of yards across the vacant paddocks to “Fox” it, but the hard, white dirt court was in great demand.

When the pupils left the school, the boys would take up a variety of trades and professions, but most of the girls stayed home until matrimony claimed them. There was

very little incentive for the girls to work. One local lass, being a believer in equal rights, was apprenticed to a dressmaker. For the first six months she cut, tacked and sewed for no payment. Finally trained, her wage packet was 2/6 a week. The point to be made is, was it worth the effort of becoming a business girl or remaining a mother’s helper?

Having left school, there were various sporting clubs functioning, the cricket club and the tennis club being the most popular.

The cricket club will be mentioned later in this series. The tennis club played on courts next to Mitcham Hall (present Scout Hall) in Britannia street.

With a membership of about thirty to forty, inter-club matches were organised and the players would set out in horse-drawn vehicles to travel to Box Hill or Doncaster. The women with long frocks and large picture hats, and the men in brightly striped blazers.

The courts were dirt courts and the surface was quite fast.

It is hard to realise that most of Mitcham was what could be classed

#### **PICTURES:**

(left) Pupils of Mitcham State School with Maude Florence McGhee, c1895; (right) Grades 2D & 3C 1962 (the year of this article).



as a playing field. In 1910 there was a produce merchant where Mirama Court now stands. On the same side of Whitehorse road and on the other corner of Mitcham road were three shops, paddocks until the pine trees surrounded the Church of England. On the opposite side of the road there was no house or shop from Mitcham road until the priest's cottage and the Catholic Church. Then vacant land until just before Richards street, where there was the post office (still

standing). Adjoined was a fruit shop, then a space until one other building. From there on both sides of Whitehorse road as far as the eye could see were paddocks and an isolated orchard or two.

As the modern youngster catches the bus to school, spare a thought for the little girls of yesteryear. Little girls especially. The boys wore comfortable clothes even then, but the girls were forced to walk miles each way wearing voluminous petticoats, frock to their ankles or

mid-calves. In the 1900s, as a girl grew older, her frocks were worn longer and her hair was taken up. Over her thick, warm frock she wore a lace collar and a stiffly starched white pinafore, and long stockings, heavy shoes and a large hat completed the uniform.

The two sections of Mitcham school today have 743 pupils and a staff of 21, so the proportion of pupils to teacher has not altered considerably; but Mr Baxter does not have a "Black Hole".

(Right): Photo of Whitehorse Road, Mitcham circa 1910, showing St John's Roman Catholic Church-School (Church 1872-1952 and School 1872-1931) in centre; the School Teachers Cottage at left (1902-1935) and Mitcham's first Police Station (1888-1950) on the right. In the extreme background can be seen the original Mitcham Railway Station (1882). In the foreground is what was known as 'The Great 3-Chain Road', now Whitehorse Road (Maroondah Highway).



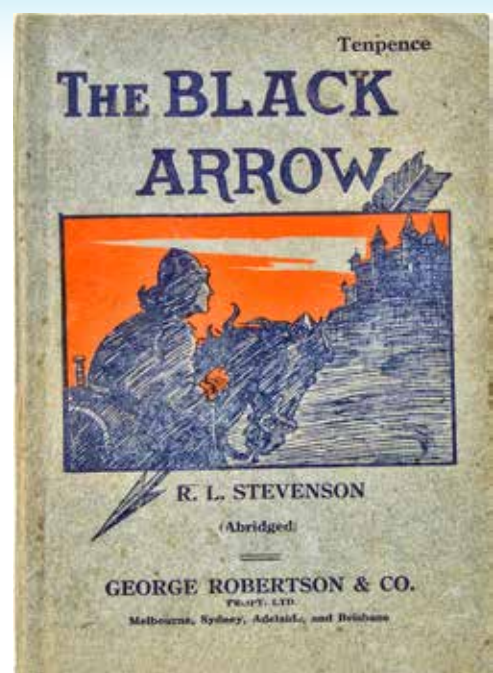
## FROM THE COLLECTION . . .

### NA5042

An abridged and edited version of *The Black Arrow* by R. L. Stevenson, produced for schools in Victoria circa 1918.

Publisher: George Robertson & Co. This well-known Australian bookselling and publishing company was established in Melbourne ca.1852 by George Robertson (1825-1898). In 1857 Robertson set up a branch in London and from 1860 he opened bookshops in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane. His firm published works by many leading Australian writers. From 1861-1889 he published George Robertson's Monthly Book Circular, as well as the Melbourne Review (1879-1885) and the Tatler (1897-1898).

Robertson retired in 1890. In 1922 his firm merged with Melville & Mullen to become Robertson & Mullens.



# The story of Nurse Maggs

*(Continued from page 4)*

**(BELOW):** Among the area's earliest pioneers, James Maggs and Mary Anne (nurse) Maggs.



well enough he would remain away over night and on return tell his wife to 'mind her own business'. It wasn't until the early 1900s, when Theresa's husband John found them in a compromising position, that he commenced his divorce proceedings.

James moved away, first leasing the orchard for five years to a Mr Cameron, with the proviso that James's family had use of the house. During this period he gave his wife £1/10/- a week for family maintenance, plus an occasional gift of a few extra pounds.

The fractious Maggs relationship continued, with James regularly requesting forgiveness and often receiving a sympathetic response, after which he would again betray her. On one occasion he went to New Zealand and on return again asked for forgiveness until Mary Ann showed him a photograph of him with Theresa that had been sent to her by a 'person unknown to her'. Only then did he admit taking her with him.

In March 1901 James was arrested in Warrnambool for theft of household articles they had previously removed from Theresa's earlier home. He was prosecuted at Collingwood Court and received three months in goal. It wasn't until the Petty Sessions that James finally admitted he was living with Theresa Shanks.

Mary Ann visited him while he was serving his sentence and once again he begged her to take him back. She agreed, and on the day of his release went to the Pentridge Stockade to bring him home. While she waited, Theresa arrived and James walked off with her, refusing to speak to his wife. Occasionally he wrote to Mary Ann, and she asked him to return for the sake of the children. Again, in early 1902, he promised to be faithful after admitting that he and Theresa had a child.

Instead he went to West Australia for nine months with Theresa, returning in the November of 1902, and on this occasion gave Mary Ann £10. Again, in 1905, he made more promises, but Mary Anne refused and began divorce proceedings.

The family story about this divorce states that James and Theresa lived in the Hawthorn and Prahran districts while he drove a taxi. Conflictingly, the divorce statement records that James returned with Theresa to Blackburn, to the orchard where from November 1905 they lived under the name of Mr & Mrs Maggs, though Census records for that area and period mention neither James nor Theresa.

With the divorce settled in 1906 it is supposed that Mary Anne/Marianne became the much-loved and trusted Nurse Polly Maggs.

The Census records show that she continued to live in the area of Ringwood, or in Mitcham at either Clive Street or Olive Street, and mainly in the company of her youngest child Harriet.

It is understood from local newspaper reports that she remained in the Mitcham area and died in October 1941 at the age of 81 years. She was buried in Box Hill Cemetery. Oct 1941.

*Yvonne Fitzmaurice*



## DIARY DATES

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

**Saturday, 3 June**  
**1.00pm General Meeting**

*Evie and Hardy Kielnhofer –*

*The Uplands: A Grand Estate of Vermont*

**Saturday, 12 August**  
**1.00pm Annual General Meeting**  
*Gerry Robinson – 100 years of Heathmont*

## 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.

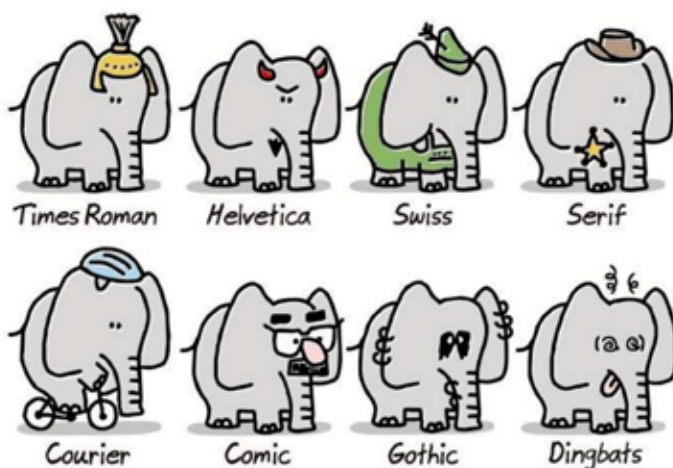
**Saturday 15 July**  
**Saturday 2 September**  
**Saturday 4 November**

Please come and help even if you can only offer an hour of your time.

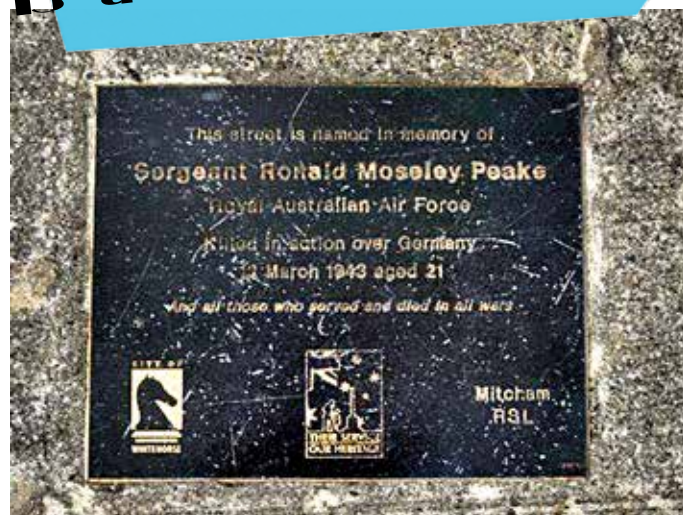
## STATISTICS

Photographs catalogued	-	4520
Artefacts catalogued	-	5210
Documents catalogued	-	7936
Museum visitors Mar.–Apr. 2023		547

## elefonts



Is this where you live?



This monument is located on the corner of Ronald & Lucknow Streets, Mitcham. Its inscription is as follows:

*This street is named in memory of  
Sergeant Ronald Moseley Peake  
Royal Australian Air Force  
Killed in action over Germany  
12 March 1943 aged 21.*

*And all those who served and died in all wars*

## RONALD STREET, MITCHAM

This street is named in the memory of Sergeant Ronald Moseley Peake, Royal Australian Air Force. He was born in Ringwood, on 17 August 1921, the son of Timber merchant, Messrs Peake & Cox. Ronald attended St John's Primary School in Mitcham and lived in Albert Street.

On 20 June 1941 he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force, Sergeant, SN 408871. He flew Lancaster bombers with 110 RAF Squadron in/over Germany. His crew, Lancaster ED544, took off from RAF Grimsby at 1937 hours on the night of 12/13th March 1943, detailed to bomb Essen, Germany. The crew members of ED544 were:

- Pilot Officer Douglas Invicta Arthur (50778) (RAF) (Rear Gunner)
- Sergeant William Eric Chamberlain (1476619) (RAFVR) (Mid Upper Gunner)
- Sergeant Ernest Hodgson (1506082) (RAFVR) (Air Bomber)
- Sergeant Harold Jowitt (945664) (RAFVR) (Flight Engineer)
- **Sergeant Ronald Moseley Peake (408871) (Pilot)**
- Sergeant Arthur Reece Roberts (407909) (Wireless Air Gunner)
- Sergeant Roger Fisher Rowe Sides (412850) (Navigator)

Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take-off and it failed to return to base. Post-war it was learned that all the crew members had been killed.

Ronald was aged 21 years.

*Yvonne Fitzmaurice & Chris Gray*

## WHS Committee Contacts

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0404 612 216

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Peter McPhee

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Kathy Innes

### Treasurer

Eddie Tan

**Local History Room (03) 9873 4946**

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Schwerkolt Complex  
2 – 10 Deep Creek Road, Mitcham

### Newsletter Team

Chris Gray  
Wendy Standfield

### WHS website

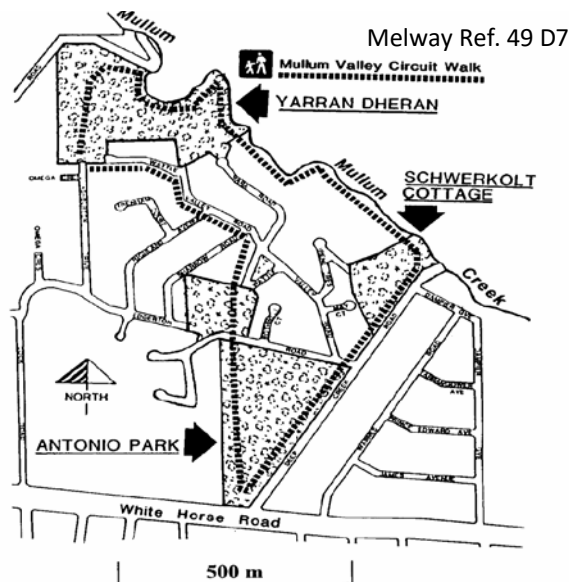
whitehorsehistory.org.au  
facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

### Email

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

### Postal Address

P.O. Box 272  
MITCHAM Vic 3132



**Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 5 July 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."*

*"Whitehorse Historical Society acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. Wurundjeri connection to this land dates back more than 40,000 years, and evidence of this connection still exists today."*

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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