



NEWSLETTER

Series 31 No. 4

July–August 2023

ABN 44 352 041 634 Inc. AO 012235J

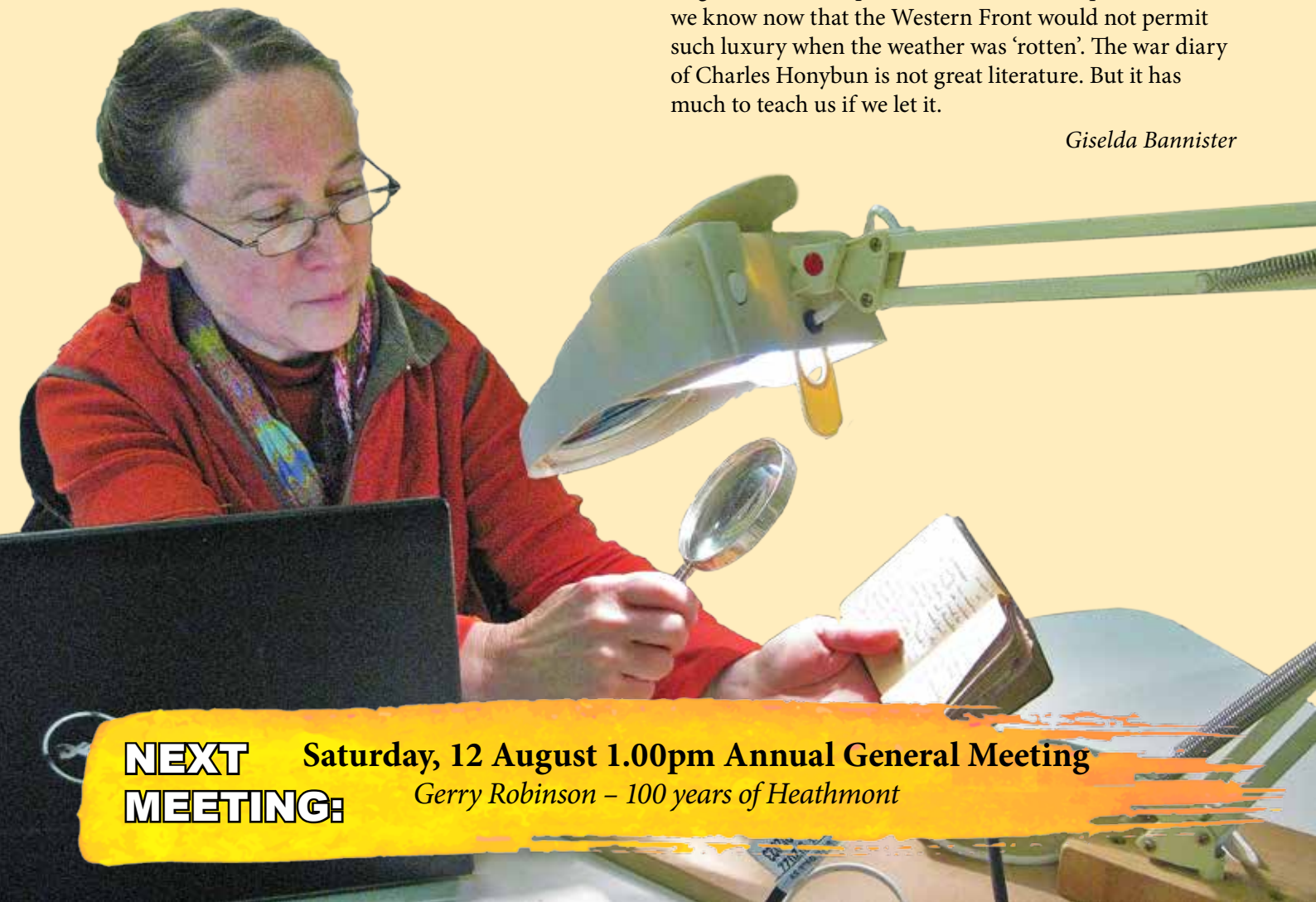
Reclaiming the past

TRANSCRIBING a World War One diary promises much: a first-hand account of events most of us could not begin to imagine, journeys to times and places unknown. Well – not always. On first transcribing this 1917 Pocket diary one encountered: execrable handwriting, ink that bled through the paper or faded into invisibility, a litany of complaints about terrible English late-winter weather, indecipherable place, and proper names and little else. Then the work, accomplished with hours of squinting frustration – went missing. A combination of personal stress and the continually shifting focus of three pandemic years resulted in the transcription being mislaid.

Starting again, with gritted teeth, was worthwhile. Familiarity with the quirks of absent punctuation, abbreviations and indecipherable names enabled a far better rendering than the first attempt. Scouring maps, locating the names of English and French villages broke through the brick walls of previous incomprehension. Empathy for this man's journalling previously damned as 'boring', grew.

Themes emerged: loneliness, homesickness, boredom at repetitive and meaningless work, anxiety for a new bride and expected child when news of home was slow in arriving. Poignancy: later notations named friends killed. Men who had featured on earlier pages enjoying jaunts to English villages and joint purchases of fishing rods to dip in English streams. The irony of our hindsight: bitter English weather kept the men confined to quarters when we know now that the Western Front would not permit such luxury when the weather was 'rotten'. The war diary of Charles Honybun is not great literature. But it has much to teach us if we let it.

Giselda Bannister



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



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members

AFTER all the excitement in April with the Panels Opening and Meetings the last two months have been a little quieter. Evie and Hardy Kielnhofer spoke at our June meeting and engaged the audience to such an extent that it was at least ten minutes before teas and coffees were requested as everyone was talking and asking questions.

Although we are in the lucky position of having many hard-working volunteers, we decided to use Seek Volunteers in order to find someone with the necessary computer skills to do encoding and scanning of documents for Victorian Collections. We have welcomed a new Volunteer, Hetty, to work on this project.

Planning is well underway for Heritage Family Day on Sunday 10 September 11am–4pm, which is now less than two months away. If you can help on the day or can donate cakes for our Cake Stall please contact Kathy. Our flyer for Heritage Day is attached.

The theme for Whitehorse Heritage Week this year is “All Aboard”, which will focus on transport in the municipality. The council has organised a vintage Fire

Making bubbles at last year's Heritage Day.



Truck from the Fire Services Museum Victoria on Family Day and we will have a display in the Visitor Centre. The Council’s Heritage Week Brochure will be distributed soon.

On 11 August the Mitcham Post Office is closing. The Society has received a notice with a list of other postal offices (mostly agencies) in the area that we can use for our Post Office Box. The Post Office building, built 1924, does have a Heritage Overlay on it and the building is not owned by Australia Post. Come to our October meeting to hear the history of the post office by Brian Millane. I think it is sad that the Mitcham Shopping Centre will no longer have a post office and residents will have to go to the smaller groups of shops at Rangeview or Mitcham North.

Wednesday volunteers have been busy cataloguing, auditing our Collection records, improving our signage and sorting our store room. Kathy has been busy finishing off the accounts in Eddie’s absence overseas, and compiling our Annual Report. Ken Barelli, our auditor, is currently working on our accounts in preparation for our Annual General Meeting.

Whitehorse Council have decided to try new Opening Hours for the Museum and Cottage from 15 July. Firstly on Saturdays 10am–1pm and Sundays 1pm–4pm with Public Holidays 1pm–4pm

I would like to thank all our committee, volunteers and members for their work and support during the year. Our committee appreciates the support we have had from Councillors – Deputy Mayor Prue Cutts, Ward Councillor Ben Stennett and Councillor Raylene Carr. Our Federal Members of Parliament, Keith Wolahan and Michael Sukkar have been strong supporters and we value their support. Council staff have been of great assistance, Kerriane Stone, Arts and Heritage Officer, Iain Finlayson, Cultural Services Co-ordinator and we appreciate the Attendants on front desk duty and at the Cottage.

Vicki Jones Evans

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JUNE MEETING REPORT

Evie and Hardy Kielnhofer

The Uplands:

A Grand Estate of Vermont



THOSE of us attending our last meeting were treated to the very informative Kielnhofer duo, daughter and father Evie and Hardy.

Their talk and visual presentation on the Uplands Estate of Vermont had us deeply involved in another era of a local area we all thought we knew well: Vermont, years back from tarmac, traffic, and commercial trading. We were transported to a gentler, but none the less very busy, time. Back to one of the larger estates of the district and how it looked and worked then.

We gained insights into how the property was acquired, planned, operated successfully and eventually sold, subdivided to become the suburbia we know today.

Evie and Hardy have a special love for, and understanding of Vermont, and have spent many hours – indeed, years – researching their passion. It really does show! Many members, including some interested visitors, joined us on a cold June afternoon and, judging by the discussion round the afternoon tea table, were not disappointed. Keep up the wonderful research, Kielnhofers, there has to be a book coming soon!

Margaret Graham



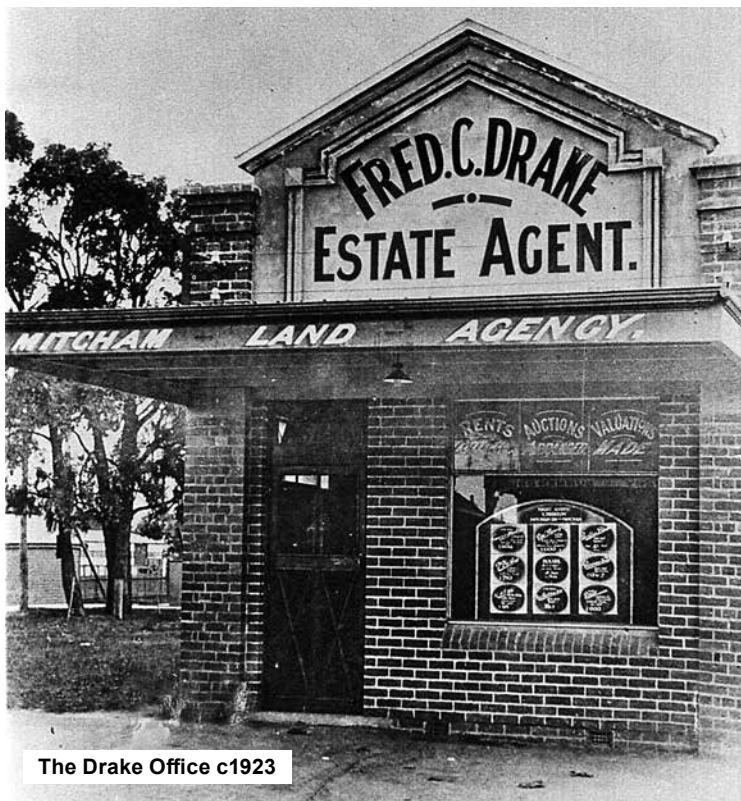
PICTURES: (Above) The interesting talk held viewers' attention; (Below) The Q # A session.



ERRATUM

WE received an email from Ken Smith, archivist of the Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society, indicating a point of factual error in the article in last newsletter about Nurse Maggs:

"The article shows a photograph of the Hardidge house. [We] have a photograph in our collection of what [we believe] to be the same house, which was in no way connected to the Hardidge family. We believe this house was built in about 1890 by one Berthold Bruche and stood at the south west corner of Doncaster Road and Whittens Road. Your photograph, we believe, is the same house but at a later date. The house survived until the early 1960s".



The Drake Office c1923

Two Drakes and an Armstrong



FRED C. Drake (1876–1968) opened Mitcham’s first estate agency on 1 May 1914, marking a move from his former premises in the ‘Olderfleet Building’, Collins Street, Melbourne. An attraction for Fred to move to Mitcham was that his brother, Dr Francis Drake, owner of a local sanatorium, had the only phone line in the area. The brothers shared the party line. Drake’s first local client was Mr E. E. Walker, who purchased a home in Edwards Street, Mitcham.

Drake expanded his business, taking over a Blackburn estate agency from Mr Frank Fisher in 1923. Another tiny agency run by a lady in South Parade, Blackburn, was taken over by a Mr Browning (few details are known of this establishment). Mr G. C. Browning handed over this business to Mr G. C. Kernaghan in 1923, who in turn handed over the business to Armstrong and Hoath in 1948. This business traded as Armstrong and Hoath until 1960 before becoming part of Drake and Company. The Blackburn office was located at 71 Railway Road. In addition, Drake and Company, Blackburn, acted as agents for the Victorian Insurance Company. (This was the oldest Fire and Marine Insurance Company in Australia, founded in 1849). The company was also the agent for The Provincial Insurance Company Limited from 1964.

Drake was joined in the Mitcham business in 1923 by Norman Armstrong, at which time the business was located on the corner of Station and Colombo Streets, Mitcham. In 1926, Drake retired to the Riverina to grow citrus; however, the business continued under the Drake name with Norman Armstrong at the helm.

Norman Armstrong was a long-serving councillor for the Shire of Nunawading, and the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham, and was appointed first mayor of the City of Nunawading. He was a member of the Real Estate and Stock Institute and served a term as its President.

Norman was joined in the business by his fifteen-year-old son, Raleigh. Raleigh retired after forty-seven years and Raleigh’s son, Ian, joined the firm in 1967 as managing director. Ian also had a long involvement with the Real Estate Institute of Victoria, including a term as State President. In the 1960s the Mitcham office relocated to 534 Whitehorse Road and by 1984 Drake and Company employed twenty-four people in the two offices, Mitcham and Blackburn.

Drake and Company was a foundation member of Real Estate World, subsequently joining with national and international groups to form Real Estate Professionals.

Giselda Bannister

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. XIV. NO 1

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1902

ONE PENNY.

Mitcham Mems.

Residents of the district will be pleased to hear that Privates Jim Wheeler, Harold De Valle, and Joe Antonio have returned from the war, and that all of them look the picture of health. Poor genial Tom Toogood contracted pneumonia on the voyage home, and had to be left at Albany to undergo an operation, but we are glad to say he is on the road to recovery.

On Monday afternoon the teachers and scholars presented Miss Wheeler with a handsome sapphire brooch on her retirement after 10 years service. After Mr Mellor, in a few well-chosen words, had presented Miss Wheeler with the token of their esteem, the children rose and sang "Auld Lang Syne." Miss Wheeler, who almost broke down, said she would always remember the happy days she had spent at the Mitcham state school.

We are glad to learn that Troopers Geo. Wheeler and Geo. Bowman, who have been fighting with Tullibardine's Horse in S' Africa, have both secured positions at their trade in Johannesburg at a very remunerative wage.

We trust Mitcham will not forget to give its soldier boys the welcome home they so richly deserve.

Mitcham was dead on Saturday without a football match. The boys tried to keep themselves warm with a scratch game; and we believe they have discovered a new umpire.

Things were a bit middling in the training room one night last week. Some people can't have a friendly go without losing their temper.

We hear that Mr Gravett has disposed of the East Mitcham pottery works to Messrs Shurven Bros., and as these two energetic young men are prepared to supply garden pipes and general pottery, we trust that they will receive their share of the local trade.



—TO HOUSEHOLDERS AND LAUNDRY PROPRIETORS.—

THE "LEVER" Washing Machines

—(PATENT)—
ARE SIMPLICITY ITSELF

And Will Last a Lifetime. Will Do Days' Heavy Washing in Couple of Hours, with little or no fatigue to the operator. Clothes Last Much Longer; in fact these Patent Washers will not injure the most delicate fabric.

Write for

CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATIONS, RECORDS, TESTIMONIALS & PRICES TO THE FACTORY

C. B. SUMSION, Patentee,
OAKLEIGH—(near Melbourne)—VICTORIA.

The Various Sizes of Machines MAY BE SEEN WORKING DAILY at the FACTORY, and at NORTH MELBOURNE (30 doors from Corner LEVESON and O'SHANNESSEY STREETS.

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 screed of a scurrilous character will be promptly dumped into the W.P.B.—Ed. R.]

DEAR REPORTER,—Having closed my correspondence on 11th ult., I treat O'Don's characteristic statements at their true value, as it will take O'Don all his time to accept my challenge and uphold his statements.—Yours, &c.,

ROBERT H. KERR.

Narre Warren, 4/8/02.

DEAR REPORTER,—Is this district blessed with the services of an inspector of weights and measures? To-day, as usual, the bread is 2 oz. short. As to the milk (bluey) at 4d a quart, my lactometer declares 1½d would pay well. Where are we to look for relief? Then there's the price of greens and taters. enough to give a poor devil the vapours. To drink colonial tea through the nose you must pay for very bad grog, and the butcher has got as saucy as a hog, and he won't even give me a bone for my dog. And talking of butchers there is a capital opening for a non-grasping fletcher near the Canterbury railway station. Such a one would without doubt be liberally patronised, and his advent would prove a red letter day in the district, and would be a great relief to the hearts and pockets of poor struggling feminine humanity.—Yours &c.,

CLIMBER.

Canterbury Heights, 5/8/02.

FOR SALE.—Medium Draught HORSE thoroughly Staunch and Sound. Any trial. JAMES GILL, "Sunnyside," Grove Road, Box Hill.

TENDERS wanted GRUBBING and BURNING FURZE, Box Hill. Specifications Contractors' Room, Shire Hall, Box Hill.

TENDERS are invited for GRUBBING and CLEARING 15 Acres, Doncaster East. Tenders to be in by MONDAY, the 11th August, 1902. A deposit of 5 per cent. to accompany each tender. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.—W THOMAS, Doncaster.

STATION STEAM SAW & MOULDING MILLS.—Doors, Skirtings, Windows, &c., made on the premises. Builders' Ironmongery, Oils, White Lead, &c., Firewood and Jumbunna Coal. P. BIRD, Timber Merchant, White Horse Road, Box Hill, and Canterbury Road, Canterbury.

UNAWADING.—Impounded at Nunawading Pound, by S. Pope, shire inspector, on 16th August—

1. Flea bitten Grey Horse, like C or G near shoulder
2. Bay Horse, like F W near shoulder, star, white spots on back.
3. Black Mare, no visible brands, white hind feet, and streak down face, shod.

If not claimed and expenses paid to be sold on September 9th, 1902.

S. J. BENNETT,

5/ Poundkeeper.



OHLENDORFF'S DISSOLVED PERUVIAN GUANO.

PERUVIAN GUANO has been the MOST RELIABLE and GENERALLY USEFUL FERTILIZER for the past 70 years, and Large Quantities of the Raw Guano were imported by us in former years, as old market gardeners will remember, but this material was found to be uneven in quality, and so in recent years the plan has been adopted of shipping the Raw Guano from the islands to England, where it is treated and sent out to customers under the style of

OHLENDORFF'S DISSOLVED PERUVIAN GUANO.

This is a Complete Manure, in fine, dry, powdery condition, free from stones or sand; every particle fertilises. It contains every element of plant life: amonia, phosphates, potash and organic matter, and is highly concentrated. It will be found quicker and more certain in its action than any other manure. It can be sown with the seed, applied in liquid form, or used as a top-dressing. Sold in original bags, sealed and branded by

The Anglo-Continental (late Ohlendorff's) Guano Works, London.

PRICE: - In bags of 160lbs net, 20/ per bag, or £13 5/ per ton of 14 bags
In bags of 112lbs net, 15/ per bag, or £13 10/ per ton of 20 bags

Order on store in exchange for cash at the office.

GIBBS, BRIGHT & Co.,
34 Queen Street. MELBOURNE.

THREE SCORE YEARS AND TWO

(The Denise Moorhouse articles)
FACTS AND FABLES OF MITCHAM AND DISTRICT
THE LOCAL ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 1962

SCHOOL (Part 2)

IF any old residents have a story to tell of the old days in Mitcham, the “Advertiser,” would contact the writer of the series and arrange an interview.

There are some stories that should be recorded as part of Mitcham’s history, as well as providing entertainment for those who do not remember.

Mitcham had two separate areas of relatively intensified bustle, one being close to Richards’ and the other near the Witt and Purches street-Heatherdale area.

In this second area was a State school. The Education Department owned the two acres of land on this site, and it is interesting to know that the department is building a school there again, this time for mentally retarded children.

When the Mitcham State school opened, in 1888, Mr John. J. Edgoose was head teacher, and he held the position until 1891.

Unfortunately, old records have been destroyed. These would have shown records of attendance and numbers of the staff. It would have been interesting to compare the figures with the attendances at today’s Mitcham school. The school, accommodated on two sites, has an enrolment of 743 pupils, with a staff of 21 teachers.

In 1929 the senior section of the school opened on its present site.

By 1906 the Witt street school was closed. Research will be made to gather information about this school.

One story handed down shows the humanity of an insignificant country school teacher who won the love of his pupils as their sweaty little hands erased the writing from their slates. An inspector had arrived, and his presence put fear into all occupants of the room. The children were paralysed, and stared with a mixture of interest and apprehension at the arrival of the man they had heard of for the whole year.

What is not generally realised is that the inspector is there to inspect and criticise the teacher, not the pupils, and as a result the teacher was even more apprehensive but more adept at hiding his feelings.

“Mary is our class captain,” said the teacher to the inspector. “Will you hand out the reading books please, Mary?”

Mary rose with a feeling of acute embarrassment and made her way to the room’s only cupboard. Under the tension she dropped two of the books, and stumbled as she passed the inspector. Before her ordeal was over she knocked a pile of slates onto the floor.

This was too much for the inspector, who, with lack of tact and no understanding of child psychology, roared, “What a clumsy girl!”

He paused and looked at her, then asked “Why is she wearing boy’s boots?”

Coming from a large family, the shoes were passed on from one child to the other and Mary was wearing her older brother’s boots.

Tears welled in her eyes as she looked beseechingly at her familiar teacher. Risking a bad report, he spoke bravely for the times,

“They may be boy’s boots, sir, but they are well polished.”

And the country school teacher won the love of all.



What on earth is this?



NA5223 The Egg Bird

As a cataloguer for the Whitehorse Historical Society collection, using the Victoria Collections criteria, I have the sometimes-daunting task of describing and handling all sorts of “stuff” before we take it into our museum. I’d like to occasionally share my world with you and ask your advice and input.

Take my recent object, a piece of WW1 “trench art”. Easy enough to identify as such, in fact, labelled that way, with provenance being part of the former Mitcham RSL Honeybun Collection. I duly did my best to describe it – a British grenade, apparently called a Mills bomb, wood, .303 calibre cartridges, and British tunic buttons. Art perhaps fashioned by someone behind the lines, waiting in that horrible space called “inaction” waiting for “action”. At this distance we can only speculate.

I took a phone photo and showed it to few people who know heaps more than me. Here is where knowledge and stories get interesting.

- It's mounted round the “wrong” way (look how the feet are pointing). Possibly “repaired” by someone?
- It could have been made by a New Zealander, as its shape is reminiscent of a Kiwi bird.
- The buttons could have been “fence posts”, originally strung with wire to keep in the “bird”.
- Apparently the “filler cap” is not original – the grenade has been emptied of explosives!

A small example of looking, seeing and discovering stories – please feel free to comment, wonder, and add to the story.

A Volunteer

Come to Heritage Family Day!

Sunday, 10 September 2023, 11am to 4pm
at Schwerkolt Cottage

The 2023 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 1.00 pm on Saturday 12 August 2023

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting August 2022
3. Business Arising from previous minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Presentation of Annual Statement
 - Auditor's Report
 - Appointment of Auditor for 2023–2024
6. Determination of Annual Membership fees
7. General Business
 - Election of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee
 - Nominations are called for the positions of:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary/Public Officer
 - Treasurer
 - Ordinary Members of the Committee (7)
8. Close of Annual General Meeting

Please advise apologies to Secretary Kathy Innes 9870 9044 or 0409 230 058.



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Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. AGM 2023 Nomination Form

As a financial member of the Whitehorse Historical Society I, _____
Accept nomination for the position of:-

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Ordinary Committee Member (7 positions)

Signature _____

Date _____

Nominated by:(name) _____ Signature _____
(Financial Member of WHS)

NOTE: Members may self-nominate.

DIARY DATES

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex

Saturday, 12 August

1.00pm Annual General Meeting

Gerry Robinson – 100 years of Heathmont

Sunday, 10 September 11am–4pm

HERITAGE FAMILY DAY

Saturday, 7 October

1.00pm General Meeting

Brian Millane –

A History of Mitcham Post Office

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 2 September

Saturday 4 November

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

STATISTICS

Photographs catalogued	-	4525
Artefacts catalogued	-	5281
Documents catalogued	-	7963
Museum visitors Mar.–Apr. 2023		403



Is this where you live?



Lord Hopetoun,
photographed in 1902

HOPETOUN STREET, MITCHAM

... is situated south of the railway line that leads eastward to Heatherdale station. The curved tree-lined street enters Somers Street near the Somers Trail and ends at Brunswick Road.

John Adrian Louis Hope, 1st Marquess of Linlithgow, 7th Earl of Hopetoun, KT, GCMG, GCVO, PC (25 September 1860 – 29 February 1908) was a British aristocrat and statesman who served as the first governor-general of Australia, in office from 1901 to 1902. He was previously Governor of Victoria from 1889 to 1895.

Hopetoun was born into the Scottish nobility, and succeeded his father as Earl of Hopetoun at the age of 12. He attended Eton College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, but opted not to pursue a full-time military career. Hopetoun sat with the Conservative Party in the House of Lords, and became a Lord-in-waiting in 1885 and Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1887. He was appointed Governor of Victoria at the age of 29, and had a successful tenure in a time of political and economic instability.

The announcement of his appointment to the new governor-generalship in July 1900 was met with praise. However, he arrived in Australia ill-informed about the political aspects of federation, and his decision to call on William Lyne to form a caretaker government became known as the "Hopetoun Blunder".

Hopetoun was popular with the general public, but developed a reputation for flamboyance and ostentation. His desire for a large expenses allowance was rebuffed by parliament, and he consequently relinquished office in July 1902.

He died in France at the age of 47, after several years of ill health. Hopetoun's term as governor-general is generally regarded as a failure, and his successors generally avoided emulating his extravagance. Only Lord Denman held the position at a younger age.

Yvonne Fitzmaurice & Chris Gray

WHS Committee Contacts

President

Vicki Jones-Evans
0404 612 216

Vice-President

Peter McPhee

Secretary

Kathy Innes

Treasurer

Eddie Tan

Local History Room (03) 9873 4946

Rear Museum Building
Schwerkolt Complex
2 – 10 Deep Creek Road, Mitcham

Newsletter Team

Chris Gray
Wendy Standfield

WHS website

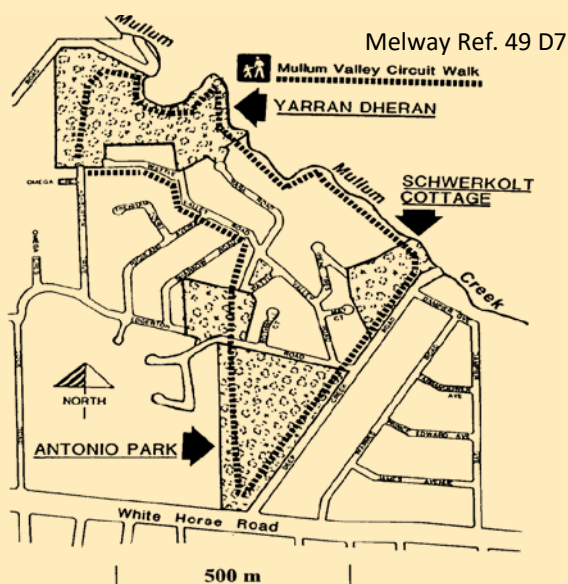
whitehorsehistory.org.au
facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

Email

whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

Postal Address

P.O. Box 272
MITCHAM Vic 3132



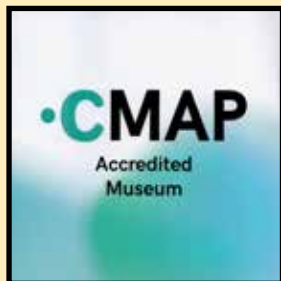
Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 6 September 2023

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."



REMEMBER

Whitehorse Historical Society

Local History Collection

Open 10am to 3pm 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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AFFIX
STAMP
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