

# WHITTLESEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

ABN 46019570463

The year's end is certainly approaching and one wonders just how quick the days pass by.

Here are the Updates:

The Society has been busy with our digitisation of the Gibbs Collection as well as a majority of our photo collection. Chas Taylor has indeed had a formidable job but gradually the end is near. The next job for us will be to catalogue each one for easy retrieval. Many thanks to Gwen for organising this task.

The Mayor of Whittlesea Mr Rex Griffin was kind enough to attend our June meeting and speak about the trials and tribulations of being Mayor. He passed on many hilarious anecdotes that kept everyone amused.



We continue to be associated with the Whittlesea Council Heritage Program. This year we have been involved in the *Yan Yean Water Supply System- Life Blood of the City*. One event took place on the 27th April but if you missed out it is repeated again on **Sunday 27th November**.

We will also be presenting in **October** and **November** through the local libraries (Mill Park , Thomastown and Lalor) an Historic Photographic Exhibition titled *Farming in the Plenty Valley*. It will display early farming practices within the area which was once considered Melbourne's Food bowl .

## *NEWSLETTER Number 20 October 2014*

*Editor Wendy Lowry*

### **DRY STONE WALL TOUR**

This event was also part of the Heritage Program of 2014 and was so successful that it could very easily become a regular feature in the program.

The bus tour was organised by our President Mr Bruce Batten in conjunction with the City of Whittlesea and Mr Bruce Miller from the Dry Stone Wall Association. The tour was to view fine examples of historic and contemporary walls and structures within the area. They visited places such as Westgarthtown, the Presbyterian Church in Epping, Wollert, Harvest Home Road , Woodstock and Fenwick Stud.

Dry stone walls and stone buildings are a unique feature of our local landscape and were built by the early settlers from local rocks such as bluestone. This seems quite obvious when you consider that the area around Whittlesea lies on a significant basalt plain. The walls are created without mud or cement and provides an insight into the geology and land use within the area. They are in fact a part of our heritage.

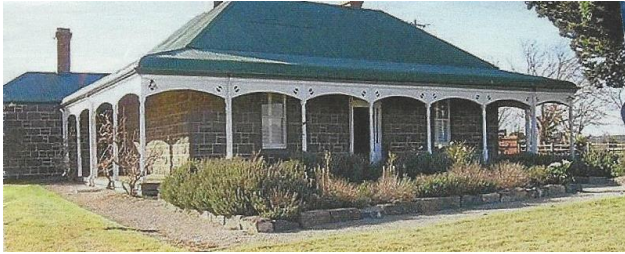


Here is Bruce next to a wall on his property in Wollert

## ***A PLACE TO VISIT***

### ***Carome Homestead***

***10 Hathfelde Boulevard, Mernda***



In 1840, Arthur Sergeantson purchased Section 19, Parish of Morang, a total of 842 acres. He named the property Sergeantson Hall but the portion between the Plenty River and Plenty Road soon became known as Carome the name of the flour mill he established in 1841..

The Homestead itself was built in 1861 from local bluestone and is a large but very standard late nineteenth century house situated on the property that once housed one of Victoria's first water-powered flour mills. In 1868 the mill was destroyed by fire although there are some remnants of the mill that still remain and overlooking the Plenty River.

It is one of the oldest buildings in the City of Whittlesea and historically significant due to the association of the flour mill with the Melbourne markets in the 1840's.

The Homestead has been painstakingly restored and today you can visit it as TWO BEANS AND FARM Restaurant. You can wander around the farm area and sit inside and enjoy a coffee or a lovely meal. There is a sign pointing the way off Plenty Road. Enjoy the history!!!!

## **WHITTLESEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Meetings** 2nd Wednesday  
each month(excluding January)  
at 7.30 pm

**Venue** Christ Church Hall  
Whittlesea

**Subscriptions** Single \$15  
Family \$20

## **WHAT 'S IN A NAME?**

By John Waghorn

### ***"Laurie Collins Street, Bundoora"***

When I first saw this street sign ( off McKimmies Road, Bundoora adjacent to the Darebin Creek) I assumed that **COLLINS** was a surname, but I did not get very far.

A few weeks later I called in at Dysons Buslines (adjacent) to obtain some bus timetables and casually asked the receptionist about the name **Laurie Collins**. She told me that he had started off the Dyson Buslines, firstly in Reservoir and later in McKimmies Road Bundoora. I must have looked a bit confused as then the receptionist added that his full name was **Laurie Collins DYSON**.

I have since found out that Dysons Buslines commenced in 1952 with four buses under the leadership of **Lawrence Collins DYSON** at 755 Plenty Road, Reservoir, transferring later to McKimmies Road. In November 2012, Dysons bought out the Reservoir Bus Company and Midland Tours, which increased their holdings to 70 buses and 125 staff.

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## **"FOOD FOR THOUGHT"**

Why is man who invests all of your money called a Broker?

Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?

If a pig loses its voice is it disgruntled?

If your car could travel the speed of light would your headlights work?

Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite?

What happens when you get scared half to death twice?

What hair colour do they put on a driver's licence of a bald man?

# "VALE"

**Sylvia SCHULTZ** - Long time supporter of the Whittlesea Historical Society.

**Margaret Gaye WUCHATSCH** - (Known as Gaye) Nee Lohse. Wife of our Past president Robert.

**Dulcie CLOHSY** -Nee Williams. Contributed information regarding the Donnybrook Cemetery and Kal Kallo area.

**Ray Cyril MITCHELL** - born 1923 in what we know today as the Whittlesea Health Centre in Walnut Street. For many years Ray and his son Laurie owned and successfully managed their Grocery store as well as the bakery across the road.

**Footnote by Gwen Hawke**

The Whittlesea Historical Society will always be indebted to Ray for his invaluable contributions to our local history and towards our two publications Historical Buildings of the Whittlesea Shire 1985 and Historical Views of the City of Whittlesea 1988.

Personally I would like to mention on behalf of Maureen Doyle and myself that we are ever grateful for Ray's continual encouragement toward our as yet unpublished "100 Years of Women's Histories" research.

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM of the Whittlesea Historical Society will be held on Wednesday October 8th at the Whittlesea Bowling club.

Starting with dinner at 6pm and the meeting starting at 7.30pm.

Our Guest speaker this year is Deidre Hawkins who will be talking about her book on KINGLAKE.

See you there all are welcome.

# ODD SPOT

By Margaret Mann

## *Searching for "Aunt Ette"?*

My cousin and I were working on our family history and she asked me if I knew how Aunt Ette fitted into our family history. Looking at a list of family names we wondered if it could be Ethel May Towers.

Checking the records I found an Ethel, the daughter of John Bell Towers and Rachel Clinton was born in 1885. In 1911 she married James Matthew Maxwell the son of Samuel Maxwell and Eliza MacDonald.

The 1914 Electoral Roll shows James a farmer, and Ethel Maxwell home duties, both living at Whittlesea. Actually they lived in the first house on Plenty Road to the south of the cemetery. For many years James was secretary of the Cemetery Trust for a total of 68 years. He was awarded a B.E.M. (British Empire Medal) on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1969 for services to the community which would have included services to the cemetery.

Ethel and James are buried in the Yan Yean cemetery with their daughter Hazel McDonald Maxwell. Ethel aged 72 in 1957, James aged 95 in 1973, and Hazel aged 85 in 1997

Over the years I have driven past the cemetery many times, but only recently have discovered that part of my family is buried there. This was a great result, though she is not the aunt that I visited as a child in the 1950s. I am still looking for Aunt Ette, but I am happy to have found third cousin Ethel.



## **WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?**

### ***"A TURN- UP FOR THE BOOKS"***

This phrase comes from the world of betting on the horses. The "book" is the record of bets laid down on a race and is naturally kept by a "bookmaker", commonly known as a "bookie". When the horses do not run true to form and the favourite does not win, it is a good day for the bookie. For him it's a "turn-up (wards) for the books".

### ***"TO TAKE A RAIN CHECK"***

It is an American expression coming out of the sport of Baseball. A "rain check" is a receipt for a baseball ticket that can be used at a later date if a game has been interrupted by rain. The phrase is now often used figuratively to put an invitation on hold and defer it until a later date.

This triangular block of land bounded on the north with today's Wilton Vale Road, while the Plenty ran in a south easterly direction to form an east and south boundary, while on the west is bounded with another of the small allotments. BOND appears to have been living there for the previous year at least as shown by the Census Return.

BOND took a significant loss on his investment when on 1st July 1848 he sold the land to John Wilton for £ 67 or £1 per acre (**ibid**)

## **OLD ADVERTISEMENTS**

From the Herald Sun newspaper of October 1954. How many members can say they had a suit from Roger David? (Note the accessories hat, pipe and binoculars !)

## ***BIBS AND BOBS***

### **Prominent People in Whittlesea**

Courtesy of Lindsay Mann

#### ***William Carpenter BOND , Plenty River, Morang Parish***

At the Census of 1841 William Bond and his wife Mary were living in a house built of wood on the Plenty. They were between the ages 21 and forty-five and had a son who was aged between seven and fourteen years. The Census shows there was one proprietor, one person employed in agriculture and one in other (unspecified) employment.

We may assume the William was the proprietor but the type of property is not specified.

**(PROV VPRS 85:Unit 1 1841 Census Returns)**

On 11 April 1842, the partnership of John Maude Woolley and William Henry Bacchus sold 67 acres of the land they owned in Portion 14, County of Bourke (west of Plenty River), Parish of Morang to BOND for the sum of £ 166 **(PROV VPRS 460/P Unit 37982, Land Transfer Applications)**

# WORLD WAR 1 - Researching ANZAC

Written by Wendy Lowry

This year marks the 100 years since the beginning of World War 1 and of course next year will be the 100th anniversary commemoration of Gallipoli.

We have already begun to see programs on the television and hear about events that will be occurring next year. Along with these are several projects being undertaken, some with Federal Government funding and others at a local level that are gathering information and photos of those who served during the Great War.

The Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries are initiating a writers workshop titled "Discovering your Anzac Story" or "Do you have a local Anzac Story to tell?".

Here are the venues and dates for the workshops.

**Watsonia Library**, Ibbottson St, Watsonia  
Saturday 11th October 12pm. - 3 pm.

**Busy bird Publishing**, 2/118 Para Rd,  
Montmorency  
Saturday 25th October 12pm. - 3 pm.

For further details contact :  
Liz Pidgeon on 9401 0765  
or email: [localhistorygene@yprl.vic.gov.au](mailto:localhistorygene@yprl.vic.gov.au)

## Useful websites to start researching

[www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au](http://www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au)

[http://guides.slv.vic.au/wwone\\_soldiers](http://guides.slv.vic.au/wwone_soldiers)

[www.awm.gov.au/research/family-history/](http://www.awm.gov.au/research/family-history/)

[www.anzacentenary.vic.gov.au](http://www.anzacentenary.vic.gov.au)

## OLD CATALOGUES- *Door and Window Items*

Of all the hundreds of items offered in the turn of the century catalogues many were of a practical nature, no more so than door and window items.

Hinges of all shapes and sizes, along with door knobs and handles, window catchers, pulleys, sash lifts, curtain tassel hooks and of course door locks.

Nowadays these items are eagerly sought after for restorations of old homes.

It is interesting to note that the traditional rectangular door locks were still being offered in the 1905 catalogue alongside the new cylinder locks referred to as Yale locks.

## DID YOU KNOW THIS ?

The following article appeared in the **Advertiser Hurstbridge** under the heading of Whittlesea on July 14th 1933.

*"A very interesting souvenir of the past in the form of a set of framed photographs of the early settlement and progress of the Whittlesea District is now hanging in the Whittlesea Free Library. The photos, which belong to the Lockwood Estate, have been lent by Mr. Joseph Lockwood of Birchip, son of the late Mr. Wm H. and Mrs. Lockwood of Whittlesea.*

*The set was prepared in 1877 for the Paris Exhibition in 1878 and contains views of the district titled in both French and English. There is also in both French and English a description of the district together with names of sitting Councillors at the time.*

*Mr. Wm.H.Lockwood was the Engineer and Treasurer at the time to the Shire Council. Included in the views is one of the Yan Yean Reservoir which is featured as being the largest artificial lake at the time."*



These photos are now housed and on display at the Whittlesea Council Offices. They appear in the Concourse between the Great Hall and the Council Chambers.

Do yourself a favour and check them out!!

## **STRANGE LAWS OF OLD ENGLAND**

### **"Boiling Alive "**

Henry VIII was a bloodthirsty tyrant. During his 38 year reign he had over 70,000 people executed. But he wanted something particularly gruesome to punish John Rouse, who had been convicted of putting poison in a pot of broth intended for the family of the Bishop of Rochester and for the poor of the parish.

In 1530 Henry passed a special Act to have Rouse boiled alive. In 1542, Margaret Davey suffered the same terrible fate in Smithfield. After a third case, Edward VI passed a law making all wilful poisoning the regular felony of murder, although Henry VIII's original Act still remained on the statute book until 1863.

### **"The Anatomy Act"**

An Act of Parliament in 1540 gave schools on anatomy four corpses of executed prisoners every year on which to practice. However the demand for fresh corpses provided a ready market for grave robbers -known as 'sack ém up men'.

A new Act in 1732 gave schools of anatomy the bodies of all hanged murderers. This added a further deterrent to the death sentence because people then believed they would not be resurrected into the life hereafter if they had not been buried intact.

In 1832 the Anatomy Act was passed which allowed any corpse to be legally dissected, provided its owner had not expressly objected while alive, and it put the "sack ém up men" out of business.

# WHITTLESEA CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM 2014

## *Up-Coming Events*

### 1. Whittlesea Courthouse 150th Anniversary

Built in 1864, the courthouse is one of the oldest functioning buildings in the area operating as a Court of Petty Sessions until 1989.

Whittlesea Courthouse Association will celebrate the anniversary through a series of events over a three week period between-Saturday 27th September to Sunday 19th October at the Courthouse on the corner of Church and Beech Streets, Whittlesea.  
For more information contact Nesta Russell 9716 1866.

### 2. Bear Castle Tour

Rare opportunity to visit Bear's Castle a unique building situated within the Yan Yean Catchment area. Tours are on Saturday 18th October at 10 am. and 2 pm.  
It departs from the Whittlesea Courthouse Visitor Information Centre.  
Cost is \$ 20  
Contact Nesta Russell 9716 1866.

### 3. Farming in the Plenty Valley

Historic photographic exhibition that depicts some of the early farming practices that were carried out within the Plenty Valley.  
This will be a moving exhibition between the libraries within Whittlesea.

Mill Park Library	20th Oct - 31st Oct
Thomastown Library	10th Nov - 24th Nov
Lalor Library	24th Nov - 5th Dec

Available during Library opening times .

### 4. Donnybrook Cemetery Tour

Informative walk and talk by David Weatherill through this old cemetery that was established in 1857.

Saturday 25th October between 2 pm. -4 pm.  
For further information contact 9401 0765.

### 5.City of Whittlesea Tour

This is a bus tour of the Southern suburbs of Whittlesea that will uncover historical tales and secrets.

Date is Sunday 16th November and the times are 10.30 - 12.30 and 1.30- 3.30  
Bookings are essential.  
Contact 9437 8189.

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## ***GETTING OLD***

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, arthritis and diabetes.  
I am half blind.  
I can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine.  
I take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded and subject to blackouts.  
I have bouts with dementia.  
I have poor circulation and hardly feel my hands and feet anymore.  
I can't remember if I'm 85 or 92.  
I have lost all my friends  
**BUT THANK GOD**  
I still have my Driver's Licence.

### *The Senility Prayer*

*Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,  
The good fortune to run into the ones I do,  
And the Eyesight to tell the difference.*

# ***LONDON DAILY SKETCH NEWSPAPER***

In keeping in with the theme of World War 1, we have included below some photographs that appeared in the London Sketch Newspaper in October 1917.

The paper was courtesy of one of our members Ross Mugavin who had them in his family history collection. They had been sent back to Australia by a relative who was over there at the time.