

Whittlesea Historical Society Inc.

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PO BOX 241, Whittlesea, Victoria, 3757



Covering news & history of the City of Whittlesea, outer northern suburbs of Melbourne

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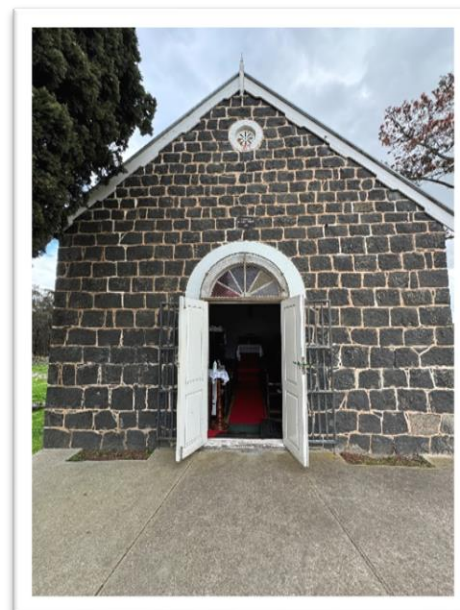
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A number of exciting activities have been held over the last few months, some of which have been partnerships with other groups. The Yarra Plenty Library provided the venue for a Family History Month slideshow afternoon which attracted 33 members and guests. YPRL will again assist WHS in providing an activity for Local History Month in October, a presentation of "Gone but not Forgotten", about the lost buildings and places around the City of Whittlesea, with reference to the Victorian Heritage Register.

A memorable event on the 16th of June was held at Carome Homestead, in the old Wollert church, an enjoyable afternoon of displaying kitchen memorabilia and sharing memories about the kitchen. Thanks to our presenter Ross Mugavin, and to Carome Homestead for providing the venue. On the 10th of July, a visit was organised to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, located in A'Beckett St in the city. Thanks to Judy Clements for organising a great day out, and to the RHSV staff. Reports on both of these events follow.

Our August meeting was held at Ziebell's Farmhouse in Thomastown, thanks to Lyndel Wischer, the new museum manager. The guest speaker was Rob Wuchatsch, who is most knowledgeable about the Westgarthtown precinct, and he was able to talk about his personal experiences and the people that he knew. We were lucky to be able to experience a tour of the cemetery and the Lutheran church, and then to hear Rob speak about the history, past and present, of the area. We also heard from Rose Storer, who is a volunteer with a great interest in history, and now working at Ziebell's.

Coming up, WHS has a trip to the State Library of Victoria planned for the 25th of September, with a tour of the Newspaper and Family Reading Room, and also the Heritage Collections Reading Room. Our member, Daniel



Giddens, has organised this tour for us. Bookings are limited, so get in fast! Guests are welcome. Details on the website.

In November, it is hoped to organise a visit to Braemore Homestead. Since this home is privately owned, we are lucky to have gained an invitation. We will see the impressive historical bluestone homestead built for John Sherwin, which has been restored to a high level by the current owners. We hope to fit in visiting some other historical buildings and locations along the way.

WHS will again be involved with a Whittlesea Show display this year, on the 2nd and 3rd of November. We would be grateful for volunteers to man the display and fly the flag for WHS. Entry tickets to the Show will be made available for volunteers. Our information boards are getting a make-over, and we are excited to present information in a new format about many interesting places and buildings in the City of Whittlesea.

Please be reminded that our AGM will be held in October, the date this year being Sunday the 27th of October. The AGM will be held at the Bowls Club, starting at 1.30 pm. Lunch beforehand will be in the bistro at 12 noon, with bookings necessary.

A big welcome to all new WHS members! Our membership currently stands at 64. We look forward to informing you about our great activities, and welcoming you to some of our events.

Barbara Miller, WHS President

New WHS Members

Whittlesea Historical Society would like to welcome Janice Hyndman, Patricia Tippett, Pauline Lionett, Greg Hil, Sarah Barnard, Robert Draper, Rosalind Slade, Meryl Spargo, and returning member John McPhee as our newest members. We look forward to your contribution towards the society.

Recent Events

My Kitchen Table Talk



On Sunday 10 June, the Whittlesea Historical Society held the event “My Kitchen Table Talk” in the old Wollert Uniting Church, at the historic Carome Homestead at Mernda.

In this beautifully restored old building, there were tables set out for attendees to place their old, treasured kitchen items, that were used in times gone by and to share the family memories of occasions when they were used. During the time of audience participation, we heard some interesting stories and reminiscences, and in some cases, we had trouble guessing the purpose of some items as such an eclectic collection was displayed.

No-one was able to recognise the item on one of the tables that was not used in the kitchen. It was a set of scales which was used to weigh a baby at home. In the days before Infant Welfare Centres, it was usual to weigh the baby at home to make sure that the baby was feeding and developing as they should.

The raffle was drawn and the society wishes to thank the Whittlesea Bowls Club, The Good Guys Thomastown, and Willow House and Décor for their generosity in donating the prizes.

We concluded the day at Carome with more chatter and sharing of memories during a delicious afternoon tea of coffee and cake in the homestead.

Thank you to all who brought items to show, and participated, discussed, and answered questions as to how things used to be in the “good old days.” Our thanks also go to our generous donors of the raffle prizes, and especially to Carome, for allowing us to hold a most enjoyable event in such a beautiful setting.

RHSV Excursion

Thanks to a generous donation by the Whittlesea Bowls Club, seven members of the Whittlesea Historical Society (WHS), as well as two guests from neighbouring historical societies, attended a morning of workshops at the RHSV in A’Beckett St, Melbourne on Wednesday the 10th of June.

The day began with a presentation by Jillian Hiscock, Collections Manager at RHSV. Jillian spoke about the processes involved in the management of a collection, from acquisition to storage. Her knowledge was of great value to the WHS in the management of their own collection. Jillian particularly mentioned the assistance available through grants and fundraising.

Helen Stitt, Collections Manager (Images), then spoke about digitising collection items. Helen commented that modern collections are digitised in order to preserve documents and photos, and to make sharing easy. She gave some helpful hints for WHS to use regarding the ongoing process of digitising their own collection, and for other avenues of training.

The building that houses the RHSV was much admired, being an historical army medical corps drill hall. For lunch, participants moved to the central CBD, to The Bank on Collins. This restaurant is housed in an imposing historic building on the corner of Collins St and Queen St, which made the perfect setting for a relaxing meal. Afterwards, participants walked across the road to view the impressive Gothic Bank, which has recently been converted into a banking museum. WHS would highly recommend a visit to these locations if you are interested in the historical buildings of Melbourne in its heyday.

WHS thanks the Whittlesea Bowls Club and the RHSV for their assistance in making this training day possible, and looks forward to further collaboration on other projects.



LEVEL-CROSSING ACCIDENT

RAIL MOTOR THROWN OFF LINE

Milk Waggon Damaged.

WHITTLESEA, Monday. – Railway services on the Whittlesea line were interrupted for some hours to-day by an accident which occurred between South Morang and Mernda, at about 9 o'clock this morning. The rail motor-train, due to arrive at Whittlesea at 9:10am., was approaching the level crossing, about half a mile on the Whittlesea side of the South Morang railway station, when the driver, E. Brymer, saw a motor milk waggon travelling towards the crossing. The road at the point crosses the line at an angle, and the motor van, which was driven by Mr. G. Smith, of Brunswick, was travelling in the same direction as the rail motor.

According to statements made later a warning whistle was blown by the driver of the rail motor, but it was not heard by the lorry-driver, and the rail motor crashed into the lorry just as it reached the crossing.

The milk waggon was hurried across the cattle-pit, along the line, while the motor-train was lifted off the rails, and ran up the main road for some distance before it was stopped. The driver of the milk waggon, beyond receiving a severe shaking, was uninjured. The motor-truck was damaged considerably, one wheel being broken off.

The rail motor, when being forced off the track, nearly capsized, and the passengers, numbering about a dozen, suffered more or less with shock. Nobody was reported injured.

Miss. D. Hurrey, of Yan Yean is believed to be suffering the effects of shock. She had to return to her home. The driver of the milk waggon said that he did not hear the approach of the train, the rattle of the empty milk cans evidently drowning the noise of its approach. The driver of the motor-train stated that it was impossible to stop the train when he realised the accident was going to happen.

As soon as the news of the accident was received at Mernda a motor-van was despatched to bring the passengers, mails, and papers to Whittlesea and to intervening stations. With some difficulty the track was cleared, and the steam train, due at Whittlesea at 11:15am arrived behind time.

Passengers when interviewed stated that they were extremely fortunate to escape serious injury. The motor-train was damaged, and it was taken to the Newport Workshops. Another motor-train will be brought to Whittlesea to take its place.

Steps were taken by the department to provide a temporary road motor service until the railway service was restored.



<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3790482?searchTerm=%22LEVEL-CROSSING%20ACCIDENT%22>

WHS – Visit to Birchip 1977, photographs from Margaret Mann



Top Left: The above group of 9 WHS members and 1 visitor visited William Henry Lockwood's granddaughter Miss Laura Lockwood in Birchip. William was the first Shire Engineer for the Shire of Whittlesea.

Top Right: WHS First President Bill Payne reading the Diary that was written in 1853 by W H Lockwood on his journey to Australia on board the "Marco Polo".

Bottom Left: Miss Laura Lockwood in 1977 with some of her memorabilia.

Bottom Right: Bill Payne, Andrew Hayton with Laura Lockwood and the Lockwood Clock which was hung in the General Store in Birchip, that was owned by William's son, Joseph Lockwood, who was the father of Laura.

Poem by Steve Hallam

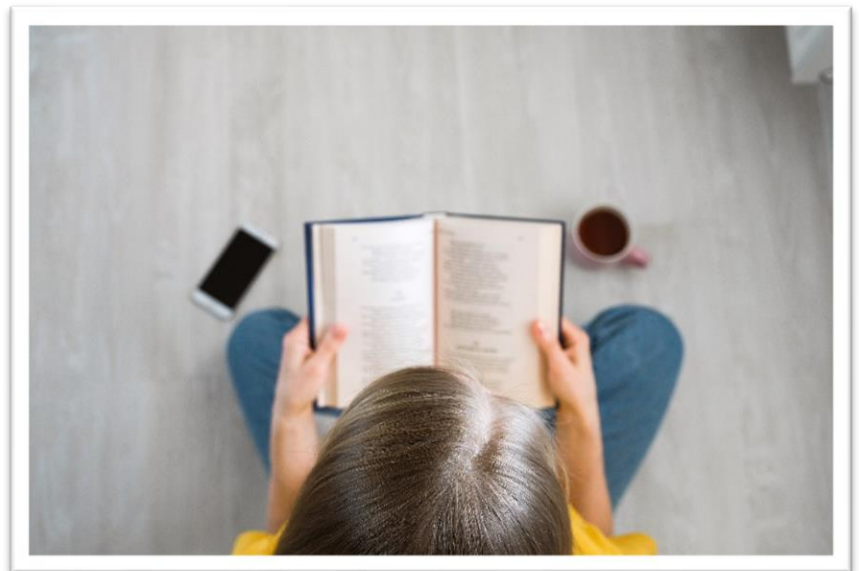
Take Me Back

Take me back,
That first kiss
My mother planted on me,
Growing an eternal tree.
Pluck my fruit and drink of me
When streams are far
And comely meadows
Lift lofted scents of chamomile
And mint and thistle,
Beyond your stretch.

Take me back
To warm held places where
Sorrow is a meaningless word
And all that is real and true are
Hugs, laughter, and tears.

Take me back
Before God invented fear,
And holiness was near,
And all kisses dear.

Take me back to when
My memory was but a finger long,
But the bond of love
Was iron strong.
And in that space, I will lie in you,
And there our purpose
Is pure
And true.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Whittlesea Historical Society advises that the Annual General Meeting for 2024 will be held on .

Sunday 27th October 2024, at the Whittlesea Bowls Club, 101 Church Street at 1:30pm.

You are welcome to lunch held in the Sports Bar from 12:00pm.

Please email whittleseahistorical@gmail.com to register your attendance.

