



JANUARY 2011

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WHITTLESEA & PLENTY VALLEY TOURISM ASSOCIATION INC., A0046875 W

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City of Whittlesea Councillor	Cr John Fry and Cr Frank Merlino	
Nillumbik Tourism Assoc. Rep.	Carol Jenkinson	

PO BOX 211, Whittlesea 3757

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to All.

ZIEBELL'S FARMHOUSE (1851)

Ziebell's farm was the largest at Westgarthtown. It was Christian and Sophia **Ziebell's** home, shared for a time with many of their eight adult children, some of whom later built their own homes nearby. A butcher by trade, Christian was 54 and Sophia 51 when they arrived in Australia from Mecklenburg in Northern Germany in 1850.

Built between 1851 and 1856, with 61 cm thick stone walls, the house is a typical German farmhouse design. Like other houses in the settlement it has a steep pitched roof. In Germany, this was intended to prevent the build up of snow. The house appears to have been constructed in two stages, as evidenced by the different external stonework and floor levels in the attic. The house and other surviving buildings – the bath house, smoke house and cart shed – represent a German family's hope of a new life. Hope, perhaps desperation, as well as faith propelled the **Ziebell's** and other immigrants over thousands of kilometres of ocean to Port Phillip Bay.

The buildings are all that remains of the original farm which, until 1972, occupied both sides of what is now Gardenia Road. The 102 acre farm was named The Pines. Across the road the farm's outbuildings included a milking shed, dairy, grainstore and stable. Further west, beyond these buildings, were a haystack and dam. The arrangement of the farm buildings close to the road is the same as you would expect to see in a German village.

Today when you stand in the church paddock and look across to **Ziebell's** farmhouse you see a simple but solid home built by independent, practical people not interested in luxuries. They were also people who were self sufficient. They had an orchard and garden where they grew their own fruit, vegetables and herbs. Among other things, they also made their own cheese and butter, preserved the meat from the animals they slaughtered and built their own home using stones dug from the surrounding paddocks.

The bluestone blocks gave the house a sense of permanence and it remained home to successive generations of the family until 1974 when the neighbouring brick veneer home was built. Only minor changes have been made to the house, electricity only being connected in 2002 and telephone shortly after. Water, gas and sewerage have never been connected.

Ziebell's farmhouse and outbuildings are all included on Victoria's Heritage Register.

'Westgarthtown: A History & Guide 2004'.

Ziebell's Farmhouse located at 100 Gardenia Road, Thomastown [Melway Ref: Map 8 H5]

Owned by the City of Whittlesea – open for inspection on second Sunday of each month from 1 – 4.00pm.

For enquiries call 03 9464 1805

Guided Tours can be organized for groups of ten or more people. Morning or afternoon tea can be provided.

For further enquiries and bookings:

- telephone [03] 9464 5062
- email: enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au
- write to: Friends of Westgarthtown, PO Box 95 Thomastown, Vic., 3074

For more information visit the Friends of Westgarthtown's website at: www.westgarthtown.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Australia Day Celebrations— 26th January
Whittlesea Country Music Festival— 12th February

tourism@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
www.whittleseatourism.com.au

MEMBER PROFILE

F1 Management (Go Kart Track)

F1 Management team of people are committed to Go-Kart racing. From novice to expert they will help drive your racing experience. Whether it be a bunch of friends simply hiring or some serious solo driving time in your own kart this is the place to go.

The track is set among beautiful, natural scenery for you to take in as you cruise around during the day. They are also able to turn the track into a night playground, with large spotlights that light up the outdoor track.

ROC TIMING systems to record all your lap and race times.

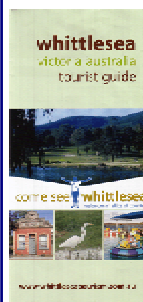
Their shop has everything you will need for your Kart to be in top driving condition. They offer Karts for sale and also hire out space for you to keep your Kart on site. There is a service centre and the experienced team can offer many individual options to customise your Kart.

Location:- 360 McDonald Road,
South Morang

Phone:- 9436 9100

Website:- f1management.com.au

Hours:- Open every day
10.30am and 10.00pm.



BROCHURE

Please contact Barry Hill, Secretary for your supply of brochures.

We have them in many areas so we are giving your business a great coverage.

This year we aim to achieve the completion or several projects that have been moving along such as the DVD and new revamped brochure. As with all volunteer groups time is of the essence and we are always looking for helpers in all areas. As the saying goes 'more hands make less work'.

President Charles and Secretary Barry have been putting in a lot of time setting up the details for the DVD and feel sure this will give an insight to our area and showcase the assets of the City of Whittlesea.

From the committee

Whittlesea Courthouse Visitor Information Centre Volunteers Tour Whittlesea's Tourism

Volunteers from the Whittlesea Courthouse Visitor Information Centre toured the region on November 17th to learn about all the things to see and do throughout the City of Whittlesea. The event allowed tourism operators to showcase their businesses to the volunteers who have direct contact with visitors to the area.

The tour visited Ziebell Farmhouse at Westgarthtown, Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre, Eden Park Views, Donnybrook Farmhouse Cheese, Mernda Bakery and Whitehaven Receptions. The volunteers had the opportunity to hear about changes to some well known and loved attractions and to discover new tourism additions to the area.

The volunteers were extremely grateful for the opportunity to experience first hand the tourism offerings in the area and overwhelmed by the wonderful gifts provided by the tourism operators. Feedback provided by participants indicated that the itinerary and content presented was excellent and all that attended were keen to take part in future tours.

The next tour plans to again take in all the sights of the area. Tourism businesses wishing to find out how to be involved in the 2011 tour can contact Tourism Officer Tanaya Preece on 9217 2549 or email tanaya.preece@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Whittlesea Courthouse Visitor Information Centre is located on the cnr of Beech & Church Streets, Whittlesea 9716 1966



Tourism Volunteers Tour 2010

Please submit suggestions and story idea to:

Newsletter Sub-committee
Email: johnandleila1@bigpond.com.au

2011 Submission Deadline

For April 2011 issue

by 12 March

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings are held on 2nd Wednesday of the Month and start at 6.30pm sharp

Whitehaven Receptions
Cnr Wallan & Glenburnie Rds,
Whittlesea

RSVP appreciated by Monday before the meeting to:
Barry Hill 9465 6764
Or email barry01@people.net.au