



# NEWSLETTER

Series 25, No. 6

November–December 2017

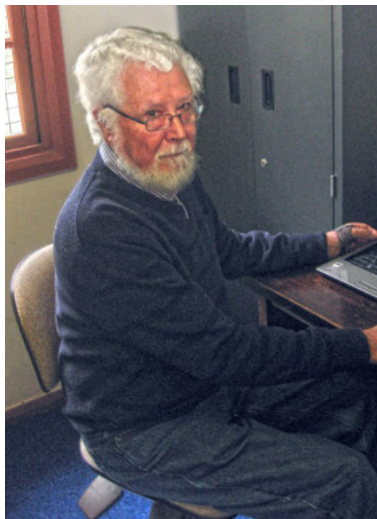
ABN 44 352 041 634 Inc. AO 012235J

## We go digital!

**H**OW things have changed! There was a time when if you wanted to view some history you would have to go to a museum – now one does it online. One expects to be able to view history from our own study or office and to be able to see an item in detail.

WHS has been fortunate in that the local Mitcham Rotary club has donated \$2500 towards the purchase of a digital single-lens reflex camera, a specialist lens, lighting, background stands and a copy pod. The plan is to photograph as much of the Society's collection as possible and make the images available online for researchers.

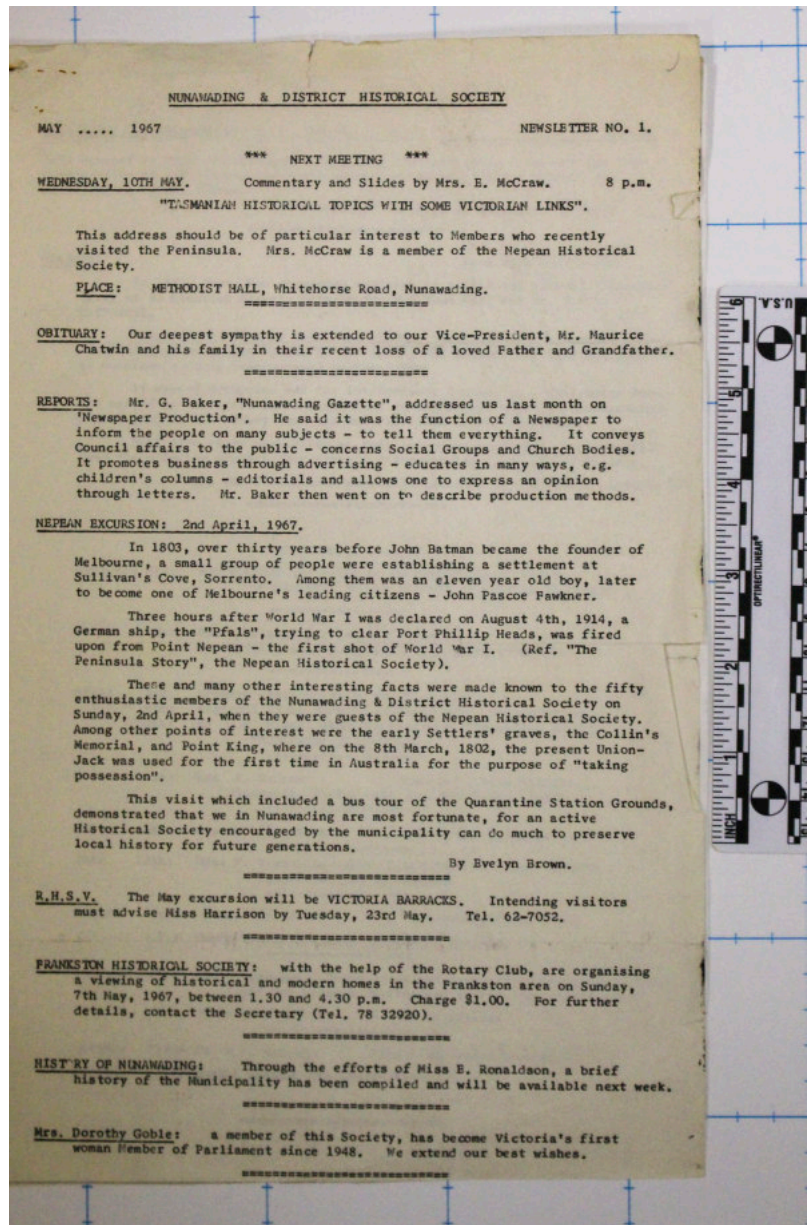
We have had the camera gear for eight weeks and have been concentrating on items that have yet to be photographed. Initially we worked on some very early copies of the Society's newsletters. Pictured on the right is the start of the very first newsletter.



The originals were on foolscap sized paper and difficult to scan, hence the need to use a camera.

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Left): Our photographer, Richard Conn



**NEXT MEETING**

**General Meeting 1pm Saturday, 9 December**  
A. Y. Fitzmaurice: A Doll's House – the Story



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*Dear Members*

**N**OTHING much to report this month except that Vicki and I went up to Council and signed the lease for the Local History Room, which we have been negotiating for over two years. It will run for nine years and includes use of the rest of the complex to display the collection.

Our last general meeting for the year features Yvonne's dolls house. Richard has taken photographs of every bit of the tiny furniture she made and some will be shown during Yvonne's talk. Don't miss out on this special event. Seeing that this is the last newsletter of the year I want to thank you for supporting us by attending our general meetings and

by making me feel easier about talking in front of people.

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that Rachael Cottle, our previous secretary, has obtained her Master of Cultural Heritage degree with a High Distinction. Well done, Rachael!

Finally, it will be Christmas soon – a family time, so on behalf of our team I wish you a happy Christmas day, good luck in 2018, and we'll look forward to seeing you next year.

*Pat Richardson*

Shayne Price, Leader of Cultural Facilities and Programs for Whitehorse Council, and Vice-president Vicki Jones-Evans look on as WHS president, Pat Richardson signs the new lease.



## CONTENTS

President's Report	2	From The Reporter	5
October Meeting Report	3	We Go Virtual (continued)	6
Fleeing and Felony	4	Diary Dates	6
		The Walker Saga (Part One)	7





## OCTOBER MEETING REPORT

# WANDINONG

**Y**OU might drive past it a hundred times and not know it is there. Wandinong Sanctuary is a little pocket of bushland, surrounded by South Blackburn suburbia, which was generously donated to the City of Whitehorse in 1973 by Mrs Janet Hooke. She had lived there with her husband Arthur for almost 60 years and gave the land to the community as a bushland sanctuary for passive recreation. A Committee of Management was formed, made up of local residents and members of the Blackburn Tree Society.

On Saturday 14 October we welcomed Graham Bell, a member of the above committee for over 30 years, to speak to us about the sanctuary. His lively talk and PowerPoint display filled in many blanks in our knowledge about this unique reserve.

Just some of the historical nuggets included the purchase by Miss Janet Billing of three acres, three rods and 26 perches in 1913. She and Mr Arthur Hooke built the house there and were married in 1914. They named the site Wandinong and lived there, bringing up six children, until Mr Hooke died in 1972. In 1949 they purchased the neighbouring Ronley Street block and commemorated the birth of each of 20 grandchildren by planting a tree or shrub on it together with a brass plaque giving their name and year of birth.

Although Wandinong was officially handed over to the city in 1973 it was not until May 9 1976 that the opening ceremony was organised. Mrs Hooke died just three months later, having seen her wishes accomplished.

But the history prior to 1973 was just the start of the story: tasks ahead for the committee included the removal of the house from the site – it was old and run-down, and the maintenance of a building was beyond their means. As well, the planting of indigenous florae and clearing of weeds and excess loose branches etc. (to reduce fire risk) are an ongoing duty.

Over the past forty years the committee has had many successes. The practical elimination of weeds is one; the attraction of many birds is another. The committee works closely with the Whitehorse Council Parks Department, from whom it receives a small grant each year to fund its activities.

Thanks again, Graham, for sharing your knowledge with us. We hope to see you again soon.

*Chris Gray*



**ABOVE: The Tawny Frogmouth;  
BELOW: The North-east path**





# Fleeing and Felony

in 1921 to 1924. (Blackburn, Mitcham, Nunawading and Tunstall)

THE *Victoria Police Gazette* contains much interesting information, not only about local crime but about local missing persons as well, and it is surprising what can be found.

Although the following information is on open access the names have been omitted should there be relatives who are still alive. The Gazette date and page is given for any further research.

These entries are mainly about stolen goods. It has to be considered the thefts were made by men who may have been returned servicemen who were finding it difficult to either settle or find work due to the economic situation. Swagmen were still around until the next world war in 1939. Some never changed their life on the open road and remained swagmen until their deaths.

## THEFTS

**Mitcham. 8 July 1921.** A painter in Deep Creek Road had a soldier's badge and garments, all described, stolen from his home. To the value of £6/10/0. A man was arrested for the felony on the 27 July 1921.

Ref: *V.P.G. 14 July 1921, page 480, Column A*

**Mitcham - Tunstall 30.7.1921.** An engineer of Spring Vale Road, Tunstall, reported stolen from his home a quantity of jewellery, household goods, all of which were described in detail, and 5 shillings. [No further entries about this theft appeared in the VPG for 1921 and 1922.]

Ref: *V.P.G. 6 October 1921, page 671, Column B*

## Blackburn-Mitcham.

**11.8.1921 - 15.8.1921.** The Licensee of the Traveller's Rest Hotel, Blackburn reported stolen from her shed, a set of light buggy harness which she details. The value £7.

Ref: *V.P.G. 18 August 1921, page 558/568 [difficult to read.] Column A.*

**Mitcham. 15.3.1922.** A clerk of Mitcham reported stolen from his verandah a dark olive green travelling rug with red and brown stripes and a fringe at both ends. Value £2.

Ref: *V.P.G. 23 March 1922, page 176, Column B.*

**Mitcham - Tunstall. 1.8.1922** A dealer of Spring Vale Road, Tunstall, reported stolen his 'Robinson' orchard garden plough with adjustable handles, set low. Value £3.

Ref: *V.P.G. 21 September 1922, page 615, Column B.*

**Mitcham - Tunstall 1.8.1922.** The perpetrator of the above larceny was apprehended by Constable G.H. Dockland, 5032, Mitcham.

Ref: *V.P.G. 29 September 1922, page 625, Column A.*

**Mitcham - Tunstall 22.3.1923.** A fruit hawker of Spring Vale Road, Tunstall, reported stolen from his home a quantity of jewellery valued at £12. A 26 - 28 year old swagman [named] who was staying at the house was thought to be the culprit. His description was circulated.

Ref: *V.P.G. 29 March 1923, page 216, Column A.*

**Mitcham. 30.9.1924.** A grocer, The Red Store, Mitcham, reported a forced entry (with a jemmy) through the front door of his shop, and a theft of a

quantity of tobacco, cigarette biscuits, butter and cash £5/10/0. Total value £7/10/0. [There were no further entries for the year.]

Ref: *V.P.G. 2 October 1924, page 708, Column A.*

## WIVES AND CHILDREN - DESERTIONS

**Mitcham. 24.7.1924.** A female tile worker of Whitehorse Road Mitcham charged a man with desertion of his illegitimate child at Mitcham. Names and descriptions are given. [No further entries for 1924.]

Ref: *V.P.G. 2 October 1924, page 705, Column A.*

**Mitcham. 9.10.1924.** A young woman of Whitehorse Road Mitcham charged a 28-29-year-old labourer with deserting his illegitimate child at Mitcham. Names and descriptions are given. [No further entries for 1924.]

Ref: *V.P.G. 16 October 1924, page 737, Column A.*

## MISSING FRIENDS

**Tunstall. 13.10.1924** A thirty-year-old man is reported missing from his home in Spring Vale Road since the 7th October. A full description and name is given. He was later traced.

Ref: *V.P.G. 16 October 1924, page 737, Column A. & V.P.G. 30 October 1924, page 766.*

**Mitcham. 5.11.1924.** A sixteen-year-old boy reported missing from his home in Church Street, Mitcham. He was believed to have been in the company of his cousin. [No further entry for 1924]

Ref: *V.P.G. 6 November 1924, page 787, Column A.*

A.Y. Fitzmaurice



From the

# Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter

CIRCULATING IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BLACKBURN AND MITCHAM AND DONCASTER.

Volume 48 Number 51

Friday, 20 December 1935

Price Twopence

## WALKER'S STORES Xmas Carnival

GIFTS  
FOR  
EVERYONE



Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year Greetings are extended to all from Walker's Stores.

### "THE GIFTS FOR HIM"

**10/6** Give him one of these Popular Super Spun ART SILK FASHION SHIRTS, with 2 Twin Tab and Boned Collars to match. Jelly Good Range of Colors, Fast. All Sizes. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 10/6.

**8/11** SPECIAL! Discontinued Numbers of the Smartest and Snappiest PYJAMAS. Real Creations from Our Specialty Maker. Big Reductions. Boxed and Free Gift Card. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 8/11.

**12/6** What better than a Smart Pair of Slippers? MEN'S TWO-TONED PUMP SOLED SLIPPERS, in Grecian and Albert Styles, Black or Brown, "Thistle" Brand. Free Greeting Card. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 12/6 pair.

**2/11** MEN'S TIES, in a good range of marvellous color combinations, wide-end, the popular "Resistacree," the non-creeasing Tie. Others 1/- and 4/6. Ideal Xmas Gift. At Walker's Xmas Carnival, 2/11 each.

**4/6** MEN'S FANCY JACQUARD SOX, in the latest designs and colorings, Garter Tops or usual Suspender Tops. Nicely Boxed and Free Gift Card. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 4/6 pair.

**2/6** MEN'S BOXED BRACES, all Art Silk Web, Strong Leather Ends, Sensible Gift and Good Wearing Braces. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 2/6 pair.



**1/6** Books, More Books. A delightful range of Latest Annuals, Picture, Painting and Award Books. Girls' Own and Boys' Sports Books, good reading, well illustrated, usually 1/9. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 1/6.

Buy a Toy Ticket for 6d., and Santa at Walker's Toyland will give you a Wonderful Present and a Big Free Joy Balloon in exchange for it.

### "THESE ARE IDEAL FOR HER."

**4/11** GIFT BOX SET. 48in. x 24in. Towel and Face Washer to match, lovely shades of Blue, Green, Gold and Rose, 5 11 Value. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 4/11 set.

**1/-** SPECIAL! CABARET TALC POWDER. Charming Container brilliantly decorated in Black and Silver Modernistic Design, a Very Dainty Gift, made by Christy. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 1/-.

HANDKERCHIEFS AT WALKER'S. Thousands to choose from, all colors and textures. Prices range from 1/- to 17/6 Box. Free Gift Card with each Box. Walker's Xmas Carnival.



**3/3** Give her these; she will appreciate them. THREE FANCY CHECK OR COLORED BORDER TEA TOWELS. Nicely Boxed, Gift Card. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 3/3.

**12/11** She'd love a HANDBAG. Walker's can supply you with a Smart Morocco Handbag, top opening, thumb strap, inside frame, double mirror and inside purse, makes a bonny present. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 12/11.

**6/11** KAYSER "WINBAR" GLOVES, in charming shades of Navy, New Beige, Arab, Doeskin and White. Sizes 5 to 7. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 6/11 pair.

**5/11** Sheer Loveliness in HOLEPROOF HOSIERY, in many enchanting shades, suitable for day or evening wear. Nicely Boxed for Xmas Gifting. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 5/11 pair.

**Walker's Stores**  
For Economy, Quality and Service,  
RAILWAY STATION ENTRANCE,  
Glenferrie



**OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!**  
Walker's Stores have a Marvellous Range of Xmas Gifts on View. See them!

### "FOR THE CHILDREN"



**14/6** The Beautiful "Bubbles" Dolls, the loveliest of sleeping and talking Dolls. Walker's have a marvellous range of these from 14/6 to 35/-. Many and varied are the Dolls that Walker's Toyland contains, but see for yourself when you come to Walker's Xmas Carnival.

**4/6** 15-PIECE TEASET, in China, delightfully fully painted and comprising 4 cups, and saucers, 4 plates, milk jug, sugar basin and teapot. The Ideal Gift for the Girls. Walker's Xmas Carnival, 4/6.



**HORNBY TRAINS.** Walker's have a fine range of these and other Trains. Prices range from 8/11 and 10/6 to 32/6, at Walker's Xmas Carnival.

**LATEST MECCANO OUTFITS, 2/-, 3/-, 4/-, 7/-, 9/-, 14/9, 19/6, 29/-, Walker's Xmas Carnival.**

**SCOOTERS.** Rubber Tyred, 8/11, 10/6, 12/6. Also with Shock Absorbent Foot Boards and Brake, etc., 18/6, 25/- and 30/-. Walker's Xmas Carnival.





# We go digital!

(Continued from page 1)

Lately we have started photographing an amazing Doll's House donated by Yvonne Fitzmaurice. Because the house is larger than the "normal" doll's house it has turned into a mammoth task to photograph and prepare for exhibition. So far we have photographed the house and the rooms and some 300 related items. Below is a view of one of the upstairs bedrooms. Note the fact that there is power to the lights in the house. The light is on in the bedroom and you can see the two switches over to the right.

Gradually, as more and more items are photographed, the images will be uploaded so that researchers can access them from anywhere – even the Society's Local History Room, which is open every Wednesday from 10:30am till 2:30pm.

Richard Conn



## Our Committee

Patricia Richardson – President  
Vicki Jones-Evans – Vice President  
Kathy Innes – Secretary  
Eddie Tan – Treasurer

### Committee Members

Joan Hunter	Peter McPhee
Bob Gardiner	Rob Innes
Chris Gray	Yvonne Fitzmaurice
Judy Hall	

## Whitehorse Historical Society 2018 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 10 March**  
**Saturday 5 May**  
**Saturday 8 September**  
**Saturday 10 November**

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

## Whitehorse Historical Society DIARY DATES

Meetings are held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex.

**Saturday, 9 December 2017**  
**1.00pm General Meeting**

*A Y Fitzmaurice*

*A Doll's House – the story*

**Saturday, 10 February 2018**  
**1.00pm General Meeting**

*Helen Opie*

*Fromelles. An illustrated talk.*

**Saturday, 14 April**  
**1.00pm General Meeting**

*Jan Davidson*

*Cemeteries – In General*

## Statistics

Photographs catalogued	-	4253
Artefacts catalogued	-	4798
Documents catalogued	-	7395
Museum visitors September–October		427
 Facebook 'likes' to October	-	702

# THE WALKER SAGA

## Part One: Henry and Henry Christopher

**H**ENRY Walker (born 1838), was the son of John and Elizabeth Walker who arrived in Melbourne in 1841 on board the *Argyle* from Liverpool. John and Elizabeth had five children with them – George, John, Catherine, Henry and Ellen. The family landed on the banks of the Yarra River, where the docks had been built, and they had to camp nearby for some time until they could afford a piece of land and set themselves up as farriers. They later bought another piece of land in Elizabeth Street (in later years this was to become the GPO) and turned this into a blacksmith's shop where they shod horses and built coaches for the burgeoning colony.

Sometime in the mid-1850s they moved to Fitzroy and Henry followed his father into the trade of blacksmith and coachbuilder. It was there that he married Sophia Westhorpe, an immigrant from Southwark, England. Henry took his new wife to Little Oxford Street, Collingwood to set up house and their son Henry Christopher was born there on 2 September 1861. Later in the 1860s Henry settled in Heyfield in Gippsland where he worked as a farrier and a farmer. He was much involved in establishing the track between Heyfield and Walhalla and was well known in the district for his successful rescues in the floods of 1862. Three more children were born, Frederick, Sophia Louise and Evelyn, but of these three only Sophia Louise survived childhood. Henry's beloved wife Sophia died tragically in premature childbirth, leaving him with the two surviving children, Sophia Louise ("Louie") and Henry Christopher. Little Henry Christopher was five when his mother died, and Louie only two.

Henry married again in that same year to Genetta "Jinny" Norris, a close friend of Sophia's, at the George Street Fitzroy United Methodist Church on 6 December 1866. They settled back in Heyfield. Henry and Jinny went on to have twelve more children after Edgar (Jinny's child from a previous relationship). Six died at birth and three more before the age of 25. The family finally moved back to Melbourne and settled in Ivanhoe. Henry worked hard and took responsibility for the building up of the various blacksmithing foundries that his family owned in Fitzroy, Alphington/Fairfield, Ivanhoe and Northcote. He died at the age of 81 in 1917. Jinny died a year later.



**Mary Jane Walker née Pascoe and Henry Christopher Walker with babies Ivan and Jessie circa 1897. Possibly taken in Mitcham.**

### HENRY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

Henry Christopher Walker, the father of Ivan (*see next issue*), had grown up in Heyfield and went to school there. When the family moved to Ivanhoe he became a farrier like his father and grandfather, and worked in the family businesses. He probably met Mary Jane Pascoe, his future wife, through mutual church friends in Northcote. Mary Jane had arrived aged 15 years 9 months with her family from Cornwall on the SS *Orient* on 19 March 1881. She worked as a dressmaker in Sandhurst and in Deniliquin and then moved to Northcote to set up her own business.

They were married at the Walker family residence in Ivanhoe in 1892 and lived in a new house in Alphington after their marriage. The first child to Henry Christopher and Mary Jane was Hilda Clarice (1894). Hilda was the only child born at the Alphington address, but died an infant. Soon afterwards Henry bought his own business in Ringwood and travelled to and from it each day. An accomplished blacksmith, cartwright and wheelwright, he later bought a shop and dwelling on the southwest corner of Whitehorse Road and Rooks Road, Mitcham, and they moved in. Jessie Lenore (1895) was born after the family moved to Mitcham. Henry Ivanhoe ("Ivan") was born in 1897, Charles Fitzroy ("Roy") in 1899, Hazel Rose in 1902 and Vera Gertrude in 1905.

*Ken Barelli*

## WHS Committee Contacts

### President

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Vicki Jones-Evans

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Kathy Innes

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Eddie Tan

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Wendy Standfield

## WHS website

[www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/)  
[facebook.com/whitehorsehistory](https://facebook.com/whitehorsehistory)

## Email

[whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com](mailto:whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com)

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Melway Ref. 49 D7



**Copy Deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday, 10 January 2018**

## 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."*

*"In the spirit of reconciliation, Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners of the land now known as the City of Whitehorse, and pays respect to its elders past and present."*



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## REMEMBER

### Whitehorse Historical Society Local History Collection & Place of Deposit

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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