



Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

July 2011

Meetings

Thursday 14 July 2011 – 8pm

Guest Speaker: Gwen McWilliam

Topic: Mont Albert Road – the Once Golden Mile

Gwen McWilliam, well-known local historian, will speak about growing up in the vicinity of Mont Albert Road and the changes which have occurred in the area.

Thursday 11 August 2011 – 8pm

Guest Speaker: Marjorie Morgan OAM

Topic: The Prison Hulks in Port Phillip Bay in the 1850s

Thursday 8 September 2011 – 8pm

Topic: Lin Onus – Local Aboriginal Artist

David Crawford will introduce the inspirational documentary, *Bridge Between Two Cultures*. This documentary highlights the artistic achievements of Lin Onus, a pioneer of urban Aboriginal art who grew up in Deepdene.

**All meetings are held at the Balwyn Evergreen Centre,
45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn**

email: bhs@balwynwelfare.org.au

website: www.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs

Recent Speaker – Peter Barrett

Peter Barrett gave a most engaging talk about suburban housing styles. He described the four major periods of architecture – the Victorian period 1837-1901, the Edwardian or Federation period 1901-1918, the Inter-War period 1918-1939 and the Post-War period 1945-.

He went on to illustrate the three eras of the Victorian period from the simplicity of early Victorian to the ornate and highly decorated boom style of the late 1880s and 1890s. During the Edwardian period the Arts and Craft Movement influenced design. Victorian cast iron lace work and metal posts were replaced with timber fretwork and

turned timber posts. Roughcast half-timbered gables were also introduced and examples can still be seen in parts of Balwyn today.

Peter then spoke of the Inter-War period and the architectural influences from America which resulted in the building of many Californian bungalows and Spanish Mission styled houses.

The Post-War period saw the growth of outer suburbs, typified by the northern area of Boroondara as well as the urban renewal of parts of the inner suburbs with houses being replaced by high rise blocks of flats.

BHS Membership 2011-2012 - Reminder

Membership fees are now due. The fee will remain the same for the 2011-2012 financial year.

\$25 - single membership

\$35 - joint membership i.e. 2 adults at the same address.

You may renew your membership at the next meeting. Payment may be made by cash or cheque (payable to *Balwyn Historical Society*). It would be helpful if you could place your payment in an envelope marked with your name(s). Otherwise please send the completed renewal form together with a cheque to **The Treasurer, BHS, 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn 3103.**

Thanks to those members who have already renewed their membership

Balwyn Historical Society - Contact details

Balwyn Historical Society is sponsored by the Balwyn Welfare Association Phone – 9836 9681

Committee Members

President Bill Pritchard 9857 8001

Vice-president Peter Prideaux 9830 5019

Secretary Pam Herrington 9018 8186

Treasurer/ Marilyn Poole 9857 7565

Membership

Speakers/ Robin Kelly 9836 6589

Publicity

Archivist Susan Johns

Newsletter Pat O'Dwyer 9817 3758

Committee Member Martin Barrett

Non-Committee Assistants

Newsletter mailout Lynette Woolley, Deidre Woolley

Resources Heather Alford

Photography Steve McLean, Clive Enticott, Joe Hopwood

Supper Dawn Pritchard

Webmaster Neil Swansson

Deepdene and Balwyn Football Clubs – The early years

Local sporting clubs played an important role in the life of the Balwyn community in the early nineteen hundreds. Not only did they encourage participation in sport but they also served a social role in the community with dances, and social evenings and fund-raising events. Ken Lyall has spent many years collecting information and photos of both Balwyn and Deepdene Football Clubs which he has kindly given us. Below is a brief account of the beginnings of both clubs based on his research.

The first football teams were established in the outer eastern suburbs a few years after the railway line was extended from Hawthorn to Lilydale in 1882. A Canterbury team is recorded as playing in 1883 and a Camberwell team dates from 1885.

The Deepdene Football Club was the first to be established in the Balwyn area. It fielded teams between 1911 and 1914 after which time all senior football was suspended for the duration of the First World War. Where the team played in those years is a matter of conjecture. However, as the team was said to have used a room at the Survey Hotel as a changing room it is probable the game was played behind the hotel or on land close by.

In 1924 Deepdene Park was officially opened. This land, approximately eight acres, had previously been known as McNeil's private recreation grounds and was generously donated to the Camberwell Council by Alexander McNeil. After the opening, local residents quickly set about raising funds to provide facilities so that the park could be used by a number of sporting teams including cricket, tennis and football.

In 1932 the Deepdene Football Club became part of the Eastern Suburban League and continued as a club until 1962, the only break being during the war years (1941-45) when many of the district's young men once again joined the armed forces. Local teams inspired great loyalty in many players. The *Argus* (7 June 1940) noted that Vice Captain of Deepdene, Archie Scott, (best and fairest in 1938 and 39) had travelled from Ballarat every week for five years to play with Deepdene.



Deepdene Football Club 1932 – Photo courtesy Ken Lyall

While senior football was suspended from 1915-1918, a junior team was established in Balwyn in 1917. In 1922 a senior Balwyn Football Team was up and playing in Balwyn Park on land which had been purchased by the Camberwell Council in 1911.

A two-storey weatherboard structure was erected behind the northern end of the oval. As well as serving as dressing room it was also the home of the Balwyn Brass Band. In 1929 Balwyn Park was fenced and became an “enclosed ground”. Many residents were unimpressed by this fence. They now had to purchase tickets for district final games which were played at Balwyn Park. The small ticket box can still be seen in the stone pillars which marked the entrance to the grounds. A grandstand was built on the site of the present clubrooms in 1935 and the old building was shifted to adjoin the tennis courts in 1941. It remains there although it has been brick veneered

After four moderately successful seasons, Balwyn were finalists in 1926. In 1927 they won their first premiership which was celebrated with a large Premiership Ball. Under the coaching of Bill Hudd, the team again took the Eastern District League premiership flag in 1933 and 1934. For small boys living in the Balwyn area, local footballers were heroes. Several of the Balwyn players moved on to the AFL, including Ray Gibb who played for Hawthorn (1950-52) and Richmond (1952-3) and Freddy Wain who played for Hawthorn (1949-51).

After another enforced break during the Second World War, the team reformed and Balwyn Football Club continues to be a strong club in the Eastern Football League.



Balwyn Football Club – 1927 – Photo Courtesy Ken Lyall

1927 Senior team – Victorian Football League Sub-District Association – “B” Grade Premiers.

Back row: A.E. Morris, W. Smith, J. Harvey, W. Pockett (Pres), T. Page (Treas), H. Moss (Sec)

2nd back row: J. Nugent, R. Shaw, F. Fanning, P. Taylor, J. Brown, J. Bagley, W. Daley, A. Gough, J. Stewart, L. Smith.

Front row: L. Cooke, L. Jerrams, W. Hiscock, C. Hawking (Vice-capt), V. Empey (Capt & Coach), M. Feehan, A.

Rudd, K. Jenkins, A. Blake, A. Scanlan, D. Nelson, J. Sinclair, J. Mathews.

This newsletter is proudly sponsored by Noel Jones (Balwyn).
Contact Mike Nolan for your real estate needs – 9830 164