



Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

May 2011

Meetings

Thursday 12 May 2011 – 8pm

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dora Scales

Topic: Fintona – From Ladies' College to Girls' School

Dr. Dora Scales, who was a boarder at Fintona during the 1930s, will give an illustrated talk about Melbourne's move to the east and the educational opportunities for girls that followed.

Thursday 9 June 2011 – 8pm

Guest Speaker: Dr. Peter Barrett

Topic: Architectural Styles of the Suburbs

Dr. Peter Barrett, an architectural historian, will give an illustrated talk about suburban housing styles.

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.

**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 – Lambis Englezos

Lambis Englezos began his talk with a moving account of the Fromelles battle in which over 5000 soldiers were killed or wounded on the night of 19 July 1916.

He then spoke of the efforts he and a small team made to discover the remains of those soldiers. Aerial photographs indicated the presence of mass graves near Pheasant Woods and approval was gained in 2007 for a non-invasive investigation. A dig which followed

in 2008 indicated that the site was a burial site and in 2009 an Oxford archaeology team was engaged to recover the bodies.

The remains of 250 Australian soldiers were eventually located and uncovered. 110 of these soldiers have since been identified using DNA technology. In 2010 all 250 soldiers had their dignity restored when they were reburied in a new Fromelles war graves cemetery.

Association of Eastern Historical Societies

45th Anniversary Luncheon and Annual Conference

When: Saturday 14th May, 2011, 10.00am to 4.30pm

Where: Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood East

Cost: \$30.00 per person for financial members of BHS
\$50.00 per person for non-members

Program: Guest speakers and presentations, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Further information and bookings: Russ Haines, 11 Ripley Court, Ringwood, 3134

New Member

We are pleased to welcome Robyn Stark as a new member.

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 – Where did the name come from?

On 3 November 1883 the *Argus* first advertised an area of land for sale called the *Deepdene Estate*. This land was on the south east corner of what is now the Burke and Whitehorse roads intersection. It was approximately 6 hectares and was subdivided into 35 building allotments. In 1858 the land had belonged to the market gardener Henry Finger, and then in 1870 to Harry Curtis, also a market gardener.

The advertisement for the sale of the land stated that: *the estate was so-called (Deepdene) after the celebrated estate of Mr. Hope near London in consequence of the extraordinary similarity of magnificent views from the two estates.*

An early purchaser of an allotment was Mr. Robert Smythe who built *Highgate* on the hill facing Burke Road in 1885. The architect, David Askew, had built his home facing Whitehorse Road by 1889 and he named his house *Deepdene House* after the estate. Sadly it was demolished some years ago. A photograph of the property from circa 1910 is in Jan Pigot's charming *Pictures of Camberwell: a Progressive City*, (1989, p55).

In November 1890 Councillor Arthur Taylor, headmaster of the new Camberwell Grammar School, suggested Deepdene as the name for the new Outer Circle Railway station which was on the northern side of Whitehorse Road.

In later years Deepdene was used to name a school, churches, park, post office, and sporting clubs in the vicinity of Whitehorse Road.

(Thanks to Gwen McWilliam for this article.)

And Commanding
MAGNIFICENT VIEWS.

C J. and T. HAM have been favoured by the owners with instructions to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, on the ground, corner of Burke and Cotham roads, on Saturday, 10th April, at three o'clock,

That valuable property known as the **DEEFDENE ESTATE**, comprising in all **SIXTEEN ACRES**, occupying the grandest position in Hawthorn, opposite the residence of A. F. Moleson, Esq., and just beyond that of G. H. Taylor, Esq.

Subdivided as under:—

11 MAGNIFICENT ALLOTMENTS, having frontages of 80ft. to 100ft. to **BURKE-ROAD** by the fine depth of 210ft.

5 SPLENDID SITES, having frontages of 70ft. to 110ft. to **COTHAM-ROAD** by a grand depth of 200ft.

19 DESIRABLE ALLOTMENTS, having frontages of about 80ft. each to **DEEFDENE-ROAD** by the unusual depth of 220ft. 7in.

This charming property is splendidly situated in one of the most popular of the Melbourne suburbs, within half-an-hour's ride by rail or road of the city. It may be confidently stated that no similar **SITES for LARGE MANSIONS** exist near Melbourne.

The outlook from Deepdene, combining extensive sea and inland views, forms a **PANORAMA OF FIFTY MILES**, in which valleys and villages, snow-clad mountains, and verdure-clothed hills, sea and river, are so grouped as to form a picture that for variety and beauty is, perhaps, unequalled in the colony.

No building or plantation can ever intercept the prospect from this **UNIQUE SPOT**.

The steepness of the land preventing any obstruction to the view.

The fine crops of healthy fruit trees, and fine flower-gardens now on the estate, are the best proofs of the **RICHNESS OF THE SOIL**.

The Camberwell Railway station is within easy walking distance of the estate, and there are **FIFTEEN MINUTE TRAINS** during the greater portion of the day.

The many large houses erected and in course of erection in the neighbourhood show clearly that the locality is rapidly growing in favour with the public, while it is indisputable that this land occupies one of the most hygienic spots in the **HEALTHIEST SUBURB** of Melbourne.

The Yan Yean is laid on to the ground, and the auctioneers can unhesitatingly urge those in search of an unrivalled site to make early inspection of this grand property.

For particulars of title, apply G. H. Taylor, Esq., solicitor, Queen-street.

Terms—One-fifth cash, balance 6, 12, 18, and 24 months, at 6 per cent.

Plans and railway passes can be obtained on application at the rooms of the auctioneers, 45 Swanston-street.

Advertisement for Deepdene Estate Allotments
Source: *Argus*, 10 April, 1884

Empire Day 1909

In the early years of the 20th century Empire Day (24 May), which commemorated Queen Victoria's birthday, was widely celebrated in the local area with processions and illuminations. By 1921 an Empire Day bonfire at Beckett Park added to the carnival atmosphere of the occasion. The 1909 procession with its fleet of mock dreadnoughts (battleships) and decorated carts involved elaborate preparation by local shopkeepers and residents.

The residents of Balwyn have in one respect an advantage over the people in other parts of the district, because they form a compact community. Co-operation is much easier to arrange there than in a more scattered locality. And, moreover, the Balwynites all work together in any movement of a progressive kind. Mr. Charlie Werrett is always one of the prime movers. His shop is the centre from which the public spirit radiates like the spoke of a wheel. Naturally, therefore, The Empire Day celebration began in that very place. The proposal that Australia should present a Dreadnought to the Mother Country naturally suggested the utilization of one of those ships of battle in the procession. The idea seemed to strike several people at the one time, with the result that there were sufficient Dreadnoughts on wheels on Monday night to almost sink the fleet of the Kaiser. But the Balwyn Dreadnought was perhaps the best of them all. It was 23 feet long, with a beam of 6 ft. 9 in. There was a real furnace and a real fire, in charge of a juvenile stoker. "Admiral Werrett was in command, and showed off the gold lace on his uniform to advantage. It is, perhaps, not usual for an admiral to give orders direct to the stoke hole, but it was

wonderful to see the alacrity with which his order to "Stoke her up, Billy!" was obeyed. If the German emperor could have seen this "Dreadnought" he would no doubt haul down his flag. The timber used in building the ship was given by Mr. Leleu, and the armour plate was deftly manufactured out of kerosene tins. Mr. James Ainger supplied the splendid pair of horses and wagon on which the boat was placed. Another tableau from Balwyn was called "An Englishman's Home," arranged and built by Mr. Tudgey. There was a slab hut, with a properly thatched roof, standing in the midst of a garden with a big fruit tree in each corner laden with real fruit. This is just the kind of home a "Dreadnought" was made to defend. The dairy farming industry was represented by a real cow on a wagon and a number of decorated milk carts. The Balwyn procession started from Whitehorse road and joined the Surrey Hills contingent in Canterbury road after traversing Balwyn road, Mont Albert road, Victoria avenue and Maling road. There were 20 Scotchmen in kilts, the Darktown fire brigade, arranged by Mr. Percy Smith, and last, but not least, the Cranky band extracting music from frying pans and other culinary utensils.

Source: *The Box Hill Reporter* 28 May 1909.

(Thanks to Kew Lyall for this newspaper article.)

This newsletter is proudly sponsored by Noel Jones (Balwyn).
Contact Mike Nolan for your real estate needs – 9830 1644