



Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

October 2011

Meetings

Thursday 13 October 2011 – 8pm

Guest Speaker: Ross McMullin

Topic: Will Dyson - Writer, War Artist and Political Cartoonist

Historian and author, Ross McMullin, will speak about his recent biography of Will Dyson -
Will Dyson: Australia's radical genius.

Thursday 10 November 2011 – 8pm

Guest Speaker – Robert Wuchatsch

Topic: Westgarthtown – the German Settlement at Thomastown

Robert Wuchatsch, author of *Westgarthtown: the German Settlement at Thomastown* will speak
about this settlement which was established by William Westgarth in the 1850s.

Thursday 8 December – 7pm

Christmas function

Come and help us celebrate Christmas in Balwyn

Details re the dinner are attached. Bookings can be made at the October or
November meeting or by mail

**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 Meeting – Documentary – *Bridge Between Cultures*.

David Crawford introduced this moving documentary about the life and art of the late Lin Onus (1948-1996). It was from his parents, Bill and Mary Onus - political activists in the 1940s - that Lin acquired the strong social conscience which is so evident in much of his painting and sculpture. This fascinating film allowed us to see the evolution of Lin's artistic talents.

Lin spoke about the significant places and people in his life, particularly the role played by Garamedi elder, Jack Wunuwun who gave Lin traditional designs which he could use in his art, thus fusing European realism with traditional aboriginal art. Another aspect of

his work that was revealed was the whimsical nature of some of his sculptural pieces.

Many of Lin Onus' powerful pieces of sculpture and paintings can be seen in our major art galleries.

We were also fortunate to have Robert Croll attend our meeting with his wonderful collections of boomerangs, plates and other artefacts which were made by Bill and Lin Onus at their Belgrave workshop. Thanks also to Ray Watts who shared with us his memories of growing up with Lin Onus in Terry Street, Deepdene.

Balwyn Historical Society - Christmas Function

Thursday 8 December 2010 – 7pm

Members and friends are invited to a roast dinner
to be held at the Evergreen Centre

Cost \$25.00 per head

Further information and a booking form accompany this newsletter.

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	Speakers/ Publicity	Robin Kelly	9836 6589
Vice-president	Peter Prideaux	9830 5019	Archivist	Susan Johns	
Secretary	Pam Herrington	9018 8186	Newsletter	Pat O'Dwyer	9817 3758
Treasurer/ Membership	Marilyn Poole	9857 7565	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

The Survey Hotel, Whitehorse Road

In September 1865, John Day applied for a publican's licence for a brick and wooden house in Whitehorse Road situated between Walsh Street and Barnsbury Road and conveniently located close to a creek. According to the application, the house contained two sitting rooms and two bedrooms exclusive of the accommodation required for his family and it would be called *Day's Survey Hotel*. The licence was granted the following month.

In 1869 the hotel was advertised to let for a term "to a respectable party". Subsequently over the next sixty years, the licence for the *Survey Hotel* changed hands many times. Among those who held it were, John Davis, John Veale, Ann Veale, William Muir, Samuel Cutts, Elizabeth Cutts, James Bateman, Mary Ann Cryer, Edward Schmidt and Daisy Stone. Ann Veale, Elizabeth Cutts, Mary Ann Cryer and Daisy Stone were but a few of the many women who held city or suburban hotel licences. Running a hotel was one of the few respectable occupations that a woman could take up to support herself and her family. In fact, in 1899 approximately 30 per cent of licensees were women, many of them widows.

The hotel played an important role in the Balwyn community. Besides being a convenient place for coaches and travellers to stop for refreshments and to water their horses, the hotel also played many other roles in the community. On 26 May 1871 the *South Bourke Standard* reported that a "tolerable program of races and general sports was carried out at Davis' *Survey Hotel*, for the Queen's Birthday celebrations" and while prizes were not very valuable this seemed "to create rather than spoil the fun of the day, and there were some close contests". The day's events ended with a ball.



Source: *South Bourke Standard*, 19 May, 1871

In the nineteenth century, local inns or hotels also served as a place for inquests into accidental or suspicious deaths. Besides the case of Parlan MacFarlane (reported in last month's newsletter) inquests were held at the hotel into the deaths of Thomas Robert, Jonathon Camm and Edward Tranter.

In the early years of the twentieth century the hotel was also used regularly for meetings of the Melbourne Harriers' Club and as the starting point for the East Suburban Cycling Club relay races and the 10 mile Kew Flyer Road Race.

The Licensing Act proscribed the minimum number of rooms a hotel must have for guests and the number of horses which must be able to be stabled, as well as regulating hours of opening. These were generally 6 .00am till midnight from Monday to Saturday, that is, until World War 1 when 6 o'clock closing was introduced. Only bone fide travellers could be served with alcohol on a Sunday i.e. travellers who were over twenty miles from home. Court records show that many of the *Survey's* licensees including Elizabeth Cutts, James Bateman, Mary Ann Cryer and Edward Schmidt were charged with Sunday trading and were brought before the court. In most cases the licensees were fortunate enough to have cases against them dismissed.

With a growing temperance movement in the late nineteenth century, there was a move to decrease the number of hotels in Melbourne and the suburbs. A Licence Reduction Board compulsorily closed 773 hotels in the early 1900s and 629 hotels closed voluntarily between 1907 and 1921. The Liquor Reform Act of 1906 allowed for a local option poll to be conducted in suburbs whereby electors could decide whether they wished the existing hotels to continue, be reduced or be closed.

On 21 October, 1920 the poll was held and two licensing districts, Boroondara and Nunawading, voted for prohibition. Soon after Camberwell's hotels, including the *Survey Hotel* were delicensed.

In January 1922 the delicensed *Survey Hotel* was advertised for sale. The site of the hotel was close to where the Holeproof factory was established in the 1940s.

Sources

The *Argus*: 13/2/1869, 2/10/1869, 3/9/1872, 16/5/1873, 7/10/1875, 3/9/1880, 11/11/1882, 17/1/1895, 14/5/1904, 6/6/1908, 11/7/1910, 8/10/1910, 14/11/1919, 7/1/1922
 Blainey, Geoffrey, *A History of Camberwell*, Jacaranda Press, 1964
 McWilliam, Gwen, *A Balwyn Survey*, McWilliam Enterprises, 2010
South Bourke Standard: 29/9/1865, 27/10/1865, 26/5/1871
 Wright, Clare, *Beyond the Ladies Lounge: Australia's Female Publicans*, MUP, 2003

(Patricia O'Dwyer)

History Week – October 23 - 30

To celebrate, why not spend the week traveling back in time, discovering Victoria's wide and wonderful past.

This History Week you can:

- Take a fascinating walking tour around Melbourne's forgotten past, revealing its hidden histories of health and hygiene, right through to crime and punishment.
- Watch a feature length documentary of Melbourne's fashionable Collins Street through the perspective of its long gone couture houses and boutiques.
- Visit the unique Bear's Castle and discover why the building has kept historians mystified for years.
- Take a rare tour of our heritage listed Supreme Court building, hearing

stories from the archives and discovering judicial robes and wigs.

- Celebrate the Royal Australian Navy's 100th birthday with a discussion on the important role of the Navy during the First World War.
- Enjoy a guided tour of Mandeville Hall, unveiling the lavish interiors, history and architecture of one of Melbourne's most significant nineteenth century mansions.
- Follow the footprints of Lucy and Percy Pepper in an exhibition that tells the story of an Aboriginal family's struggle for survival in early twentieth century Victoria.
-
- **To see full details of these and many other events in the History Week calendar visit:**
www.historyweek.org.au

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