



Balwyn Historical Society

September 2022

Newsletter – September 2022

Next Meeting: Sunday 9th October 2022 – 2pm

Venue: St Barnabas, 86 Balwyn Rd, Balwyn

*Please note the different date and place of the October meeting.

Our History Society Members are invited to share this auspicious milestone of:

St Barnabas - Celebrating 150 Years

1. Launch of St Barnabas 150 Years History book
by Vicar, Randle Bond
2. Maling family work in constructing the church between 1870 and 1930
3. John Butler Maling and family – presentation by Philip Barton, great grandson John
Butler Maling

Afternoon tea will be served after the meeting

RSVP by Monday 3rd October 2022: President Balwyn Historical Society

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Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you have come through the chills and rainy days and nights of winter with a spring in your step. This newsletter includes reports on our most recent speakers' presentations. Future editions will include more of David Crawford's extensive essay from which his talk was taken.

I am sure you will enjoy Susan Thomas item which reflects a prodigious memory of early residents and business people in the nearby district of her home.

Vines Timber Yard is one of those businesses to learn of courtesy of Sue Barnett & Matthew Ety-Leal.

The item on Heritage Overlay which is an important tool to protect the significant past is included by Matthew for your interest.

Annual General Meeting

This was held on August 9th, 2022, at the Balwyn Evergreen Centre.

Notes for the year ahead:

Members ratified the proposal to commence Evening meetings at 7.30pm.

It can be reported that the first of these at this time worked well.

Election of Committee members (unopposed):

Matthew Ety- Leal - President

Barbara Russell - Treasurer

Committee member and supper organiser - Heather Alford

Committee member (new) - Peter Lewis

Philip Mallis continues as Web Manager.

The invaluable assistance of the following members is also noted.

Merrick Beasley - audio visual

Dr Marilyn Poole - historical advisor.

Warm regards,

Barbara Russell

November Meeting - Thursday 10th November 2022 at 7.30pm

Venue: Balwyn Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn.

This is our final meeting for the year and will include a fascinating presentation as well as our Christmas supper.

**The Topic: Colonial Settler and Indigenous relations in the Bulleen
Banyule Flats Cultural Landscape.
Guest Speaker Anthropologist, Delta Freedman.**

David Crawford, Guest Speaker June Meeting

David's presentation focused on the life, achievements and tribulations of this fascinating man, a famous early MCC cricketer, founder of Australian Rules and Coach of the first Australian Aboriginal cricket team. (His father, Horatio, owned the Willsmere Estate in Kew).

THE ENIGMA OF TOM WILLS

While Tom Wills' sporting achievements are undisputed, it is his treatment and relationship with Aborigines which are being brought under renewed scrutiny and much depends on the lens that is being brought to bear by the historian and the reliability and adequacy of the "evidence" provided. All legends can be seen in different lights and weighing up opposing views is one of the challenges facing historians.

As Tom Wills novelist, Martin Flanagan, has stated, "The more one gets to learn about Tom Wills, the more you feel you don't really know him." He is an enigma.

Tom Wills was the most celebrated Australian sportsman of his era and his legacy has been profound. He has been labelled the founder of Australian Rules football because he was the prime mover in establishing the first rules of the game. Not only was he regarded as the best cricketer in the country but, five years after his father's settler party was massacred by Aborigines in Queensland, he decided to coach the first Aboriginal cricket team that went on to tour England – an action that has been interpreted as a historic gesture of reconciliation. An inaugural member of the Australian Football Hall of Fame, Tom Wills is celebrated at the MCG, with his portrait and memorabilia in its museum, a dining room named in his honour, and he is featured in two panels of their famous bronze doors created to celebrate key moments in the 150 years of its sporting history: one for his role with the Aboriginal cricket team and the other as Australian Rules football pioneer. Moreover, there is also a statue of Tom outside the MCG depicting him umpiring the first recorded game of Victorian football.

In life, Tom Wills was no stranger to controversy but currently his legacy is the focus of fierce debate by historians in what has been termed another version of Australia's 'history wars'. His relations with Aborigines are central. Recent research has raised new evidence causing his reputation to be reassessed. Were the foundational rules of football he helped draft derived entirely from his English rugby experience or was he also inspired by personal experience of the Aboriginal game of marngrook, giving Australian Rules a special Indigenous connection and further elevating his significance? On the other hand, did Tom Wills participate in a reprisal massacre of Aborigines and, if he did, can he be celebrated as an exemplar of reconciliation? His legendary status in the AFL and MCC is being called into question and there are even calls for his statue at the MCG to be brought down in an act of 'cancel culture'.

Tom Wills' remarkable life is an extreme of highs and lows. His story is noteworthy, not only for his sporting exploits but also because his life bridged extremes of place and time: convict ancestry and elite society; frontier war and reconciliation; outback pioneering and metropolitan transformation; amateur cricket and professional cricket.

TOM WILLS

Tom was the precious first-born son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills.

Of convict descent, Horatio was very enterprising and adventurous with great ambitions not only to make his mark on society but also for his son's success. In 1840, when Tom was four years old, Horatio sold his Molonglo sheep station in NSW and set out with a thousand head of sheep to follow in the footsteps of Major Mitchell and take up a squatting run near the foot of Mt William in

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the Grampians in the Port Phillip District. That in itself was a phenomenal pioneering feat – a three-month trek involving floating drays across the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers.

Tom's playmates were the children of the local clan of the Djab-wurrung tribe living on Lexington station. As a squatter, Horatio prospered from his wool exports to the London market and when Tom was 10, he sent him to an exclusive private school in Melbourne. Aspiring for Tom to become a lawyer, Horatio sent him at the age of 15 to the elite Rugby School in England. Although he struggled with his studies, Tom quickly distinguished himself in running, cricket and football, eventually becoming captain of the Rugby XI cricket team.

On leaving school, Tom's prowess at cricket led to him over the next 15 months playing cricket at the highest level in England, notably for the Marylebone Cricket Club and, even though not enrolled as a student, playing in the winning Cambridge University team against Oxford University in one of the highlights of the English sporting calendar. He was a member of the famous travelling I Zingari cricket team of English aristocrats and played in Ireland with the English professional cricketers, Charles Lawrence and William Hammersley. Horatio, though proud of Tom's cricketing success, grew disappointed at his son's failure to enter university and, tired of subsidising his extravagant lifestyle, called him home.

In the meantime, Elizabeth had borne Horatio five other children and he had sold his Lexington station and bought a 300-acre farm, 'Belle Vue' on Corio Bay in Geelong and become a Member of the Victorian Parliament. Horatio arranged for Tom to stay with an aunt in East Melbourne and work for a firm of Melbourne solicitors with connections in the elite Melbourne Club.

Since Tom's departure, Melbourne had transformed as a result of the gold rushes from a village to a thriving city rivalling Sydney and it was cricket obsessed. Tom's reputation as a top-class cricketer in England preceded him and a sizeable crowd gathered to watch him step onto the MCG, aged 22, dressed in his striking red, gold and black striped I Zingari jacket to try out for selection in the Victorian cricket team. His inevitable selection in the Victorian team, which he soon went on to captain, marked the start of his illustrious sporting career.

Tom was the Shane Warne of his day! His feats with the ball: his 'trimmers', 'sparklers', 'rippers' and 'fizzers', filled the local papers. Melbourne's rivalry with Sydney was at its peak. For the 1858 intercolonial match against NSW at the MCG, Parliament was suspended and workers given time off to watch the match.

A crowd of fifteen thousand watched the game and Tom was the hero. Tom's batting feat in the second innings, after recovering on the pitch from being knocked unconscious by a ball which struck him in the face, going on to score 49 not out for an unheard of record Victorian score of 238 runs; and then bowling out the NSW captain, who had top-scored in the first innings, saw Victoria win the match. Tom was carried off the ground. Melbournians celebrated their triumph and Tom and the team were feted by the Governor at Government house.

Tom's prodigious talents meant that his services were sought by cricket clubs everywhere. Initially he played for Geelong, then the MCC where he was made honorary secretary. Although he mixed in the highest echelons of Melbourne society, he had egalitarian instincts which brought him into conflict with the MCC establishment. There was a class distinction between amateur and professional cricketers - professionals were looked down on as low class and uncouth. Tom was a gentleman amateur, 'Mr T. W. Wills Esquire'. His advocacy for the inclusion of professionals in the MCC brought him into conflict with the club and coupled with complaints of his neglect of secretarial duties, led to his fiery resignation and he joined the working class Richmond Cricket Club to captain them to premierships. Much to the annoyance of the MCC. His prickly relationship

with the cricket elite shown in his frequent newspaper letters only served to endear him more to the general public.

In July 1858, Tom wrote a letter to *Bells Sporting Life*, calling for a football club to be formed and a committee to draw up rules for a winter sport that cricketers could play to keep fit. The following year, Tom and three other cricketers drew up the first rules for the new game of Australian Rules football and soon the Melbourne and Geelong football clubs were formed, and others quickly followed.

Tom would go on to play 172 games for Geelong. He was renowned for his prodigious drop kicks of up to sixty yards in length.

As cricket captain, Tom Wills was an astute tactician and as leading bowler he showed a unique ability to utilise different bowling tactics to unnerve batsmen. He introduced the overarm instead of sidearm style of bowling and in the field, he was a deadly throw at the stumps. In football, he revolutionised the style of football being played – positioning players down the ground in the forward line and kicking to position and adopting flooding defence measures.

Horatio was very disappointed at Tom's failure to work as a solicitor and at what he believed to be his hedonistic and spendthrift lifestyle.

At the peak of his cricketing career, aged 25, when Tom would certainly have captained the Victorian cricket team to play against England in their first tour of Australia, Horatio purchased a 200 square mile property, Cullin-la-Ringo, in central Queensland. He summoned Tom to accompany him to Queensland. Tom dutifully submitted to his father's demand although he secretly harboured plans to return to Melbourne or Sydney to play against England, joining Sydney Cricket Club in case. Before they left, Tom had to learn the skills of shearing and blacksmithing. There could not have been a more dramatic change of lifestyle required of him.

The enormity of Horatio's enterprise was breathtaking – travelling to Brisbane, assembling men, women and children, five laden bullock drays, a large number of dogs, over 100 rams – trekking through inhospitable bush and rain forests, crossing the Great Divide and then droving 10,000 sheep, which were picked up in the Darling Downs, to the site of the Cullin-la-Ringo station via Rockhampton. The expedition rivalled that of Burke and Wills in size and involving a trek of over 600 miles which took over eight gruelling months. This trip, however, saw the reconciliation of father and son and brought them close.

A week after Horatio's expedition finally arrived, Tom had to take a bullock team to Albinia Downs station for supplies. When Tom returned seven days later to Cullin-la-Ringo, Horatio and all but two of his party had been murdered by Aborigines. This tragedy placed an intolerable burden on him. Tom vowed on Horatio's grave to fulfil his dreams for Cullin-la-Ringo. Despite his devastation, grief, lack of farming experience and shortage of workers, Tom heroically stayed on at Cullin-la-Ringo to get the station established: building fences, sheds, yards and homestead, paying wages and supervising shearing and lambing operations. He wrote to his mother about the future potential he envisaged for the sheep station. But at night he was haunted by nightmares, and he was always in fear of Aboriginal attack.

Two years later, he returned to Melbourne and his brother Cedric took over in charge of Cullin-la-Ringo. Tom returned to playing cricket and football, but he was never the same person. Wills biographer, Greg de More, a consultant psychiatrist, sees his story as a classic case of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

In 1866 Tom abandoned his amateur status to accept the role of coach of a team of Aboriginal cricketers in the Western District to develop their skills and lay the foundations for their possible

tour of England. But before the team left for England, Charles Lawrence replaced him. Although, he received a regular stipend from Horatio's estate, it was not sufficient to cover Tom's lifestyle and he was increasingly debt-ridden, borrowing money from his family and friends. His intended marriage to a Skipton farmer's daughter failed. He was always a heavy drinker, and he became an alcoholic.

His mother refused to allow him to return to Cullin-la-Ringo because of his financial irresponsibility and heavy drinking. She finally lost her faith in him and eventually disowned him because he was living in a de facto relationship. He was still playing cricket at the elite level: captaining the Victorian X1, playing in New Zealand and against W.G. Grace's team which toured Australia. But his skills gradually declined, and he was increasingly being called for throwing and accused of cheating and being drunk on the field. His services as an elite cricketer were no longer in demand. He fell further into debt and ended up stabbing himself to death in a fit of delirium tremens, aged forty-four.

Tragically, he was buried in an unmarked grave in Heidelberg cemetery, his mother refusing to attend his funeral. He was remembered fondly by his brothers and cousin, Colden Harrison, and in newspaper obituaries. But there were no public celebrations. One hundred years later, the MCC finally restored Tom's grave site and erected a headstone in his memory.

Ann Hawker, Guest Speaker August Meeting

Ann Hawker is the archivist at Fintona Girls' School where she was an English and History teacher for 34 years from 1976 to 2010.

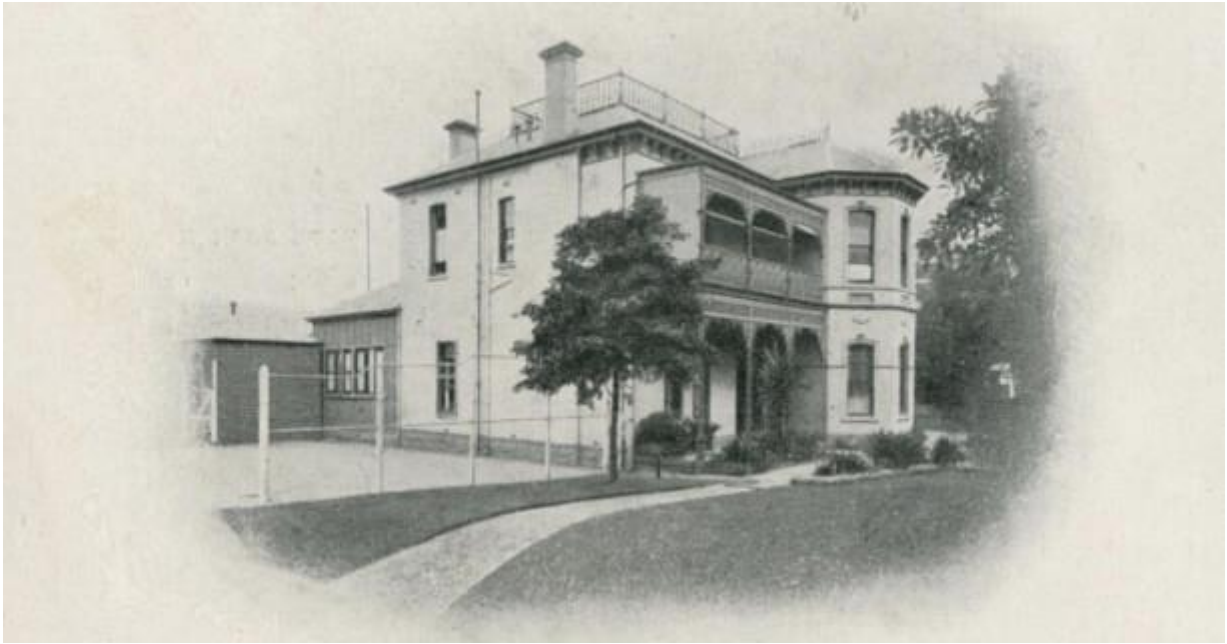
Ann focused her presentation on the school's first three Headmistresses beginning with the founding part owner and headmistress of Fintona, Annie Hughston, who was followed by the next owner, Margaret Cunningham and after her, Elizabeth Butt.

It was 1896 when Fintona Ladies' College was founded by Annie Hughston and her brother William. Fintona was named after a town in Northern Ireland, close to the place where their mother was born. The school was located in Mayston Street, East Hawthorn and commenced with 14 students' day students and a few boarders. Annie and William's father suggested the motto, **Agis Quod Agis**, "Do What You Do Well", which is still used today. Annie and William had both taught in a school that William had established in Camperdown in the western District. They moved to Melbourne after its sale and recognised the growing desire for education by families in the burgeoning Eastern suburbs. William departed in two years however Annie's past experience as a teacher of Mathematics at PLC for some years and an inmate acumen for financial matters was a background to continue as both a teacher and the headmistress.

In 1899, Fintona moved to Burke Road, East Hawthorn, later the site of the Cairnmillar Institute. In 1901, 100 pupils were enrolled which was an admirable increase in numbers over a short time.

Annie Hughston also saw the value of the students learning Sciences and Music.

It was notable that both the following Headmistresses' teaching strengths were in Maths and science but employed staff who would broaden the curriculum in the humanities, languages and artistic pursuits.



Annie Hughston with students in 1905

The Old Fintonians' Association (OFA) commenced in 1916. By 1921 Fintona was, according to The Argus, the largest private girls' school in Victoria with approximately 450 pupils. In 1928 the uniform's colour initially Blue, changed to Brown. Interestingly, the uniform changed from brown back to blue in 1994.

Margaret Cunningham OBE, who had joined the staff in 1929 and initially was planning to start her own school however, she bought the goodwill of the School from Miss Hughston in 1934 and became Fintona's second Principal from 1935–1961. In 1936 Fintona relocated to its present site "Glencairn (with the building "Tourmont"), which Margaret Cunningham had purchased in 1934. Some parents withdrew their children, thinking Balwyn was "*too industrial*".



Those early years of Miss Cunningham's leadership saw the beginning of key events such as Drama Day and Shakespeare Day, along with the Music Concert, in the annual calendar. The Senator system was introduced in 1959 (all Year 12 students became senators) replacing Prefects. There was also a strong focus on developing a curriculum which would equip girls for life. Following the lifting of war time restrictions, the Junior School, including Buick Hall named after Margaret Cunningham's maternal family, was built on the Mitiamo site (across the road from the main school in Balwyn Road).



In 1961 Margaret Cunningham gifted the unencumbered deeds of the School to the Old Fintonian's Association at the Speech Night. The Margaret Cunningham Wing officially opened in 1967.

Margaret Cunningham retired, and Elizabeth Butt OAM commenced as Fintona's Headmistress in 1963.

Throughout Miss Butt's time as Headmistress till 1991, she oversaw substantial building extensions to the Senior and Junior School, major changes in curriculum, a deepening of contacts with other schools, as well as expansion on the drama, sporting and musical fronts. The Elizabeth Butt Building was opened by old Fintonian, Dame Beryl Beaurepaire AC DBE in 1988, and the Elizabeth Butt Public Speaking Competition are testament to her outstanding commitment to Fintona.



Elizabeth Butt speaking – pictured at the table, Dame Patty Menzies a former student and Margaret Cunningham.



Elizabeth Butt and students

1960 Memoirs of Susan Thomas (née Ray) aged 85.

Susan Thomas was born at Moliagul, near Dunolly, Victoria in 1875.

“My father, George Ray, came out from Maidenhead in England in a sailing ship in 1852. His ship passed his brother Fred’s ship on the trip out. George Ray carried the first butcher’s basket in Williamstown and then went on to the gold diggings. At Moliagul, he later married Jane Hewitt, who came from Tasmania, and they lived on a dairy farm. The world’s largest gold nugget found by Messrs Deacon & Oates, and called the ‘Welcome Stranger’, was found only a stone’s throw from his farm. These men who were very poor at the time and did not have a licence, broke up the nugget before it was seen, but reported that it was 21 inches long and about 10 inches wide and weighed 2,284 ounces. It was found only a few inches under the surface of the ground and was valued at the time of its discovery at £9,543. Today (in 1960) it would be worth £26,000.

The Flying Doctor, Dr John Flynn, was born at Moliagul and was named after my brother, John. Dr John Flynn’s father was our school master.

When I was 10 years old, my mother and father decided to sell their dairy farm and come to Melbourne as they had eight children (four red heads and four dark heads, I was one of the dark heads!) We lived three miles from the school, they settled in Surrey Hills in the year 1885, and my father had a dairy farm near the Drill Hall in Robinson Rd. He owned all the land where the Drill Hall and Council Yard is down to where Chatham Station is situated. My home still stands there (Even in 2008) and I saw Surrey Hills grow from paddocks to all houses. There was no school or churches at Surrey Hills and we had to walk to Balwyn State School to attend school, and went to St Barnabas Church of England for Sunday School in 1885,

The first school in Surrey Hills was opened in a hall, and Mr and Mrs Raw were the first teachers. A few years later the Surrey Hills State School was built, and I went there until I was 15 years old.

Our first Sunday School in Surrey Hills was held in Mr Nickerson’s private house in Stirling Crescent, and a Sunday School and Church was later built in Norfolk Rd, being the Wycliff Congregational Church and the Ray boys and girls were the first scholars to attend.

My father had a brick works where the Drill Hall is now and made bricks for several houses being built around Surrey Hills and Canterbury. George Ray attended Holy Trinity, Surrey Hills, for a number of years. I could name every person on Canterbury Rd from Burke Rd, Camberwell to Station Street, Box Hill at that time. Mr O’Schannassay had a sheep paddock and lived in a beautiful house with iron gates that they later gave to the Catholic Church in Glenferrie Rd Hawthorn, which are still there.

Hassetts and Logans lived on Logan’s Hill, which was part of Canterbury Rd going up the hill towards East Camberwell. Others were O’Reagan’s, the Canterbury Stationmaster, Jack Kennelly’s dairy farm and first post office, Mr Sims and family’s store, McBeaths, Woodheads, Rayment’s, Stennings, Schneider’s grape orchard, Umberstone’s Hotel, Bowens, Yeomen’s market garden, Bates who had racing ponies, Richards, Sidney Cook’s brick house with a large ballroom, now turned into a private hospital and made with George Ray’s bricks. Sir Robert Beckett and family lived in Surrey Hills, Bevans were market gardeners on Riversdale Rd, also Baileys on Riversdale Rd. Hanson’s built a lot of shops on Canterbury Rd opposite the Surrey Hills hotel which was delicensed many years ago and is now a boarding house and a Mr Bennett whose son and daughter were teachers at the Balwyn State School.

Reverend John Mair was the first minister at Wycliff Congregational Church. Mr Lowe and Mr Nickelson were the first Sunday school teachers, also Misses Elsie and Daisy Venman. Miss Jessie Lowe and brothers were also first Sunday School scholars with the Ray family. Miss Jessie Lowe still goes to Wycliff (1960) and sang in the choir for many years.

Other names of old residents of the district that come to mind are Inglesfingers where drays loaded with wood, would stop overnight. Mrs Ratten had a boarding house, Mr Black the Surrey Hills Stationmaster, Mr Robins, Beddoes the 'Quack doctor', George Robinson's butcher shop, Redmond the baker, Kugelman's first grocery store, Highstones, Weidermans (Mr Weiderman was gored to death by a bull) , Aingers stables where coach horses were changed, Bovill's dairy farm, Haines, Palmers, Black's vegetable and dairy farm, Lloyd's slaughter yards and butcher shop, Pain and Aingers grocers and Miss Tait's draper shop. The Whitehorse hotel was built in 1853 by Patrick Trainor where coach horses were changed on the way and from Lilydale.

Toll gates were constructed across Whitehorse Rd and every vehicle had to pay a toll when driven through to help keep the roads in order. These toll gates were removed in 1877. The first railway train ran to Box Hill in 1882, previously the train had ended at Hawthorn, and I remember walking there to catch the train to Melbourne. The line was extended first to Camberwell and then on to Box Hill and finally to Lilydale, the stations being from Camberwell; Canterbury, Box Hill, Ringwood, Warrandyte (later Croydon) and finally Lilydale. The trip from the city to Lilydale took 6 and a half hours. Surrey Hills station was opened in 1883 and Tunstall (now Nunawading) in 1888. The first delivery of letters was not official before 1889. Surrey Hills School no. 2788 was opened in 1886, and Box Hill no. 2828 also in the same year. The ES& A bank opened its first bank in Box Hill about this time. Gas came within this decade and electricity was provided by the municipality in 1912.

In 1889, a tram ran from Whitehorse Rd to Doncaster where a tower 285 feet high had been erected, this tower being dismantled in 1914 after 36 years. This tramway was not a success as the orchardists out Doncaster way objected to their peace being disturbed with sightseers and after a short time was given up.

About 24 years ago (1936) a back to school was held at Surrey Hills State School and our family of four Rays were invited and had a wonderful day and night when we met our old school friends, danced and played cards.

There is much more that I could "write" about Surrey Hills and District, and I am sure I have forgotten to mention names and events. All my children (5) except one, went to Surrey Hills State School and now my grandchildren are there also and before long, who knows, my great grandchildren may also attend the same school.

Surrey Hills is now very different from when I first remembered it, but progress has to go on."

Editor's note:

These memories were dictated by Susan Thomas to Lillian Alford (daughter of Susan). We are grateful to Lillian's daughter, Heather, a member of our society for sharing them with us. You, our readers, may discover that you knew people whose names were possibly connected to those early residents of Surrey Hills and District. 'Progress' in 1960 has again a new face of 'progress' in 2022.

Vines Timberyard

The following article evolved as a result of our new President, Matthew ETTY- Leal, giving a presentation to Surrey Hills Historical Society.

A local place of historical note was Vines Timberyard, a major industry in Surrey Hills in the mid C19th century of which the Surrey Hills President, Sue Barnett, gladly provided much information and photographs towards this article.

Matthew has been giving Australian History presentations to various Boroondara aged care facilities as well as Probus, U3A, Ionian clubs and other Melbourne History societies.

William James Vine was a builder and founder of Vines Timberyard, which became the largest industrial enterprise in the Surrey Hills area, and whose whistle regulated the lives of Surrey Hills' residents for nearly 50 years.

William was one of 7 children of Cornish-born William Vine, and Caroline Willington, who was born in Dublin. They migrated to Australia in 1865. William Jnr married Sarah Elizabeth Gunner on 5 January 1881 in Prahran. They came to Surrey Hills in c 1885 and William formed a partnership with Henry Jabez Gunner (b 1862), his brother-in-law. They built many houses in Surrey Hills including about 15 workers' cottages in Sunbury Crescent. Most of these date from 1887-1888. There are others at the east end of Croydon Road. William also built 21 Albany Crescent for himself in 1890 where he established a wood, coke and coal yard.

When a downturn in building activity followed the property crash of the 1890s, William diversified his business. In 1892, he established a plumbing and gas fitting business in Canterbury Road, and in 1893 moved the whole business to the NW corner of Union and Croydon Roads (where Hudson's Real Estate used to be). In 1896 he acquired the large timberyard from Donald Douglas that had been in business on **the corner of (587-593) Canterbury Road and Stirling Crescent in 1886**. In 1904 this timberyard was extended to include a saw-milling plant; joinery works and retail hardware.

Photograph, W J Vine, timber merchant and ironmonger, c1899

(Surrey Hills History Society collection)



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The Box Hill Reporter advertisement on 05/01/1905 described it as ‘*The Surrey Hills Timber Yard and Saw Mills which offered band-sawing and moulding of all descriptions, a plentiful supply of good blackwood and joinery made to order*’.

The Surrey Hills Timber Yard and Saw Mills workforce (Surrey Hills History Society collection)



William and Sarah had just one child – Albert Edward Vine, born in 1878. In the early years, the family lived in several homes around Surrey Hills for short periods but from 1898 until 1911 they lived at 90 Croydon Road; they then moved to ‘Uralla’ at 1 Montrose Street, which had a large 2-storey workshop, that was sometimes used to complete joinery orders.

Apart from his business activities, William Vine was active in community affairs – he was a foundation member of the Nunawading Ratepayers’ League, secretary of the Surrey Hillsbranch of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, and a member of the Surrey Gardens Committee. William died on 20 January 1920.



Graves of William and Sarah (photograph taken by Sue Barnett)

Albert Ernest Vine took over management of Vine's Timberyard. The Timberyard continued to be an important part of Surrey Hills until the 1950s. It employed a large number of men and trained many apprentices despite the setbacks and challenges posed by a disastrous fire in October 1920, the 1929 Timber Strike and the Depression. For decades it was a vital part of the Surrey Hills community.

Photograph, 3 Norfolk Road Surrey Hills - home of Mr and Mrs Albert Ernest Vine
(Surrey Hills History Society collection)



Albert Ernest Vine (1903-1968) was a Camberwell councillor from 1926-1934. He was also Mayor of Camberwell in 1940/41 and a councillor from 1937-1944. He retired to Wattle Road, Hawthorn. His son Ernest Albert also became a Councillor and Mayor of Camberwell.

Heritage overlays and considerations

Matthew ETTY-Leal (President) has provided the following information for your interest.

Preamble:

As a Historical Society in the City of Boroondara, on occasions we are asked to provide feedback on amendments to the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

As an example, in August, we have been given the opportunity to provide feedback on:

Amendment C378 (which) proposes to apply the Heritage Overlay (H0943) on a permanent basis to the former Balwyn Baby Health centre, later Maternal and Child Health Centre at 1 Cherry Road, Balwyn.

Submissions must be made in writing and received by 3 October 2022.

Heritage and future housing Boroondara Bulletin September 2022 page 9

We know it's important for you that Council helps to protect our heritage places, for current and future generations to appreciate.

That's why we undertook a 6-year project to find – and fill – gaps in heritage protection. We look for properties and precincts of heritage value that were not covered by our Heritage Overlay – part of Boroondara's Planning Scheme.

The houses we found have aesthetic, historical, architectural or social significance to Boroondara (one even featured on a 1970s-80s TV show). This was a significant project with results of which you can be proud. **We've increased Heritage Overlay by around 50%, taking the number of properties covered to 15,000.**

But what else can Council do to plan for housing in the future, for challenges or opportunities that could arise? That's the question we're turning our attention to now.

We're looking at how we can be proactive to meet housing needs.

How 'heritage' is my house?

Look up the heritage grading of your home today with our new online map.

Was your home owned by a prominent historical figure? Is it colonial revival in style, an interwar Californian bungalow or something else? Is it part of a larger precinct? Find out by reading the Heritage Citation and Statement of Significance.

How? We've created an interactive virtual map to help access our heritage work, bringing information together in a fun and easy-to-use format.

Find it at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/find-heritage-overlays-and-gradings

Photographs courtesy of Margaret Williamson taken at the August 2022 Meeting.

Photo left, Helen Beesley – Old Fintonian and BHS Member

Photo right, Ann Hawker (far right) with visiting Old Fintonians.

