



Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

December 2013

Season's Greetings

Meetings

Thursday 12 December – 7pm

Christmas function

Come and help us celebrate Christmas in Balwyn

(Bookings close on Monday 9 December for this event)

Thursday 13 February – 8pm

Topic: Harold Blair – Opera Singer

David Crawford will introduce a documentary film about the Aboriginal singer, Harold Blair, who will be remembered by many members, not only for his wonderful voice, but for when he had a delicatessen shop in Deepdene.

Venue: – Balwyn Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Ave., Balwyn

Thursday 10 March – 8pm

Speaker and topic to be announced

Please note our new email address which is below.

Email: bhs@balwynevergreen.org.au

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

Recent Speaker Ross McMullin

Once again we were privileged to have Ross McMullin speaking so passionately and movingly about some of the highly talented soldiers who served in WW1.

This time Ross focused on the personal stories of ten remarkable and mostly young men who were among the 60,000 who lost their lives while serving overseas. Among these ten were Geoff McCrae, grandson of Georgiana McCrae, whose final words in a letter from Fromelles to his family – *Farewell, Dear Friends* – provided the title for Ross' recent book.

Others among the ten included the brilliant medical scientist, Clunes Mathison, Robert Bage who had spent two years with Mawson

in the Antarctic, Tom Elliott a military officer thought to have had the potential to be an Australian Kitchener, Phipps Turnbull Rhodes scholar, Edward Larkin NSW parliamentarian, George Challis talented footballer and Carew Reynell visionary winemaker.

Unfortunately, until now, these promising young men have largely been forgotten. Not only were their lives to be such a huge, and in many cases needless, loss to their families and friends but their prodigious talents were also lost to Australian society. It was salutary to think that these were but ten of the 60,000 killed and to contemplate the enormous contribution that might have been made by so many others who did not return.

2013-14 Boroondara Annual Community Grant

The Balwyn Historical Society has been most fortunate to receive a 2013-14 Boroondara Annual Community Grant of \$2,003.00. These annual grants are funded by the Rotary Club of Balwyn through the proceeds of the Rotary Sunday Market in Camberwell and the Boroondara Council.

With this grant we are planning to upgrade our computer and printer/scanner and to purchase publishing software and programs to assist with recording our archival material.

We thank the Rotary Club of Balwyn and the Boroondara Council for their generosity in making this grant

Balwyn Historical Society - Contact details

Balwyn Historical Society is a program of the Balwyn Evergreen Centre.

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Secretary	Pat O'Dwyer 9817 3758
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Archivist	Pam Herrington

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Webmaster	Neil Swansson

Non-Committee Assistants	
Newsletter mailout	Lynette Woolley, Deidre Woolley
Resources	Heather Alford

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

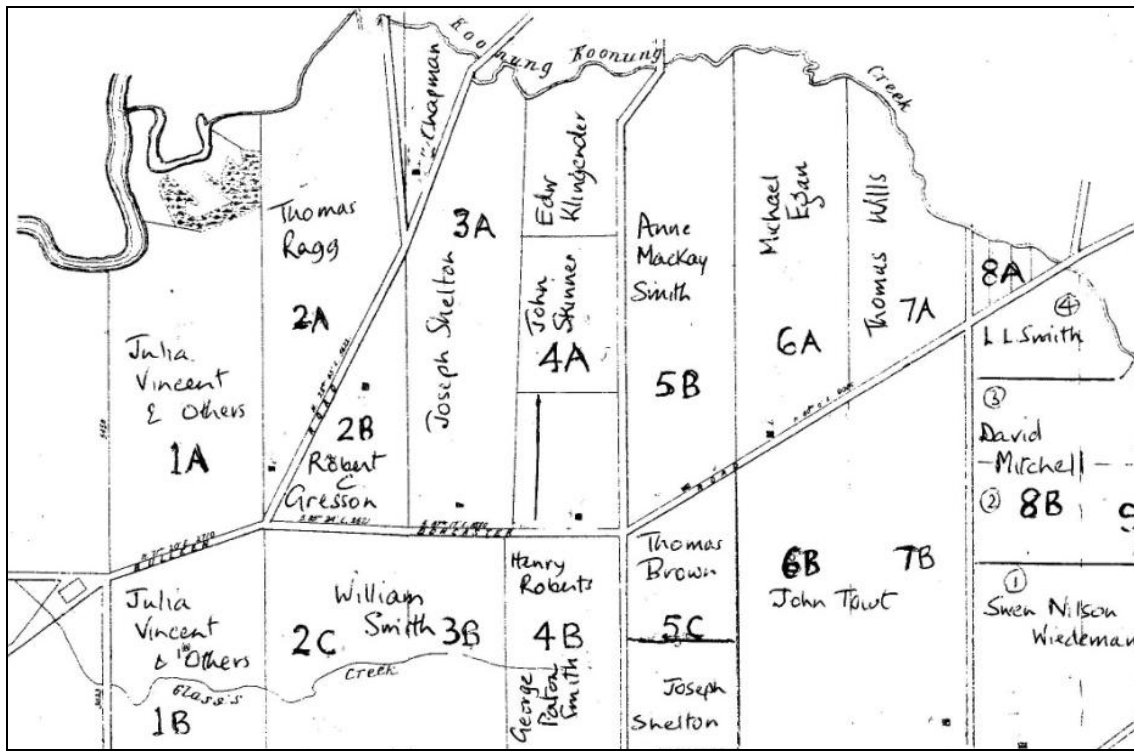
On the Country-Road – Gwen McWilliam

One of the busiest traffic routes in Boroondara (long before the Freeway) had been 'the Bulleen-road'. It once began near a river crossing, possibly following an aboriginal route to the Bulleen swamps further north, then tracks to squatters out along the Yarra river and goldfields in the 1850s. It was a surprise to see a planned road cutting north-east from the river near Burwood Road - across the first surveyed plan of land for sale by the government in 1843 - with other roads neatly east-west or north-south. The road continued on the same angle, then a little further east, past Kew Village on the hill, then down the hill across Glass' Creek up to Burke Road. By 1853 most Boroondara land had been sold, with the Bulleen Road heading more east then north, of an east-west road on the ridge to the Koonung Koonung Creek, then closer to Heidelberg, away from a road to Templestowe. It was 'the Bulleen-road' until the 1860s, then Church Street in Hawthorn, and High Street in Kew.

The east-west road (to Doncaster) turned more north-east at Balwyn Road - with a convenient hotel nearby at the end of the 1860s, for a brief stay before the long hill down to Koonung Creek (sometimes called Kennedy's Creek) then up to Doncaster. The hotel was the *Young* then *Old Stingo*, with 3 sitting rooms and 2 bedrooms, but only from 1866 to 1868. Stingo was apparently a 'Strong ale' (and a *Stingo Hotel* survived longer in Collingwood).

It was still the 'long hill' beyond, with roadworks nearby in 1867, then by Christmas 1871 with a *Long Hill Hotel* near the present Walnut Road, but only for a decade. Possibly the passing traffic had declined, with tollgates on main traffic routes from 1865 to 1877. And a tiny shopping centre at Kennedy's Creek caught passers-by, before or after they paid the toll to cross the creek in or out of Boroondara. That road carried about half the traffic of Whitehorse Road. In the last month of operation, December 1877, £13 was collected at the toll bar. There was some compensation and a small profit two years later: the Doncaster 'gate' and house was sold for £7/6/- !

Another hotel was briefly nearby just north of Doncaster Road - the *Boroondara*, licensed 1871 (after another in Barkers Road 1855-1863). Edward Noonan was licensee; neighbours wheelwright William Watt and blacksmith Carl Essing, providing essential services. Noonan's occupation was listed as 'carter' in 1874. By 1878, Dr L. L. Smith owned 33 acres just south, which a decade later was advertised as 'Koonung Hill' estate in 118 Lots on streets: Victoria, Albert, Windsor, Edward, and Hampton Court, but was soon forgotten. It was still the 'long hill' with roadwork problems in 1914, and an increase in traffic on that Doncaster Road. The Bulleen Road back to Burke Road was then re-named Doncaster Road - a quarter of a century before trams reached the North Balwyn tram terminus.



Owners and occupiers near Doncaster Road 1880s.

Source: Gwen McWilliam, *Boroondara Musing*. Reprinted with permission of the author.

Bonnie View Hill Estate - 1885

North-east corner of Doncaster/Balwyn Road intersection. (Some poetic licence has been taken in the advertising when it states that it is near the Canterbury Railway Station.)