



# *Waverley Historical Society Inc.* Newsletter

July 2012

Issue No. 200

## **WAVERLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Established in 1970  
Incorporated in Victoria  
Reg. No.: A 0006377 A

### **PATRON:**

Dr. Morna Sturrock AM

### **PRESIDENT:**

Ed Hore 5233 1056

### **SECRETARY:**

Norma Schultz 9802 9332

### **EDITOR:**

Judy Borg 9802 5081

### **EMAIL:**

whs@kepl.com.au

### **WEB SITE:**

[www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic)

### **POSTAL ADDRESS**

PO Box 2322,  
Mount Waverley, Vic 3149

### **SUBSCRIPTION**

\$20 per household

We are grateful for the continued support of the City of Monash, without which we could not operate as we do.

## **CONTENTS**

Page 2 Editorial; Coming Events: Open Days; Walks; AOEHS

Page 3 Anzac Day: Lest we forget; Sister B. Moore

Page 4 Sister B. Moore (cont.); Hotels of Long Ago (M.A.Dempsey's)

Page 5 Black Flat School Roof; History is **Now**: Our Chain Food Stores

Page 6 History is **Now** (cont.); Sir Ronald East: Our Heritage

Page 7 Sir Ronald East (cont.); Pioneers in Waverley: The West Family

### **Extant Pre-suburban Buildings: Reminders of Waverley's rural days**

One of the four extant farmhouses in Lawrence Road is Taroona, near the street that now bears its name. It was the substantial home of John Quarry Cotter Jnr. The Cotter name represents lots of community service in church, council, and temperance hotels. John Quarry Cotter Snr settled in Waverley Rd, Black Flat, in 1850s and immediately began holding Cottage Meetings in his home. Later he donated land for the Methodist church, and became a famed lay preacher. The whole Cotter family were centred on this land, with several of the boys owning and farming land nearby. George Sackville Cotter (the Cotter family featured interesting middle names) ran a general store and the Cheshire Cheese Hotel nearby in the 1890s, and also served on the Mulgrave council. John Quarry Cotter Jnr, market gardener, completed this house in 1914.



## **EDITORIAL**

Welcome to our 200<sup>th</sup> edition! W.H.S. has been fortunate in gaining two new members at the Anzac Meeting. One is Ian Petty, whose grandfather, Bert Cornell, gave land for the foundation of the Mount Waverley Primary School. The other new member is Margaret Walsh, who lives beyond our boundaries but whose family has strong ties to Waverley and she is our President's cousin, though they had never met before. Margaret has written a fine article on their great aunt's experiences as a nurse, particularly in war time [see p.3].

## **Coming Events**

It is **Election time** again for President and Committee members [see the enclosed forms.] Please consider nominating someone – or standing yourself. Don't be shy – there is much interesting work, especially sorting, to be done! And we all enjoy the talk around the afternoon tea table!

**Open Day:** Wednesday, August 1, **3-8 pm.**  
At the rooms [above the library]

Also the Committee, in conjunction with the Monash City Council, has decided to participate in two **PALS** activities [PALS stands for Positive Ageing Lifestyles]:

The first is a **Mt. Waverley Historical Walk** on **Thurs. 13 Sept., 1-2.30 pm**, beginning and ending at **Valley Reserve**. Committee member Bev Anderson is to lead. Meet near the car park off Wills Av. (Mel. G2)

The second is a **"Show and Tell" Open Day** on Wednesday, October 24, as part of

the Seniors' Festival conducted by the Monash Council. In the W.H.S. rooms.

Our Committee Member **Margaret Boyes** is in charge of both events.

Also **Beverley Delaney** reminds you to keep free **Sunday October 7, 2pm**, for our **W.H.S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Party** at St. Philip's.

She also wishes to clarify afternoon tea/supper food for winter and spring arrangements:

### **Sunday meetings at 2pm:**

Members are asked to bring a plate of afternoon tea.

### **Thursday evening meetings at 8pm:**

The Society will supply tea or coffee and biscuits.

She reminds you too of the W.H.S. books for sale in the rooms, viz.: **Then and Now** \$20; **Once There Was Jordanville** \$30; and also our patron, Dr. Morna Sturrock's, **They Continued Steadfastly** \$12.

## **AOEHS**

Norma Schultz and Jean Walkerden travelled to Marysville for the meeting, chaired by Russ Haines – the first after the devastating fires. They were shown photos of the fire advancing, higher than the trees. Fortunately the President and his wife escaped with the most precious items of historical significance. [I recall them telephoning from Launching Place, to say their records were safe.] Norma and Jean enjoyed the happy reunion.

## **Lest We Forget**

As with communities all around our newly formed nation, many Waverley families had sons or daughters serving in the Great War. At our April meeting, President Ed Hore presented the stories of six of these sons of local pioneers who had been members of the Mt Waverley Methodist Church Group and are pictured with others in a 1909 photo.

Ed told the story of a relative recently showing him this photo of the church group and him recognizing the names as some of the fourteen listed in a memorial glass window of the old St Stephen's Church in High Street Road. This led him to research each of their backgrounds and war service.

They were James Herbert Brewer, Richard Norman Cornell, Ed's two great-uncles, Harry Russell Hore and Stanley Edward Hore, as well as John Lavidge Lechte and Percy Frederick Muir. When the war began their ages ranged between 22 and 28. Over the next couple of years all volunteered for service and most took different paths to the Western Front in France. However, Harry Hore and Percy Muir served together and were also wounded in action about the same time.

With the aid of a number of photos, Ed described some of the events and hardships experienced by these and the millions of other troops and nurses in that war. Sadly, Ed's great uncle Stanley Hore was killed in action in 1918; while the others returned to live in Waverley and, subsequently, other parts of Melbourne. James Brewer died not long after in 1921; the other four men worked and raised families, passing away between 1948 and 1973. Many other local servicemen and women are remembered on Honour Rolls around the district.

The meeting expressed its appreciation to Ed for his presentation at short notice due to the withdrawal of the advertised speaker.

### **Geoff Brown**



[The young, fresh faces in this photo bring home the waste and futility of war. While recently one young writer and actor, Helen Hopkins, who lived in Mt. Waverley and attended Avila College in the '80s, has written a play on the Anzac story that is now on the list for Year 12 drama and was recently performed at The Theatre, East St. Kilda. She was in the leading roles as one of three nurses in WW1. The one male actor played a number of roles viz. as a soldier before and after battles. **Ed.**]

Ed Hore's cousin, Margaret Walsh, who lived near Dandenong in her youth had chanced to see an advertisement for our Anzac Meeting. She has now joined us as a member of W.H.S., and has presented us with this account of their great aunt's early life in Waverley and then service as a Nursing Sister.

### **Sister B. Moore: A Brief Biography**

Beatrice Moore was the fourth of twelve children, born on April 18, 1909, the daughter of an Australian mother and a father who was from Northern Ireland. She grew up on a

market garden in Mt. Waverley and lived in a large house built by her father on High Street Rd. Beatrice [known as Trix] attended Mt. Waverley State School and later, Taylor's College in the city. On April 30, 1928, she began training at the Melbourne Hospital, then situated on the corner of Lonsdale and Swanston Streets. Her three years of training were completed on May 2, 1931, and she became a staff nurse for one year, and afterwards nursed at the Janefield [T.B.] Sanatorium for two years. In 1934 she began her midwifery training at the Queen Victoria Hospital, then began working at Glenloch Private Hospital in Armadale and later Lumeah Private Hospital in Flinders Lane.

Trix joined the Australian Army Nursing Service in April 1941 and remained in the Army until August 1946. During this period she was second in command at Puckapunyal Army Hospital and after eight months there, opened the Prisoner of War Internment Hospital in Tatura. Trix was in charge of the hospital, and was the Theatre Sister – often the only nurse assisting. This POW camp was one of the largest internment camps in Australia and was regarded as a “model” camp, holding twelve to thirteen thousand people: men, women and children, from almost every country in the world.

In 1944 Trix was sent to join the 12<sup>th</sup> Australian General Hospital in Warwick, Queensland, as Theatre Sister. In 1945 she sailed to Borneo in a hospital ship, and was then in charge of the Theatre at Balik Papen Army Hospital until the end of the war. At the end of hostilities Trix and twelve others set off from Borneo and along with another twelve, flew to the Philippines and worked with the Americans at their base some way from Manila. Part of her duties was to help socialise some of the returning POWs. After six weeks she returned home. The flight back to Melbourne was in a “Liberator” [bomber], a

duration of many hours, seated on their kit bags. Having left the tropics in summer uniform, they arrived in Melbourne still lightly clad and freezing, in the middle of winter.

After a brief holiday, Trix joined the staff at the Alfred Hospital as Tutor Sister and was there for two years. She spent some years touring and working in the U.K. and then, returning to Melbourne in 1951, began work as an industrial nurse at Brockhoff's biscuit factory and stayed for 24 years.

Joyce Hammond's book **Walls of Wire** details the humane treatment of Prisoners of War in Tatura, Rushworth and Murchison. Tatura has an excellent museum and Trix Moore was present and a star attraction at the opening of the POW camp display in 2004. Trix is now in care at Autumndale, Cheltenham, and celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

**Margaret Walsh**

Thanks to our new member for this insight into a remarkable life. While many might remember there was an internment camp just outside our boundary at the south west corner of Jells and Stud roads [c.f. the Newsletter article by Jeff Turnbull]. Many of the trusted interns, however, worked on Waverley farms, including John and Irene Marriott's farm on Springvale Rd., Glen Waverley. **Ed.**

## **Hotels of Long Ago**

Our super sleuth, MarJo Angelico, has considerable knowledge of the hotels of Waverley and Oakleigh districts in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. [These, of course, were central meeting places and frequently also where horses were watered and, if on a stage coach run, horses changed as well.] Recently MarJo has discovered a fine and clearly posed photo of a hotel, with its staff and even the guard dog, placed at regular intervals. The

board above reads BOUNDARY HOTEL, the name of the proprietor M.A.DEMPSEY, Licensed Victualler. [see photo below]



MarJo has come to the conclusion that the hotel stood on the north east corner of the Highbury Rd. - then called Boundary Road - and Middleborough Rd. junction. [While bushy Stephensons Rd.met Highbury a chain further east : it did not connect with Middleborough 'til the 1970's]. The hotel, then, was just outside our boundary – but, like the East Burwood State School one mile east at the cnr. of Highbury and Blackburn Rds., had many of our people as its “customers”.

One regular researcher visiting our rooms, Clive Haddock, found from the East Burwood Cemetery records that the original hotelier B.H.Dempsey died in 1888, so dating the photo as between 1888 and 1894, when the hotel was in his wife Mary Ann's name. [Is she in the picture? It seems likely she is the central, elderly lady.]The sign on the facade board reads:

M.A.DEMPSEY'S BOUNDARY HOTEL – GOOD ACCOMODATION FOR VISITORS – PICNIC PARTIES CATERED FOR.

One wonders where the picnickers might have been off to - the Tally Ho bushland, perhaps – or even to the banks of Dandenong Creek?

**Black Flat School, built in 1892** and for some years the regular meeting place for W.H.S., is undergoing some repairs to the roof. Philip Johnstone, who took the photo below, reports:

The Black Flat school, located at the NE corner of Waverley and Springvale Rds, is seen here undergoing re-roofing with corrugated colourbond steel, in May 2012. The date of installation of the previous corrugated iron roof is unknown, but the original roof at time of construction in 1880 would have been slates.



## **History is Now**

I was surprised to see last week that the old Franklins brand "No Frills" was back, and in force.

You may remember that Franklins built the current Ritchie's store in the middle of Hamilton Place in 1999 after the old Woolworths store was vacated. However before that time there were other Franklins stores elsewhere, e.g. in Brandon Park. Then all Franklins stores disappeared from Victoria in 2003 and even in NSW the No Frills range was "reformulated and repackaged." I began to wonder about how this had all happened.

Apparently, in 1941, Franklins was established in Sydney by Frank Lindstrom. It was his



second supermarket chain, having sold his first one to Woolworths. His new store was to be totally different to the "Big" chains - more austere, maybe, with fewer lines, less furniture (often just pallets of products), less fresh food (no special deli, bakery or butcher's counter), no canned music, no "free" bags - customers brought their own and packed them themselves, or used cartons), fewer payment options, shorter hours and a tiny advertising budget. Cleaning was to be done by staff rather than by a separate company. This originally European concept was embraced by Sydney shoppers. Despite the fact that Lindstrom himself moved on in 1954, Franklins grew as a chain, and gained a reputation for low prices.

However there was still the problem of working with the Brand Names. This was solved in 1978 with the launch of Franklins' ground-breaking new line, named to reflect the concept of total elimination of unnecessary fluff ie. fancy packaging, attractive shelf displays, any advertising, additional "freebies," promotions or competitions. This was the No Frills brand. A first in Australia, it modified the shopping habits of many, offering good quality regular purchases at a substantial discount. The range that began with just No Frills honey, peanut butter and potato chips now includes hundreds of products - groceries and perishables.

In retaliation the big stores gradually offered their own home brands and "plain" stores (like Bi-Lo in Adelaide). Then the concept spread to bookshops, airlines, and variety shops.

Meanwhile Ritchies took over the Franklins store in Mt Waverley and many others. (To learn more of Ritchies' history see my article in the April 2008 Newsletter.) Ritchies had its own generic label, Black and Gold (which will

continue), and No Frills disappeared along with its parent.

However the tendency has always been for the big chains to either drop home brand lines, or to gradually increase the cost of the home brand till there is little discernible difference. Is that maybe why "No Frills" has returned? I didn't get definitive answers from head office, but it was intimated that Franklins was in process of closing operations all together, and Fred Harrison of Ritchies had been quick on the uptake... Stay tuned!

**M. Angelico, June 2012**

### **Sir Ronald East: Our Heritage**

Some of our older members will remember Sir Ronald East's presentations at W.H.S. in the 1980's. We were very fortunate to have such a distinguished speaker, for twenty nine years head of the State River and Water Commission, from 1934 to '63 and knighted on his retirement. [He had stepped into the position at a relatively young age when the serving Commissioner died suddenly and his successor became ill after 18 months.] Sir Ronald with his wife lived close to our area in a War Service home in Blackburn following WW2, but later moved to Glen Iris and then to Auburn, where he was a cheerful worker for the Auburn Methodist Church that he had attended in his youth, encouraging boys to make model trains.

Sir Ronald's great achievement was to provide a viable water supply across the State. "He worked on the building of the Hume Dam during most of its construction 1919-1936) and regarded its extension (1950s to 1961) as part of his achievements", while he was later "one of the primary architects of the Snowy Mountains Scheme". He played a significant role in the construction of the Eildon Dam (1951-1955) and East's Lookout on the west

side of the lake is named for him. He was a pioneer also in soil conservation and promoted the avoidance of salinated soil, while he “staunchly upheld the principle... of the State retaining ownership and control of waterways and their banks, and of granting only limited water licences and grazing rights on river banks”. [What of those muddy cattle on the banks of Damper Creek where it crossed Stephensons Rd.?! see photo in our collection.]

Sir Ronald spoke to W.H.S on three occasions. Did Sir Ronald offer suggestions for our flood control, that certainly in recent years has been a problem? With that in mind I went down to view the large Melbourne Water retarding basin between Blackburn Rd. and the high weir. The latter was constructed in a narrow gorge, with the tiered back gardens of three houses at the bend in Oxford street, downstream. The water from the three house blocks had its own channel that merged downstream, avoiding turbulence and flood.

The wide water retarding basin upstream has itself undergone a change in recent times: thirteen rock rimmed basins have been excavated to stop the heady rush of water. Each has reeds and other water plants – and ducks galore. Big rock walls and vegetation and a few small trees surround them in the basin [see photos page 8]. There is still the footbridge across joining footpaths between the end of Walker Rd. and Scammel Close, off Waverley Rd. I noticed a concrete shape underneath the middle of the bridge, with a small metal box attached in the centre, and guessed it was a flow meter, an important monitor at flood time. [A photo in our album 17 shows a young Sir Ronald astride a similar meter in the dry bed of a river]. Across Waverley Rd. the creek passes close to the four large buildings of the new retirement village. While on the east side of the creek is a large flood plain, with lush green grass. **Ed.**

## Our Pioneers in Waverley: The West Family

I was one of seven children of Chris and Ellen West, who ran a dairy farm on the corner of Blackburn and Waverley Roads.

My grandfather, Jim West, was originally from South Melbourne, his family being involved in the hotel business. Then, as a youth, with two of his friends George Keys and Jack Corrigan, he went over to Western Australia to try his luck in the Gold Rush. We never really heard as to whether he was very successful, but I do remember him saying it cost him ten pounds to give his horse a drink of water!

On returning from WA he settled in Wellington Road, Mulgrave. Next, in the 1890's, he bought the property in Blackburn Rd., then known as May Road. This area is now Mt. Waverley, but in earlier days it was part of Nottinghill. At first he worked this property as a market garden, but later on switched over to cattle, and my father then established the dairy farm and cattle stud.

My father, James Christopher West, later purchased forty acres on the south-east corner of Blackburn and Waverley Roads, and sixty acres on the north-east corner of Blackburn and Ferntree Gully Roads, thus giving him two hundred acres overall. It is hard for me to realise that sixty-five years ago I was milking cows where Pinewood Shopping Centre now stands! It is now called Pinewood because of the number of large pine trees that were on the property when it was subdivided. These pine trees were planted by my grandfather in the year 1900.

Regarding my grandfather's gold mining mates, the suburb of Keysborough was named after George Keys, and Corrigan Road, Noble Park, was named after Jack Corrigan.

**Frank West**

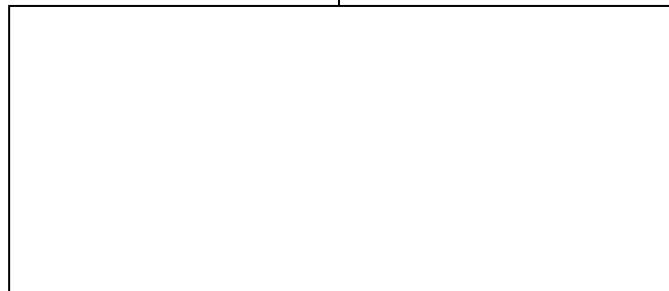
## **CALENDAR: 2012 MEETINGS**

**Sunday August 26:** A.G.M. including the election of office-bearers, with the DVD "Time to Remember" to follow.

**Thursday Sept. 27:** Jack Martin to speak on "The work of the Public Records Office".

**Waverley Historical Society Inc.  
PO BOX 2322,  
Mount Waverley, 3149**

All Meetings are to be held in our rooms above the **Mt.Waverley Public Library**, Miller St. (opposite the Railway Station). Access is by stairs or by the lift on the left, just before the staircase. Everybody welcome. If access to one of our evening meetings is required when the library is closed, please ring the bell situated near the lift shaft on the left hand side of the main entrance and someone will come down to let you in.



Looking upstream from the bridge: one of the larger ponds.



Looking downstream past a rocky barrier; the grating is below. (The gauge is not visible.)



|