

Recent Research Enquiries

MarJo Angelico

Do you remember a fuchsia nursery in Fern-tree Gully Rd, where Estia Health is now? It had a single frontage on Fern-tree Gully Road opposite Kevin St. However the main nursery was on several blocks in Elizabeth St. behind, none of which was aligned with the entrance off the main road, so that customers drove up a steep drive and then turned sharp left to behold the colourful display of blooms. Do you know who owned it or anything else about it?

An interesting research enquiry that is ongoing at present is from descendants of the Drew family. Some may recall that Fern-tree Gully Rd was once named Drew's Rd. They are trying to find a connection, maybe even a physical connection, between *Scotchmans Creek Run* and *Bushy Park Run*, way back around the first land sales in this area in 1853.

Similarly members of the Armstrong family will be travelling to research their family this month.

Members of the Wilks family, now living in

Queensland, say their father and grandfather lived in Cash Grove, went to Waverley High School and helped to start St Marks church in Jordanville. They would like to know more about them, yet we have very little. Does anyone know of them, or have more to share about St Marks or Waverley High?

Someone who went to Mimosa school queried the dates on our website and sent us some welcome photos of the school in the 1960s.

Several people have contacted me about Glen Waverley McDonalds since it has been demolished. Particularly there is concern about the plaque and time capsule that were there, marking it as the first such restaurant in Victoria.

I managed to get in contact with someone in headquarters who said that the plaque is safe and will be reinstated when the store reopens in October.

Lastly, where is our flag? The City of Waverley had a flag and it was flown for the first time on Australia Day 1980. What happened to it when we became the City of Monash?



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Annual subscriptions 2016/17 are
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MarJo Angelico

THE HOUSE

In 1926 Florence Elizabeth WATT, who had grown up on a market garden on the southwest corner of Waverley and Huntingdale Rds, (where Waverley High was later) married William Talbot and lived at this site. It is in Mt Waverley near the ambulance station. The Talbots had three children, Roy, Jean (*our member and long-time Treasurer*) and Stan who grew up here, though this house would be a later feature of their market garden. As you can see the house has had a number modifications to its original design over the years. Talbot Road nearby recognises this family.

Coming Events

Sun 28 Aug 1.30 pm - AGM plus a Virtual Tour along High Street Rd. In the WHS rooms.

Sun 25 Sept - 1.00pm Burwood Walk.

Wed 26 Oct - Burwood Walk repeated.

Thu 27 Oct 1.30 pm - Speaker TBA

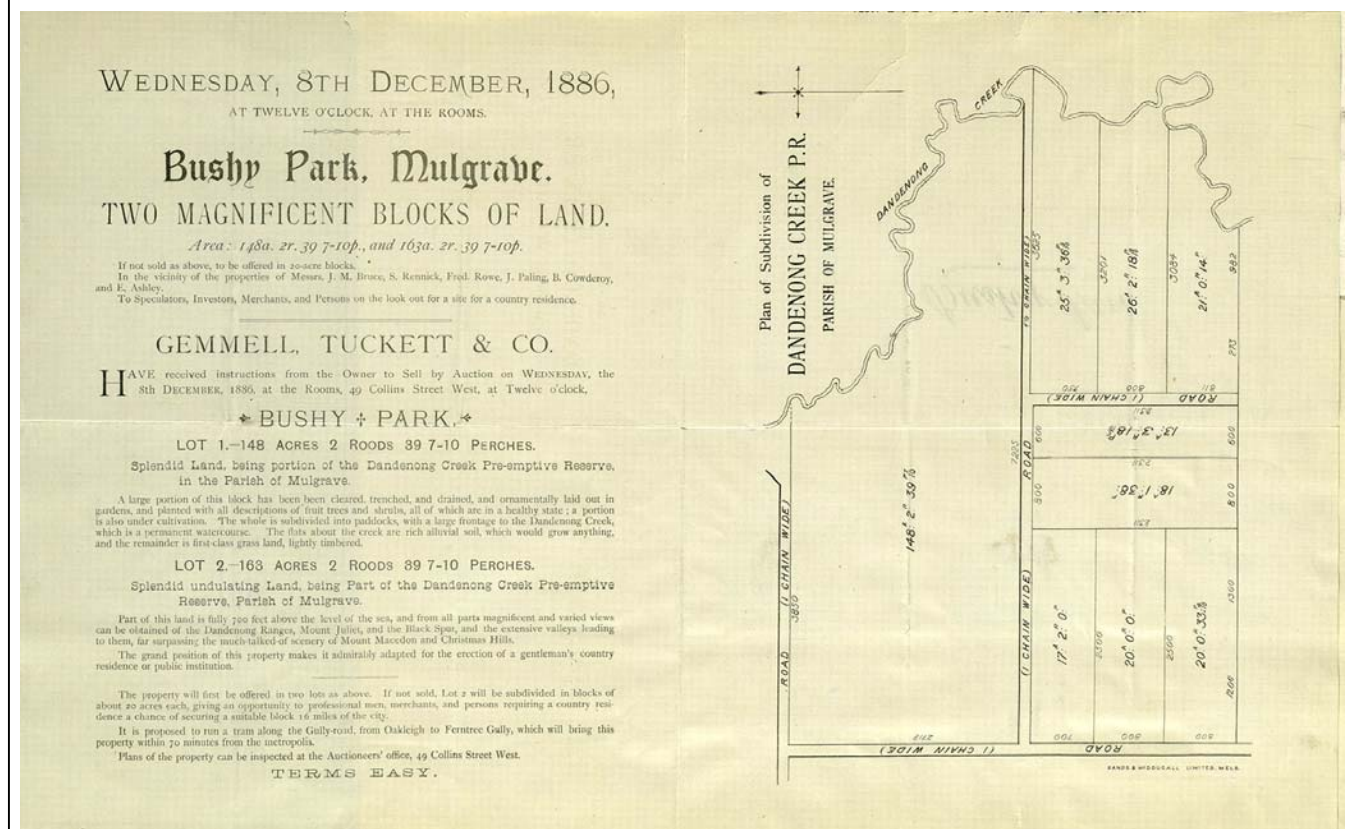
Wed 23 Nov 1.30 pm - Xmas meeting

Details P.7

Please note that General Meetings are now held every two months and are usually afternoon meetings starting at 2.00 pm. Special activities will be held in most alternate months. We are located above the Mt Waverley Library 41 Miller Cres., Mt Waverley.

Did You know?

Even back in 1886 the speculators and real estate promoters were making wild suggestions of future transport in Mulgrave - note the comment, in this 1886 sales brochure for what is now part of Jells Park: *It is proposed to run a tram along Gully Rd from Oakleigh to Fern-tree Gully, which will bring the property within 70 minutes from the metropolis.* Apparently the two lots were not sold at Auction on the day.



Public Records Office per C. Haddock

Notice of AGM

Members are cordially invited to our:

Combined Annual General Meeting, Elections and 46th birthday celebration.

Date : Sunday 28th August 2016, at 1:30pm

Venue : WHS rooms above Mt Waverley library

Entertainment : Forget the cold winds and traffic noise. Everyone can do this tour of High St Rd - in the comfort of our own rooms. See all the best features - some are still there, some not; some hidden, others known but seen from a new point of view. Yes, it's a familiar road to us all - but be prepared to learn something new anyway!

Followed by high tea.

Please bring - a plate of afternoon tea.

Committee : We would welcome any members who would like to join the WHS Management Committee. If you feel you could contribute to the future operation of our Society please consider nomination.

A Nomination form for the election of the Office Bearers and Membership Renewal form are enclosed.

Vale

Edna Farmer

18/11/1919 - 25/06/2016

Edna Farmer (nee Goff). Long time Mt Waverley resident. The Goff family operated a dairy farm on Waverley Rd. Edna was well known in the district as a maker of beautiful cream sponges and butterfly cakes.

Which bridge in the City of Monash is this?

Answer P. 7



WHERE IS THE WHS?

Our rooms, which are located above the Mt Waverley library in Miller Crescent, are open each Wed (except over the Christmas break), from 1pm to 5pm, or by appointment, for individual research and working discussion groups. If the main library entrance door is locked during meetings, use the doorbell at the far left to gain entry. Members are asked to bring a plate of afternoon tea to general meetings which for 2016 are every second month.

Naidoc 2016

In commemoration of NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) Week in July, some of us attended the exhibition and presentation at the Highway Gallery. On show were a range of artworks, a display about Marngrook, the Aussie Rules football (an aboriginal game) before even the VFL and an array of very early maps (unearthed by the amazing Clive H!) showing old aboriginal walking tracks.

These paths were sometimes marked as dray tracks on the maps, but they preceded drays and white occupation. In fact they were old song lines, carefully maintained routes that the tribes used to travel along while reciting in song their history and geography.

We were privileged to hear Jim Poulter speak about his knowledge of old tribal ways. His great grandfather had been brought up by aboriginals and so gained a knowledge not many others could. According to Jim, there are two reasons we know so little about these people. One is that it is against their beliefs to speak of those who have died, and the other is that much knowledge was only for initiates. However there is evidence that we likely overlook.

To me, this was an eye-opening exhibition. I had been wondering how much of our knowledge about the earlier Australians was just our biased "take" or interpretation, and whether we could ever really know that history. Well, maybe we can!

MarJo Angelico

St Johns Wood (Update)

St Johns Wood, Mt Waverley once associated with Sir Redmond Barry and later as the home of the Brewer family in the early 1900 - ??? .

The property comprised Crown Portion CP54

It has been assumed in some documents held by the WHS that James Brewer owned the property but a title search reveals that he was **not** listed as an owner and so therefore we must conclude that he leased the property. He did however own the neighbouring CP59

Welcome to New Member

Peter Stewart

Coming Events

(Note Day and Time)

Sun 28th August - The Annual General Meeting will be held at 1.30 pm, followed by the 46th Birthday Afternoon Tea. A special feature of the afternoon will be 'A Virtual Tour of High Street Road' presented by Philip Johnstone and Ray Price. The venue will be our meeting room on level 1 of the Mount Waverley Library. When you arrive, ring the bell on the left hand side of the Library entrance and you will be admitted. Please bring a plate of afternoon tea.

Sun 25th September - MarJo Angelico has prepared a new historical walk - in the Burwood area. Don't miss this. We will meet at 1pm on the bend in the L-shaped street, Sixth Avenue, Burwood. We will cover some of the oldest extant buildings in Monash, some early farming families, Warner's Nursery, and a few surprises. As numbers will be limited, book your place on the walk with Margaret Boyes: email boyesm@ozemail.com.au or phone 9807 3408.

Wed 26th October - MarJo's historical walk in Burwood will be repeated. Meet at same place and time. **However bookings must be made through the Library and will not open until the PALS booklet is published.** Full booking details will be printed there. Bookings are essential.

Thu 27th October - The October general meeting will be held in our rooms in the evening, commencing at 7.30 pm. Speaker and topic to be advised. Please bring a plate of supper.

Wednesday, 23rd November - Final general meeting for 2016 at 2pm. Celebrate Christmas and the end of the year. Wear something Christmassy and bring some afternoon tea.

Margaret Boyes

Bridge Quiz Answer (from P. 2)

Solution to this issue's Bridge Quiz. This bridge was built in 1976, and is one of those constructed for the Mulgrave / South Eastern / Monash Freeway. It was the next one built after the very tall one over Stephenson's Road. It is of course the Forster Road overpass, which could not be built until the farm dam to the immediate south was filled in and stabilised.

Visit to Box Cottage Museum Ormond

It was a cold, wintry day in July but 23 members of the Waverley Historical Society received a very warm welcome from the City of Moorabbin Historical Society when we visited the *Box Cottage* Museum in Joyce Park, Ormond.

The cottage is an exact reproduction of a small pioneer cottage which was thought to be built in the 1840s.

William and Elizabeth Box lived in the little cottage from 1865 to 1914 and raised ten children there. The Box family were pioneer market gardeners who grew produce for the growing City of Melbourne. As many as possible of the original cottage's items were incorporated into the reproduction cottage. One example is that the original 1840s convict bricks have been re-used to build the fireplace in the museum. The cottage museum also houses an interesting eclectic collection of historical artefacts and photos as well as a barn area where some of the items on display include a historic dray, a sample of the original tramway plates that were in use in the area from the late 1800s, different types of ploughs, market garden equipment - and much more.

Of particular interest to our members was the wedding dress of Mary Louisa Closter, from the Waverley pioneer family, who married Alonzo Box on 12.6.1918 after his return from World

Power House Museum—Australian Dress Register



War 1. The material used in the dress was part of a bolt of hand embroidered silk sent by Alonzo's sister, Rebecca, who was a missionary in China. The dress is now on the Australian Dress Register. A photograph of Mary and Alonzo's wedding is on display as well as a copy of their marriage certificate.

The Box Cottage Museum houses a collection that reflects the life of residents in the Parish of Moorabbin from the settlement of Brighton in 1841 through the establishment of the Moorabbin Roads Board, 1862 to the City of Moorabbin, 1934-94. The City of Moorabbin Historical Society, founded in 1960, is devoted to preserving the history and heritage of the former City of Moorabbin. We were privileged to visit them.

Margaret Boyes

The Only Woman at Gallipoli
(April Meeting Report) Margaret Boyes



April Meeting Speaker: John Howell with Margaret Boyes

Just who really was 'The only Woman at Gallipoli'? Two days after ANZAC Day, author **John Howell** visited the Waverley Historical Society to tell us about his book which tells a fascinating story. John had a small clue and started his research which became a voyage of discovery from libraries all over Australia, to Turkey and unseen diaries and a love letter in London's Imperial War Museum and Northern England. He found and assembled pieces of a jigsaw puzzle about the true story of a VC winner, his wife and his lover. Five years of research has revealed an amazing true story. Not enough has been written about the women of World War 1 – this work is proving to be the book in the History and Military sections that women want to pick up and read, as well as men.

John Howell is a retired engineer and lives in eastern Melbourne. A passion for scuba diving led him to maritime history and then military history, and an urge to discover and write. His illustrated talk about the book was appreciated by a large number of members – again we had a full house at the meeting.

Did you know?

The liquid (not the mature milk) inside young coconuts can be used as blood plasma. During World War II in the Pacific they used the water from the young tender coconut for emergency plasma transfusions to wounded soldiers

315 Entries in Websters 1996 dictionary were misspelled

The Melbourne Olympics 1956
(June Meeting Report) Margaret Boyes

Another well-attended meeting took place in June. Our speaker was **Anne Miller**. Following her retirement she became involved as a volunteer with museums in Melbourne and later commenced as a tour guide, initially with Melbourne's Golden Mile Heritage Tours and the National Trust, taking heritage walking tours around the city. More recently she was also a coach tour guide conducting tours in and around Melbourne for passengers from the cruise ships. She is also a member of the Middle Park History Group.

This year we have been celebrating anniversaries – in February we remembered the introduction of decimal currency 50 years ago and David Godfrey told about the birth of the Melbourne icon, the Melway, in Mt Waverley, also 50 years ago. Anne Miller took us back 60 years, to 1956 when Melbourne hosted the Olympic Games. This was the first time Australia had hosted the Olympics and it was a most important undertaking for our city.

It was the first Games held outside of Europe or the United States, the first Games held in the Southern Hemisphere, the first Games where live television broadcasts captured the public's imagination, and the first Games in which all the athletes walked together as one in the Closing ceremony. This change to procedure had been suggested to organisers by an Australian schoolboy and remains a much-loved tradition of togetherness and friendship.

Anne's talk about the 1956 Olympics stirred up many memories for our members – some had been in the choir, some had visited with school groups or attended events.



June Meeting Speaker: Anne Miller with Margaret Boyes

Memories of Arthur John Rhodes
per Bevel Yeoman (Daughter of Arthur Rhodes)

Arthur John Rhodes was born in Black Flat on 12 May 1909 and lived in Wilson Rd until his marriage in 1931 when he moved to his new home in Gallaghers Rd, Glen Waverley.

At the Glen Waverley School in the eighth grade I get to sit in a desk on the top tier in the one big room that is our school. This allows me to watch for Mr Hussy as he drives to the store opposite the school for his paper. Always about 10 am. This is the first car I have seen, it's a Minerva and has brass head lamps lit with acetylene gas and smaller lights near the windscreen lit by kerosene. They are gleaming with polish and my school work waits while I watch this wonderful invention. (To the best of my father's knowledge this was the second car in the district. The first car was a Stanley Steamer owned by Plough Caine (spelling unknown). He lived in Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley. Where the Dunsters lived and later the property of Jack Dunscombe (Rehabilitation Centre). Another car in the district was Sy Anderson who bought an ex Police Motor Buggy. Mr Anderson lived in Ferntree Gully Rd, next to Rhodes' store Notting Hill. (Bevel).

Mr Vrolond is our teacher and he lives with his family in the other half of the school building. I've mentioned the tiers in the classroom it was for the desks to be placed one row at a time and I'm lucky enough to now be up near the windows. On the east end are extra tiers for the bubs grade.



Gayle Nicholas

The Black Flat School classroom showing tiered floor. Picture taken is of a group on a WHS history walk 2013

In the top floor of this area is a trapdoor for access under the school. My cousin Harry Wilson was at school at the turn of the century and he told us that in his day any naughty boys that wouldn't behave were put down under the

school and the trapdoor closed. This punishment is not in use now I'm glad to say. I asked Harry if he had ever been put down there and he said, "no, I was too scared of what might be under there with me".

One of the girls in my grade is quite rebellious and as girls no longer get the cane she always had hundreds of lines to write each night. This was a poor family who migrated from Italy and the kids didn't have shoes. They lived in O'Sullivan's Rd and their mother, came to the school and asked that her daughter be given the strap because they could not afford the amount of paper she was using each night.

The store I mentioned was on the north-west corner of Waverley and Springvale Rds and had a water trough for the horses beside the store in Waverley Rd, the butcher's shop was 100 yds south along Springvale Rd on the west side. This



General Store at the NW corner of Waverley & Springvale Rds in the late 1950s. At this time it was operated by Noll

is not the first butcher's as there was one in a house on 3 acres owned by Mr Pegg in Springvale Rd opposite the recreation ground. Howley's Blacksmith's forge was opposite on the east side and another store Cope's at the north end of the school ground on the east side of Springvale Rd. Quite a few of the boys have a hard boiled egg for lunch and it is the norm that we run down the corridor at lunch time and see how far we can throw our egg, picking it up as we go and easily taking off the shell.

The recreation ground was cleared by the local people. It was every Tuesday evening when the men would bring their horses and graders to make this area flat enough to play football. This meant that the stump holes had to be filled and there was quite a downward slope on the south west flank. All the Glen Waverley teams knew about this and could outrun all their opponents. The men's wives made food and arrived with all the children just on dusk to supply the workers with a picnic for their

WHS File Photo

evening meal after which they made their way to their respective homes until the next week .

WHS File Photo



Van Der Becks Butcher Shop on the SW corner of Waverley & Springvale Rds in about 1956. (Opposite Howley's site)

My dad has porridge for breakfast and he calls it Burgoo. I think that might be something to do with his grandparents being from Ireland. Mum and Ruby went out last night and Dad was home with my older brother Bill and me. I'm a torment and Bill and Dad were reading and I'm bored so I was poking things up and over Bill's book to annoy him he was just grabbing at anything that came over, and all the while I had the poker getting hot in the open fire. You guessed right, up came the poker and Bill grabbed it, not terribly hot, but hot enough to make him yell. Dad told me I was a naughty boy. That's all the punishment I got!

The Dunscombe family live next door to us so we have grown up together. Life isn't always easy to understand, but like all kids we sorted things out to suit ourselves like the day Ruby and I were playing at Dunscombes with Jack. Mrs Dunscombe was sick in bed and *we* were asked to stay outside and wait for the doctor to come from Oakleigh. This was a great event so we swung on the gate and waited and waited. Eventually he arrived and went into the house we waited and waited for hours for him to leave.

WHS File Photo



Howley's Blacksmith SE corner of Waverley & Springvale Rds

Eventually Mr Dunscombe came out and told us Jack had a little sister named Alice, we couldn't work out how they got that baby passed us without our seeing it. After much thought and deliberation we came to the conclusion that the doctor must have brought it in that black bag he had as a surprise for Mrs Dunscombe. Problem solved and doctor gone, off we went to play elsewhere. Jack and I were about 4, Ruby around 3.

Dinner for us is the midday meal so the evening meal was light and we refer to this as tea-time with all the talk of the day's events. Ruby, my younger sister is very quiet tonight, she suffers with Asthma and is having a lot of trouble at the moment. Oldest brother Bill and I over the years have been very mean to her, but I suppose that is usual for big brothers. I remember one particular time on Christmas Eve that she was gasping and wheezing, fighting for every ounce of air and all we could do was tell her to shut up or she would frighten Father Christmas away with her noise. Now that I am older I regret things like that but they cannot be undone so I must live with it. Mr Hussy saved Ruby's life when her Asthma became so bad she had to go to hospital. That was our punishment; she got to ride in a car before us. "Boy, were we mad at that!"

We were always stealing her doll and pram which we hid under the house and told her that Black Bart had taken it. Terrible liars these Rhodes boys. (I think Black Bart was a highway robber.)

I was a fair devil for smoking, I suppose at about 6 years old I started on this filthy habit. Any piece of paper and God knows what for tobacco, pine needles were very popular along with gum leaves, bark, grass and you name it I smoked it. Jack Dunscombe was my side kick in this and we discovered in the less used end of Wilson Rd where it came onto Gallaghers Rd, a large bush that had hollow roots with holes every few inches. You guessed it! We would cut off a length and smoke it.

Early tea tonight and great excitement, we are all going to visit Aunty Sissy (Ann Jane Rhodes, this is Dad's sister) and Uncle Bill Marriott. We will walk across the paddocks as the crow flies. We live on the high point of Wilson Rd and they live diagonally across from the Wheeler's Hill Hotel in Ferntree Gully Rd and Jells Rd. It's a beaut summer evening and us kids are pleading to start out early so

we can watch Uncle Bill carve the meat. This is a feat not to be missed, Aunty Sissy and our two cousins Minnie and Eva sit with an empty plate set in front of them, while Uncle Bill at the head of the table sharpens the knife in preparation to carve the leg of mutton.

From the Fred Marriott Collection



The store to the north of the Black Flat school in the 1950s. (some 30 years after Arthur Rhodes attended the school). On the left is Whitehead's Barber Shop , on the right is Tanner's Hardware Store.

He begins! He carves a full slice without a break, 3 pairs of eyes nearly fall out of their sockets as he picks up the slice on the knife and with a flick of the wrist it sails across the table and lands on one of the plates, all spread out as if he had carefully placed it there. Each one in turn is served the same. I suppose he does miss some times but I've never seen that happen. All this is done in total silence and that includes the visitors.

When it's time for home, Dad lights the lantern and with Ruby on his shoulders we set out for home. Dad shows us the possums and owls and any other night life that is about.

We pass Mr Wolstenhome's Quarry in Lum Rd on the west side north of Mackintosh Rd where he got the sandstone to build the St Matthews Church of England, on the corner of Wellington and Springvale Rds. He carted it on his bullock dray. Some say the stone for the Cheshire Cheese corner of Ferntree Gully and Lum Rds came from this quarry also.

Mrs Heims and family lived in Wilson Rd at the crest of the hill on the north side. Their land was narrow and passed the width of the Rhodes orchard and the Dunscombe market garden. Mrs Heims was the local midwife, nurse and go-to person if anyone was sick. I had cut my foot on a rusty tin and it became infected to the point that my leg had swollen and Mrs Heims had to cut my trousers off to lance the wound. These were new pants and I told all and sundry that she cut my new "trousers". It wasn't quite true as she opened up the seam to get to my leg.

Her daughter Alice was quite a tomboy and when it came time to bring the cow up for milk-

ing, Alice would ride it complete with jumps. This paddock sloped down out of site of the house (to about Townsend St now). The Matthews family owned this house at some time and then Mrs Townsend until it was subdivided. Next to them in Wilson Rd was the home of Thomas Doughty, again a narrow property and their daughter Sarah used a magic lantern show (glass slides) to entertain the children in the area, mostly Wilsons. This was shone onto a white sheet. Sarah told stories to go with the still pictures that were shown.

Bevel Yeoman's story of her father Arthur Rhodes will continue in the next issue of History Here.

Street Names

Arthur Rhodes' Story - see pp 3-5, illustrates the origin of the names of some of the streets in Waverley (Monash City). As there were branches of some families so the street might not be on what might be considered the major family property. Some names mentioned in this issue HH216 are:

Rhodes Drive Glen Waverley is named after the three generations of orchardists Will, William jnr. and Arthur who occupied the site.

Dunscombe Avenue GW is from the orchard family of William & sons William jnr. and Henry.

Sanday Street GW from Tom Sanday's property.

Wilson Road GW Four Wilson brothers settled in the area in 1860. First called Acacia Lane, later Swallow Lane then Wilson Rd.

Townsend Street GW Townsend owned the nearby land.

Mackintosh Road GW: Lewis and Wilhelmina Mackintosh settled at the corner of FTG Rd and Lum Rd in the 1890s on a property named *Glen Darra*. Unfortunately the house was destroyed by fire in the early 1960s.

Howleys Road Notting Hill Matthew Howley settled in the Notting Hill in the 1860s and operated a market garden. The blacksmith in Springvale Rd would appear to be a son / grandson..

Talbot Road Mount Waverley after John Talbot, a market gardener in MW.

Lum Rd Named after Mary Lum. Originally known as Macintosh Lane but later shown as Lums Rd in the 1904 Sands & McDougal Directory.