

Schramms Cottage & Museum

Sun 25th July at 2pm

Rieschiecks Reserve,

62-78 Victoria Street, Doncaster East

Schramms Cottage dates from c.1875. It was built for Max von Schramm, a German immigrant, for use as a house and a Lutheran (denominational) school.

The cottage was originally located in Doncaster Road, near the present Council offices, and was moved to this site following the decision to widen



Doncaster Road. \$5 entry fee on the day,

Email bookings essential by 13th July

Email waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Suie 0409 488 868

Book Launch and AGM

Sunday 22nd August at 2pm in our rooms

Last year was our 50th anniversary, but it was impossible to celebrate it, so now in 2021, our 50th PLUS ONE, will be doubly lauded! Our new book, *Then and Now Volume 2* will be launched, and former Waverley mayor, Peter Le Grand will reminisce for us. He was the driving force behind our Harry Seidler civic centre, now our Monash symbol. Peter was on Waverley council 12 years, was also a JP and a radio football commentator. He is now chairman of Melbourne Racing Club, and must have hundreds of insightful memories to share.



This will also be our Annual General Meeting, and a covid-safe afternoon tea with birthday cake will be served.

Email RSVP essential by 17th August

waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Suie 0409 488 868



Established 1970

Incorporated in Victoria
Reg. No. A 0006377 A

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SUBSCRIPTION

\$25 per household

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Annual subscriptions 2021/22 are
due on 1 July. \$25 per household

HISTORY HERE 236

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The Mitchell House

The Mitchell family bought a large farm south of High Street Rd and west of Huntingdale Rd before WWI and raised a family of five there. Mitchell Avenue is named in their honour. As the children grew up they too built homes and farmed in the area. This 1920s home was one of them, where a younger Mitchell family lived and ran dairy cattle, chickens and an orchard. This house and its neighbours on both sides were never owned by the Housing Commission that had bought the surrounding farmland. When the Mitchells sold the farmland and moved out, the house and surrounds were used as a church and conference centre. Despite the recent extension, the century-old glory remains. *Inset before the second storey extension. See also Once there was Jordanville*

Coming Events

The WHS is in hibernation until the lifting of restrictions on crowd events in our rooms.

See page 8 for some events that we have planned for dates to be advised. We are working on some more planned for later in the year.

Guest Speaker

Sunday 26th September at 2pm in our rooms

What do you know about the origins of Aussie Rules football? If you drive to the Grampians you might notice a memorial to the invention of the game at a tiny town called Moyston, but is that the full story? Did you know that it has been played for many years before that "first game" by indigenous peoples in this area? They called it Marngrook, and you can learn all about it when Francis Leon-Ellis comes explain it.



Email RSVP essential by 21st September

waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Suie 0409 488 868

Fallen Diggers

Dennis Frank

Sunday 24th October at 2pm in our rooms



In recognition of ANZAC day, this talk will cover the story of 27 Diggers taken off the "Missing List"

Email RSVP essential by 19th October

Via our Email waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Suie 0409 488 868

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea or
a gold coin donation.

What has WHS been doing?

Despite interruptions caused by lock-downs, WHS has been quite busy.

Working Bee

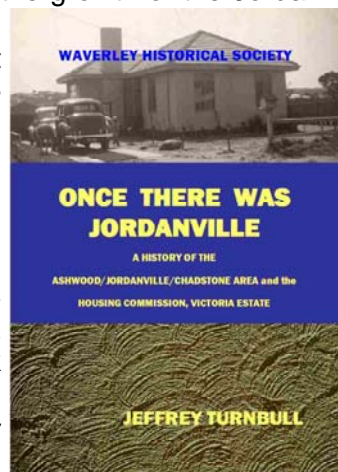
Our last Wednesday Work-time before this recent lockdown was a very busy spring-cleaning day. WHS's storage now looks most satisfactory. All recently donated items are now marked and stored. A very sincere thanks to the following people. Virginia Barnett reorganised the two realia cupboards and updated labels on boxes. Beverley Delaney cleaned out the pantry and refreshed the kitchen area. Ted Sullivan, Sandra Hymas and Norma Schultz tackled the two storerooms, discarding some items and reorganising the space. To top off the day Philip Johnstone and Marjo Angelico rehung the photos in the foyer and reorganised the furniture in the foyer with safety in mind.

Norma Schultz

We met Cr Rebecca Paterson and with representatives of the former Syndal Tech. about commemorating that remarkable school with a plaque.

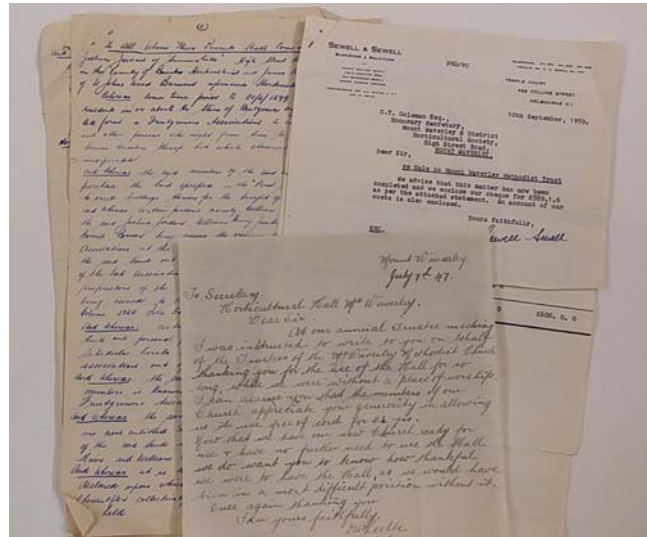
Our regular work – research enquiries, collecting new information, issuing the newsletter regularly, and handling book sales continue. Our program has begun again – see elsewhere in this newsletter for our interesting array of offerings. All this is due to some very dedicated members, which is all the more remarkable if their personal circumstances are known. Nearly every one of them has been through major life-changing tragedy recently.

Due to continuing demand we have reprinted the ever popular *Once There was Jordanville* book. This describes the growth of the Jordanville district from farming through the post war years and the development of the Housing Commission estate. We now have plenty of stock. If you or a friend grew up in this district then this is great reading and a reference at \$30 pick up from the WHS rooms direct, or posted (plus P&P).



Acquisitions

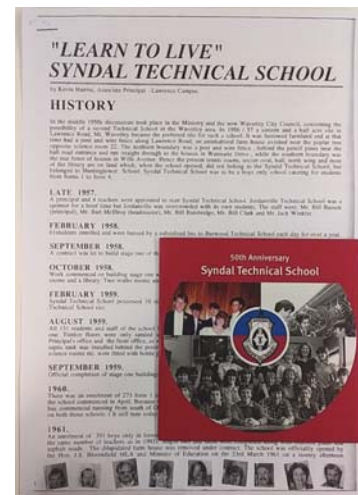
A donation (return?) of some old photos and notes from Susan Priestley, author of *From Cat-tlemen to Commuters* is greatly appreciated. Also, a collection of about a dozen books which arrived during restrictions has been recorded.



Old correspondence relating to the Mt Waverley and District Horticultural Society and the Hall on High Street Rd.

Cliff Harding of High Street Rd Uniting Church has donated digital copies of all his books and compilations.

Ralph Sinclair formerly of Syndal Technical School organised for some plaques that had been on the old school hall to be stored for posterity at WHS. Also we received a 50th Anniversary history of the School on DVD.



Quiz:

We all remember the old *Waverley Gazette* local newspaper. Can you name any other local papers? In particular, which one PRECEDED the Gazette by 12 years?

Answer p.7

Vale

Kevyn Sidney Brown

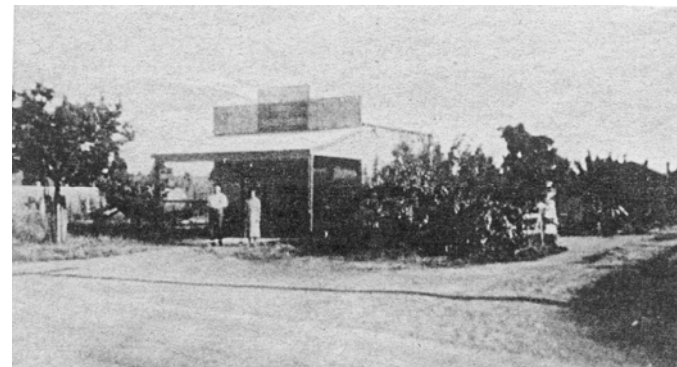
1940 - 10 May 2021

Kevyn Sidney Brown was born in 1940 and spent his entire life in our area. Kevyn lived in Mt Waverley, Syndal and Jordanville but always in Waverley!

He was the son of a farmworker and arborist, Sidney Arnold Brown (also a lifetime resident of Waverley) and Dora. This Sid Brown was an early WHS president. He loved the Society and worked tirelessly for it. Sadly, he died "in harness" during his presidency.

The Society for many years held a Memorial Sid Brown Lecture in the Civic Centre, and a tree was planted in his honour at High Street Rd Uniting Church, where he was also a parishioner and tireless worker.

Kevyn's Waverley grandparents were grocer Sydney Charles Brown and Florence nee Timberlake. Florence arrived from England as a young girl with her parents and siblings in 1882 and settled in High Street Rd near Lawrence Rd Mt Waverley in 1885. The grocer's shop was just west of the reservoir at 454 High St Rd (south side), opposite Leeds Ave. It was the first shop in Waverley, as Mt Waverley was then called, and took orders one week and delivered them the next. His grandparents' land reached westward to Charles Street and southwards to Mt Waverley Recreation Reserve – just enough room for their Jersey house cow. Before Grandpa Brown built the grocer's shop he worked in the City and would walk to the tram terminus at Burwood Road and Warriagal Road each morning.



General store of Sidney Charles Brown High Street Rd

In summarising his own life, Kevyn once said that his **schooling** was from Tally Ho State School for the first part of the first year and then Mt Waverley State School; Oakleigh Tech. for one year and then Jordanville Tech to third year.

His **education** included work experience with Ross and Henry (spray painters of fuel companies' petrol tankers, who used Lechte Brothers old farm sheds), plus Don Lechte, Clem Harris and

Bailey Thomas.

His **further education** was an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic with Queens Bridge Motors, Fishermens Bend, Machinery Division until 1975 and then he started with ASCOM Wellington Road Clayton (Part of Monash City, Shire of Mulgrave) as construction equipment manager. Then he said, "As my dad died at 62 and his dad died at 62 I decided to retire at 62 although I was still **learning**."

Yes, learning was certainly a feature of Kevyn's life. Readers might recall his entertaining railway article, published in HH233, October 2020. (Look it up!) Maybe that was why he was a regular at our meetings for many years – to learn whatever he could. Anyway, he got a few more years than his father did.



Kevyn Brown's Family home - Demolition 6 Mar 1982

Kevyn Sidney Brown passed away in Epworth Hospital on Monday 10th May 2021. Our condolences to his family. He will be missed.

Quiz answer

The Mulgrave *Mercury* began in 1949 and we now have a 1957 (Glen Waverley) issue!



VALE

Stan Opie

Long time member Robert Stanley (Stan) Opie passed away on 28.3.21 aged 93
See next issue for more details.

Horticultural Hall on High Street Road Mt Waverley

Recently, some old handwritten Minutes recording an early meeting of the Mount Waverley and District Fruitgrowers Association, came to light, prompting this brief history of the Horticultural Hall.

In 1897, the Shire of Mulgrave, totalling about twenty-five square miles, became a separate municipality. The rolling hills, back at the turn of last century, were picturesque and profitable – profitable because land settlers quickly discovered the potential of farming; fruit and vegetable farms proliferated.

One of the prime movers for a society, catering to farmers' interests was a J. Sykes, from Tally Ho, north of Highbury Road. On 11.05.1893, a group of influential residents of Mulgrave and its neighbouring suburbs met in the Tally Ho School and a week later, a committee was formed which set about composing rules and a constitution for the Boroondara, Nunawading and Mulgrave Horticultural and Fruitgrowers Association. This inclusive title was chosen as it aimed to attract a wide range of gardeners and farmers. It was to be a mutual improvement society, covering all aspects of farming and marketing.

The flourishing suburb attracted new families, and soon expanded and became more self-sufficient, not so much requiring the close ties with surrounding suburbs. Around June, 1899, a number of residents decided to form their own Fruitgrowers Association. The orchardists and anyone else who was interested, purchased a block of land between them. Buildings were to consist of a main hall and kitchen, paid for by moneys belonging to the Association. A newly formed Trust for this property, comprising seven trustees, became the Mount Waverley and District Fruitgrowers Association. The appointed trustees were granted power to sell, mortgage, exchange, encumber or otherwise deal with the Trust property on any position thereof, but only with the consent of the rest of the Association. The piece of land purchased, on the corner of Stewart Street and High Street Road, had a frontage of one hundred links containing one rood or thereabouts being part of Crown portion. The proposed building would be 40' long, 20' wide and 17' to the ceiling. Secretary J. D. Brewer designed the building.

By 1899, on top of the hill, the Association had built its *Horty Hall*. The size was deemed adequate for the times; a rusticated block and iron front and a moulded panel ceiling. A fireplace solved the heating problem in winter and a copper provided boiling water for suppers. The interior's dado was made of kauri pine which matched the comfortable kauri seats. Lighting came from nickel lamps and the

whole cost of building was just under £200. Before long, a piano was acquired and later, a gramophone, in keeping with the times.

The grand opening of the Hall on 23.09.1899 must have been a night to remember: concert, supper and dancing, speeches by William Knox MLC and John Keys MLA and a very happy building committee. The Hall quickly became an important part of the fabric of family life. Every May there was a social and every October, a concert. It catered for meetings, socials and concerts and educational sessions which were linked with the business of farming – this aspect of farm life was the pride of the committee. Lecture topics included preparation of fruit for home and export, livestock and their ailments, birds and their value in agriculture and practical irrigation. This education was essential, as old and new farmers found the land did not readily adapt to the level required for farming. It took years and much time and labour withstanding the vagaries of the weather and under-abundance of water. Once established, the orchards progressed favourably. Around February each year, agricultural shows abounded and gradually the farmers of High Street Road and environs not only got with the spirit but became recognised as leaders in the fields of farming and horticulture. The Hall was the place to display and show off their produce to all and sundry.

Next-door to the Hall, to the west, was the old Methodist Church, which burnt down in 1945. It re-opened in 1947, but for two and a half years the Church was given free use of *Horty Hall*, much to the gratitude of parishioners. The church harvest festivals were a highlight and associated events spilled over into the Hall. January picnic groups met at the Hall, using buggies and drays then set off down High Street Road to Springvale and thence to the beach or Ferntree Gully for a day's outing. The nearby Mount Waverley Primary School had reached bursting point in 1912, which called for extensions in 1914; at this point the upper grades took lessons at the Hall, as a temporary measure. The Department of Public Health used the Hall in connection with a TB campaign in the 1950's. So it wasn't all about farming; you might say the Hall was the centre of community life

Very sadly, the Hall burnt down in July 1981. A plaque on the footpath commemorates the site.

Reference: *Cattlemen to Commuters* S. Priestley
Virginia Barnett

Advance Australia Fair - Did You Know?

Advance Australia Fair - our national anthem

While searching through our files I came across a newspaper article called Waverley Remembers dated 1974. It was talking about the first time Advance Australia Fair was played at the ANZAC day service. Melbourne High School Band performed, playing both Advance Australia Fair and God Save the Queen. The Mayor Cr. Peter Davies and Leader of the Opposition and Liberal Candidate for Bruce Mr. Billy Snedden were in attendance. This started me wondering about its history so after some research this is what I found.

Timeline

1878

The original composition of 'Advance Australia Fair' was written by Peter Dodds McCormick and was four verses long. He had attended a concert at the Exhibition Building where anthems from around the world were performed with none sung for Australia. On the bus ride home McCormick wrote the first verse, and by the next day the music and lyrics were complete.

It was first performed at a Highland Society Function in Sydney on 30 November 1878 by Andrew Fairfax.

1901

1 January, it was sung at the Inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia by a choir of 10,000.

1916 or thereabouts

The earliest known recording is a dramatized commercial of Australian troops landing in Egypt en route to Gallipoli called *The Landing of the Australian Troops in Egypt* (1916).

Early 20th Century

It was used in news bulletins, and by the end of World War II it played at movie theatres following *God Save the King* and *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Talk was going on about having our own national anthem from 1943 onwards and especially when we hosted the 1956 Olympic games

1973

The Australia Council for the Arts held the *Australian National Anthem Quest* competition to find the lyrics and music for a new Australian national anthem.

The competition received more than 1400 entries for lyrics and 1200 entries for music, but the judges decided the entries did not meet the high standards of Australia's traditional songs *Advance Australia Fair*, *Waltzing Matilda* and *Song of Australia*. As a result, the Australia Council for the Arts recommended the final choice for the national anthem should be made from those three songs. The Bureau of Statistics then ran a national poll of 60 000 people, which found *Advance Australia Fair* was favoured by 51.4 percent of people, followed by *Waltzing Matilda* (19.6 per cent).

1974

Advance Australia Fair was adopted as the Australian National Anthem.

1976

God Save The Queen was reinstated.

1977

The Australian Electoral Office conducted another poll, which again found *Advance Australia Fair* was the preferred anthem (43.6 percent), followed by *Waltzing Matilda* (28.45 percent).

1981

The National Australia Day Council recommended the Australian National Anthem consist of verses one and two of *Advance Australia Fair* with modifications.

1984

On 19 April the then Governor-General, the Rt Hon Sir Ninian M Stephen KG AK GCMG GCVO KBE, proclaimed the Australian National

Anthem to be to the tune of *Advance Australia Fair* and the verses drafted by the National Australia Day Council.

Originally the first line of the song was 'Australia's sons let us rejoice,' but was changed to 'Australians all let us rejoice.'

2021

1 January 2021, the words of the second line of the Australian National Anthem were amended from 'For we are young and free' to 'For we are one and free', by Proclamation made by the Governor General, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), on the Government's advice.

To see how the 4 verses were modified over the years to become 2 verses you can see more details at this website address

<https://www.rap.org.au/evolution-of-the-words>

Kerrie Flynn

DAMPER CREEK BRIDGE

These days, local Mt Waverley residents have come to accept that Damper Creek flows across High Street Rd at the Park Rd - Alvie Rd intersections. Here are some reports extracted from the Argus newspaper that indicate that Damper Creek was once known to be the creek a mile to the west, now known as Gardiners Creek.

(1926, August 26). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), p. 7.

Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article3804987>

DAMPER CREEK BRIDGE.

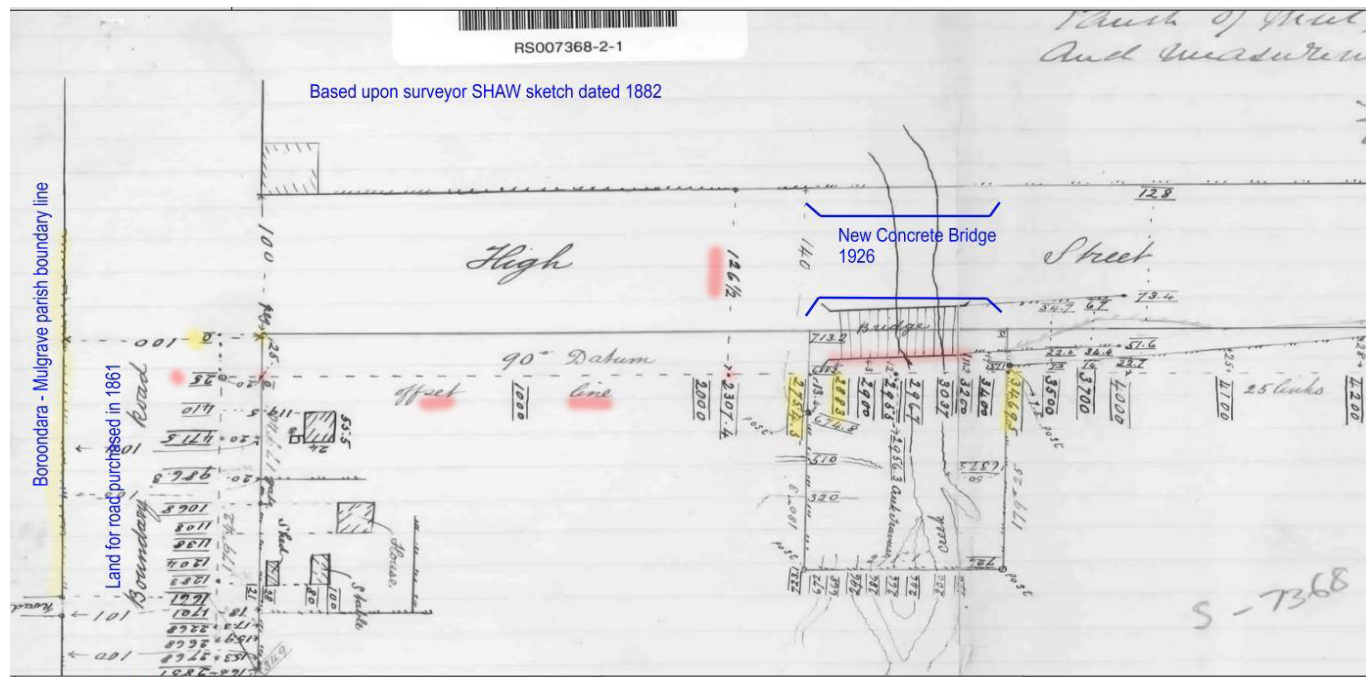
Aid Sought in Construction.

Representatives of the Mulgrave Shire Council waited on the Minster for Public Works (Mr. Goudie) yesterday with a request for financial assistance in the building of a concrete bridge over the Damper Creek.

Councillor C. H. Coleman (acting president of the Mulgrave Shire) said that the shire council was constructing the bridge at a cost of £4,600.

It was on the main road from Camberwell and Malvern to Ferntree Gully, and had to carry an enormous amount of foreign traffic. The old bridge had been built 70 years ago. It was in a dangerous state of disrepair, and had been condemned. The council had had a revaluation made last year, and had reached the limit in that respect. In spite of its financial position it had not sought Government assistance for 12 years. The council would be satisfied if the Ministry would contribute 25 per cent, of the total cost of the bridge.

Mr. Goudie said that he realised the justice of the council's claims, but he was in a peculiar position owing to projected legislation which would be submitted to the Legislative Assembly in regard to the control of bridges and main roads in the metropolitan area. If the legislation was passed and made retrospective it was possible that the Mulgrave Council would be relieved of the whole cost of the bridge. He would investigate the matter in any case, and in the event of the legislation not being passed he would consider the question of making a grant.



Note: Sketch showing the assumed relative positions between the new concrete bridge, built 1926, and the original wooden bridge, built in circa 1856.

Classified Advertising (1926, January 27). *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), p. 3.

Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article3731238>

SHIRE OF MULGRAVE.

TENDERS, addressed to the President, will be received until 8 p.m. on Thursday, the 4th February, 1926, for the following works: -

Construction of Reinforced Concrete Bridge over Damper Creek, High Street road.

Plans and specifications for the above work may be inspected at the Shire Hall, Notting Hill or at the office of Walters and Creswell, 443 Little Collins street, Melbourne.

E. L. G. CRESWELL, Shire Engineer.

Trove Extracts - Clive Haddock

Continued p.5

History Monash' Celebrates Sixty Years

On the evening of 20th May, 2021, *History Monash* celebrated a remarkable sixty years, with an attendance of members and visitors, held in the impressive heritage building which it calls home.

Situated on the edge of Oakleigh Cemetery, unfenced and with graves a few metres from the front door, a sense of history is stirred before one enters the building. The tone is set.

A comprehensive display of old maps of the City of Oakleigh, books, photos and artifacts, carefully arranged to advantage, occupied guests' attention before President Helen Gobbi, OAM, made an official welcome to the Mayor of Monash, Cr. Brian Little, Colin Bostock (City of Monash Co-ordinator, Neighbourhoods and Place Making), Charles Kovess (Bendigo Community Bank in Pinewood, and sponsors of *History Monash* and John Jarvis (Rotary Club of Clayton, Oakleigh and Huntingdale), Gerard Vaughan (previous president of Society) and Chrissie Foster AM. Vice-President Ian Westman thanked *History Monash* Inc. sponsors: City of Monash, Bendigo Community Bank and Rotary Club of Oakleigh/Clayton and Huntingdale.

Helen gave recognition to the Kulin people who once roamed this land and endorsed Ian's thanks to sponsors, without whom a Society cannot run adequately at all. Reference was made to fewer members renewing, due to the Covid19 year.

History Monash is a small but vibrant Group and was founded in 1961, and known as Oakleigh Historical Society. Seven years ago saw the change to *History Monash* Inc. This all came at a substantial cost, helped along by Bendigo Bank, and a strong, active committee and ably supported by Royal History Society, Victoria. During a quiet Covid19 year, business kept going online and book publications and heritage studies were able to continue.

Several visits were made to VCAT during this time, to defend vulnerable properties and keep a watch on heritage precincts. The cemetery is regarded as its most significant heritage possession. The members are passionate in their work and proud of their archives; recognising that what they do is just a "jot in time" in comparison with the first people. Records are available to the public (by appointment), and assistance is available to PhD's and other research students. Their work is seen as an invisible contribution. Cataloguing takes up most of members' time; Helen stated that in possession are estate

agents' records of the 19th and 20th centuries, more so than those held at Melbourne State Library.

Cr. Little thanked Helen, in a general way, for what *History Monash* has achieved. Brian Little was twice resident of Oakleigh after he and his family arrived as migrants from England, and he even had his own lift-up-the-lino story where old 1930's Melbourne railway timetables were found and he strangely recalled that the frequency of services back then exceeded those of today! Then Colin Bostock announced that the Oakleigh Council Office will celebrate one hundred years on the 23rd July 2021; this will involve a celebration and he extended an invitation to all present. This will be a Friday evening event although the Rooms will be open all weekend, with a similar exhibition to be managed by *History Monash*, as on show at present.

Helen rounded off the speeches, with thanks to all, in her measured and passionate way. She represents a truly worthwhile society.

The exhibition will be open at the HM rooms, Monash Federation Centre 3 Atherton Rd Oakleigh 10am-2pm Tuesdays.

Virginia Barnett

Damper Creek Bridge continued

It appears that the name Damper possibly derives from a John Damper who operated as a woodcutter in the district. Such an occupation would have been itinerant as the trees were felled the wood cutter would move on and we have no definite location of any permanent residence in Waverley.

We should not be surprised in the naming of these waterways as the flat area between Huntingdale road and the foot of the rise half a mile (800m) west, was prone to flooding and we can imagine the junction between the tributary from the north and that from the east would have been in the immediate vicinity and possibly move depending on the amount of rain in the wet seasons.

It is of interest to note that the plan of the Burwood Primary School (Burwood Hwy and McIntyre St) showed the adjoining watercourse as Damper Creek.

The bridge across the creek on Highbury Rd 1 km north was also known as Damper Creek.