

Waverley Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER

February 2009

Issue No 186

WAVERLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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\$15 per person
\$20 per family

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

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Introducing

our new series on

extant pre- suburban buildings

and reminders of
Waverley's rural
days



This time we feature the Dillon cottage in Lawrence Rd., built by Joe Dillon with his brother-in-law Charles Doolan in 1912.

The cottage has been owned and occupied by only one family through its 97 year history, but like the family, it has undergone many changes over the years. Originally part of an 18-acre market garden, this typical artisan's house is compact and unpretentious, and as such reminds us of the farming era and the hardworking early settlers in Waverley. It is called an "asym-metric post-Edwardian villa with projecting gable-ended wing finished with fretted barge boards." The original verandahs are now built in, but the cottage garden in the front is hardly changed. Many established trees grace the property. The coming of the railway made further changes to the garden, but all in all this house is a rare survivor in Waverley.

From the President

The Committee of WHS all hope you have had a joyful festive season and that this new year, already nearly two months old brings you all of the things that you aspire. As we go about our daily business we should spare a thought for those who suffered at the hands of the recent bushfires. It is with deep regret and sorrow that we understand other societies have not been as lucky as us and have lost members and collections because of the horrendous experience.

This will be another busy year for the volunteers and Committee members of the Society. Already we have needed to arrange a second print run of our hugely successful foray into book publishing with Jeff Turnbull's, "Once There Was Jordanville". Although we had expected the sales levels to significantly drop off after the first few months, we are still receiving a solid number of orders and may need to look at a second edition in a few years' time. The efforts of Ron Howarth and Rob Van Asten, two WHS members and long time Jordanville residents, in selling significant numbers have been recognised with Certificates of Appreciation and we trust their efforts will continue.

As a Committee, we are also working towards the finalisation of a comprehensive Operations Manual containing job descriptions, guidelines and processes to ensure a consistent approach over the long term is taken when recording and working with the Society's collection. We hope to have this manual substantially completed by the middle of this year when it will be necessary for the approval of members to be sought in respect of the Collections Management Policy which will form part of this manual. The ongoing work of preserving and conserving the images and photographs that have been provided to the Society over the years will also be stepped up this year to build on the substantial work done by past committees and volunteers.

Our recent Open Day, held at the Society's rooms on Australia Day was extremely successful and we have a number of external displays in tentative arrangement for later in the year, including in the Mount Waverley Library, the Monash Federation Centre and at SteamRail's annual excursion day in June when the steam train runs between darling and Glen Waverley. Details of these displays will be advised to you in the Newsletter and your visiting of, and feedback on, them would be much appreciated.

Jeff Turnbull has arranged a wide and extremely interesting range of speakers and activities for our meetings in 2009 and all of us on the Committee look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at those meetings which are all advertised widely in the Newsletter.

Best Wishes to you all - Ed Hore

Coming WHS Meetings

February 26 Meeting

Welcome to our new WHS year with "The Story of Melbourne's Trams" by Graham Jordan, secretary of

Bylands Tram Museum, the home of tram history. Graham has a longstanding interest in Melbourne's lightrail history. Did you know, for example, that recent roadworks in North Melbourne unearthed 100m of 19th century cable tram track?

March 26 Meeting

To mark 25 years in our rooms, we welcome the builder of the Mt Waverley library and many of Waverley buildings. George Dore will speak on "Building Mulgrave to Monash" You will remember from the feature article on G. W. Dore in our July 2007 issue.

April 23 Meeting

For our ANZAC meeting, we have invited Major General Frank Poke to speak on "Darwin - Its place in the history of Australia's participation in WW2."

On Thursday 19 February 1942, Australia was for the first time attacked by a foreign nation. The attack was the biggest air raid of WW2 up to that time. The military strength and ambitions of Germany and Japan were greatly underestimated, and our defence vastly underfunded. How did Australia hold off the ferocious attack? Come and hear the story of "Darwin Defenders 1942-45 Inc."

Coming Events

Local History Displays

If you use the Mount Waverley library in March, have a look at our display in the glass display cabinet near the exit. It will feature various aspects of life in Waverley in the past, and will be designed to fascinate viewers with local history.

The current displays at the Monash Federation Centre features the Head family, who are celebrating 170 years in this area (See article in this newsletter). Did you know Ferntree Gully Rd was once called Head's Gully Rd? The original Head family lived where St. John's Preschool is, and a creek now barreldrained and known by the prosaic name of Macrina St. Drain, caused the wobble in Ferntree Gully Rd there. There are still Head families in the area.

Also on display at MFC is a presentation on the Oakleigh City Band, with some memorabilia and news articles

After that a variety of displays is planned: churches, industry, the Cemetery - all unique opportunities to view treasured images and memorabilia from the collections of the library and the two historical societies.

Oakleigh and District

Have you any connections with Oakleigh? (Which Waverley person hasn't?) Have you ever considered joining Oakleigh and District Historical Society as well as Waverley HS? ODHS's next meeting is scheduled for **Sunday April 5th**. It will be their AGM as well as a Local History seminar. It only costs \$15 (single) to join and they also have interesting speakers, materials, and projects. I am sure they would love to have you along!

WHS April 19 Bus Trip

Our annual excursion is planned for Sunday 19th April, and this year we intend visiting **Queenscliff**. All are welcome and you may invite friends too. All details of cost and arrangements will be discussed at the February and March meetings. If you are interested in coming on the trip and can't attend those meetings, you will need to contact the secretary, get all details, pay your money and book your seats in good time.

June 28 Steam Train

Forward notice that our fifth annual steam train rides event has been set for Sunday 28th June this year. Get your grandchildren to mark their calendars now. More details closer to the day.

Fix our Typewriter?

Can anyone fix typewriters? We acquired one a while ago for children to play on at our open days. Unfortunately the carriage won't return, so it is of no use. We wondered whether any of you has enough expertise with them to be able to look at it and see whether it can be fixed. Please contact the Secretary if you can help.

WHS Event Reports

Australia Day 2009

After the flag-raising and brunch at the civic centre, several members of WHS hurried back to our rooms to open the doors for our now annual Open Day.

On display were an array of albums containing old local photos, some artifacts and memorabilia, a history mystery quiz, and a display about Damper Creek. There were old newspapers to browse, display boards to view, and aerial photos to peruse. People could learn the meaning of their street name, or how we date maps and photos. Children were given flags and temporary tattoos. There were other giveaways too, and also sales of the various books - plenty to do for everyone.

About 50 enthusiastic people came, many of them staying quite a while to ask questions and peruse. Once again, it was very successful. This seems to be the right time for people to get in touch with the part of them that enjoys local history, as many people do without realising it, it seems.

Thanks to all our willing workers on the day - Great job!

Anniversaries

25 years in our rooms

Checking through the history of the Waverley Historical Society I made a discovery! In 1981, we were first granted free use of the upstairs library meeting room (presumably for meetings only). Then in 1983 we were granted full use of the upstairs as a permanent home. Furniture was obtained soon after. That means we have been there 25 years!

25 years of Advance Australia Fair

A revised version of this 1878 patriotic song was officially declared the national anthem on 19 April 1984.

Peter Dodds McCormick, a Scot, composed 'Advance Australia Fair' under the pen-name 'Amicus' (amicus is the Latin word for 'friend'). It was first performed in Sydney on Saint Andrew's Day, 1878. An amended version was also sung by a choir of 10,000 at the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January, 1901. In 1907, the Australian Government awarded McCormick £100 for his composition. Peter McCormick died in 1916 and 'Advance Australia Fair' became free of copyright in 1966.

Some of the original words of the song have been changed for the official version. 'Australia's sons let us rejoice' was the original first line; this has been replaced with 'Australians all let us rejoice'. In the third verse of the original song, two lines were changed - 'To make our youthful Commonwealth' became 'To make this Commonwealth of ours', and 'For loyal sons beyond the seas' became 'For those who've come across the seas'.

The official anthem was 'God Save the Queen' (or 'King') from 1788 to 1974, although numerous competitions were held over the years to find a substitute. The first was held in 1840. The 1972 competition drew over 400 entries, and the official 1973 competition drew 2500 entries for the words and 1300 for the music. After a lot of controversy Advance Australia Fair was finally proclaimed Australia's national anthem by the Governor General in 1984.

- From the Govt. website www.dfat.gov.au

Holmesglen Migrant Hostel

This year it is 60 years since the Commonwealth Government bought land at Jordanville for migrant accommodation.

After WWII, immigration boomed in Australia. In 1949, 9 acres of the corner of Power Avenue and Warrigal Road was acquired for a new Commonwealth Migrant Hostel, one of several around Victoria.

Nissen huts were erected in a horseshoe shape around a central ablutions block, general store, and child care facility. A communal dining room across Power Ave. doubled as a recreation hall and meeting place, not only for the migrants, but for the broader community too. Several churches and scout groups used the hall every week. Weekly dances and films, being open to the public, attracted crowds. There was also a basketball court, and a playground, long before there were other such facilities around Jordanville.

There were 52 huts containing 320 rooms and housing 110 families (475 people) at a time. Each Nissen hut had light walls down the middle separating one family's space from another's. Rent was £4/17/5 for each man, £4/6/- for women, and 25/- for children aged 5-11. Linen was washed free. Many of the adults found work at local factories - Aspro, Sennits Icecream, Brockhoff, and the Holmesglen Factory where the Jordanville houses were made.

From 1959 Waverley Council ran the hostel, till just before Christmas 1970 when the migrants moved to the more comfortable Enterprise hostel, which had opened in Springvale. The huts remained vacant for at least a year and were badly vandalised, but some parts were to have a new lease of life - the ablutions block went in 1971 to Glen Waverley Secondary College's Camp Nayook (wonder if it has survived the current fires?); the shop hut went to Westall High for its camp, and Jordanville Tech. got a hut for its gymnasium.

I have not yet found how many New Australians passed through this halfway house into a new life in a new land, but with an average stay of 16 months each, it must have been about 8000. Though the huts could hardly have been called comfortable, the warm welcome extended to migrants and the hope of a better life in Australia did make hostel life an improvement on staying in the old country.

155 years - Mulgrave Arms Hotel/Oakleigh Motel

The Mulgrave Arms Hotel (not to be confused with the Mulgrave Post Office Hotel, which is now called the Wheelers Hill Hotel) was once a household word in these parts.

The land was bought in the first land sales, October 1853, and less than a year later (6/9/1854) the doors opened for business. Hastily raised? Yet it was still a sought-after venue over 100 years later.

Originally built and owned by Thomas Irwin, it was run by the Irwin family for 41 years (i.e. until 1895). It was near one of the dreaded tollgates at the time when funds had to be raised somehow to improve the roads. Being in a well-trafficked area that was also low and inclined to be boggy, a section of "corduroy" road had been built there in that first decade. This was road inlaid with split logs to keep wheels high and dry and moving. It could not have made for a very comfortable ride, though!

Thomas Irwin was a man of great energy and community-mindedness. Not only did he run the hotel, he also farmed the surrounding 86 acres and bought by 1864 some ex-common land on Ferntree Gully Rd at Dandenong Creek for agistment. He gave his time on the Roads Board, the predecessor of local government in the area, and even hosted the meetings of the Mulgrave Council at the hotel from 1872 till 1888 when the shire offices were built.

As the years unfolded, the Mulgrave Arms continued to be an important meeting place for other events. The famous local bicycle builders, Malvern Star, used to hold bike races in the early 20th century to showcase their products. A popular check point and drink-break place would be the Mulgrave Arms.

Fifty years later it was still not forgotten. The Mulgrave Arms was the turning around point for the 1956 Olympic marathon. Unfortunately by then its days were numbered,



The Malvern Star Cycle race used to start at the Mulgrave Arms Hotel. This was the 1909 race.

and the building was about to be retired and replaced by the new fad in accommodation - the motel. With the rise and rise of the motor car as a means of transport, motels began to overtake hotels. Oakleigh Motel was built on the site of the Mulgrave Arms in 1956, but NOT in time for Olympics.

The Motel was the first in Victoria and one of the first in Australia, and was considered luxury accommodation of its time, its builder having gleaned all the best practices in motel architecture from the USA before deigning his own. Modern and well-thought-out it may have been, but one cannot help comparing with the rustic charm of the old Mulgrave Arms. It is a great pity that no remnant of that old icon was left.

Now, just another 50-odd years later, the Motel is clearly dated - some would say outdated - and its owners are ready for its next rebuild. However that very datedness - the fact that it immediately evokes mental images of drive-in theatres, American sitcoms, hamburgers, and the Beatles makes it a link with history. Not a part of history we necessarily wish to emulate, but still a part of what was here.

We hope the heritage surrounding the site will not be lost in another total razing of the old to make way for a totally different structure. (The latest news is that, though Monash Council upholds its heritage status, the owners are appealing to VCAT.)

170 Years of Head family

In 1839 newlyweds William and Sarah Head, aged 20 and 19 respectively, were employed by John Gardiner, one of the newest settled parts in the Port Phillip District (i.e. Victoria) of the colony of New South Wales. They travelled by boat to their new home where Gardiners Creek joins the Yarra - the site of present day Scotch College.

For two years William farmed the land and Sarah "kept the hut", i.e. ordered supplies, fed and cared for all Gardiner's workers, and looked after travellers. During that time, the Head family tell us, William planted the first crops in Port Phillip, making him Victoria's first farmer, and Sarah had their first two sons, being the first white babies born in the area.

After completing their work with John Gardiner, they continued to grow wheat and have babies, and they established the first family farm (a 10-acre wheat farm in Brighton). As soon as the first land was sold in Oakleigh/Mulgrave, William bought his second farm (in what is now East Oakleigh) where he stayed till his death in 1882.

While in Brighton, William helped build the first Methodist chapel in 1845 and then the new brick chapel in 1851. In Head's Gully Mulgrave they had church in their home, and later was instrumental in founding the first Oakleigh Methodist Church, the Sunday School, the cemetery, and the

first public school in Oakleigh (No 449 - and he was chairman of the school committee for many years).

William and Sarah Head had 14 children, 9 of whom survived to adulthood. Now there are 3200 descendants, and every year they hold a family picnic in a park - often Warrawee Park. The 150th is said to be the largest family picnic in Australia!

They certainly have a history worth celebrating.. See more about them at Monash Federation Centre display this month!

This month we say “goodbye” and “thank you” to some longtime residents of Waverley who have contributed a lot to the local community and to the Society. Our heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of these people, and may we all be inspired by the legacy they left us.

VALE Bill Cooper

23 April 1908 - 27 December 2008

Over 100 years walking on this planet is quite something! People who knew Bill Cooper in his many years with Waverley Historical Society will remember his sense of humour and his quiet hard-working nature, but some may not realise that his name was NOT William, but Cyril Ernest.

Bill was tenth in his family and was born on his parents' market garden in Murrumbeena. He attended Rosstown State School until the Murrumbeena school, where he completed his education, opened in 1917. By then his father had sold the farm and started cartage contracting. Bill drove the horse and dray, and carried bricks, sand, and other building materials around metropolitan Melbourne.

When he was 18, Bill and his brother Tom leased a property on Ferntree Gully road opposite Clayton Rd and grew vegetables on it for 5 years. Working his way out along Ferntree Gully Road, he next leased another property for 5 years, this time where the freeway passes over the road, near a street long gone called Atkinsons Lane. In 1936 Bill bought 20.5 acres in Watsons Rd. The following year he married Edna, (with a real tin-kettling!) and continued growing vegetables there for thirty-odd years before selling to developers. Even then he stayed on the property. He bought one of the blocks of land and built a house there, still on Watsons Rd, but on the corner of a new street - Cooper Avenue!

Bill and Edna had two daughters, Valerie and Marie. Valerie

married John Brasher and they had two sons, Gary and Ross. Gary's sons Matthew and Nicholas still grow vegetables (and supplied some for their great grandfather's coffin!).

Bill was a man's man, a very hard worker, often working 7 days a week in his younger days, independent and capable. However he was always cheerful and fun to be with - as testified by some of the nephews who lived with the family and worked for him. Ray worked for him in the Depression years and Kevin a little later and both spoke of the fun and jokes that typified their days. Kevin mentioned Bill's bike with wooden wheels, and his solid-tired truck. Marie remembered that later it was her Dad's truck that took all the children to their Sunday School picnics.

An active sportsman, Bill played football for Glen Waverley and supported Collingwood. That did not stop him from watching other matches, though. Every week he would go to VFL Park and watch whoever was playing there. He was also a keen cricketer and the Captain of the Glen Waverley 2nd Elevens. When the Mulgrave Country Club opened, he became a foundation member and played pennant and social lawn bowls there for many years. He also loved his Probus, historical society, and masonic connections, and was a passionate gardener and loved animals.

Hard working, cheerful, surrounded by happy laughter, a family man, a local for a century - Bill has contributed much to Waverley. Our condolences to Marie and the wider family.

VALE Mary Dillon

2 January 1922 - 1 January 2009

Mary Dillon, the youngest of three sisters born to Joseph and Ethel (“Doll” nee Doolan) Dillon lived all her life in one house, which still stands in Lawrence Rd Mt Waverley (and is still home for her sister Eileen). Their father and his

brother cleared the land and planted the market garden that fed the family for many years. Earlier (1872) their grandparents had arrived in Australia and settled just around the corner in St. Albans Rd, in “The Township of Waverley.”

The Dillons and Doolans were very active in St. Stephens Church, attending Sunday school, afternoon church and many other activities. The Dillon girls attended Mt Waverley Primary school, and did very well, getting Merit Certificates (higher education in those days) and scoring good jobs later. Mary later worked in the city, at VICC cablemakers, and also spent time working for Miss Tait in the little Post Office store in Stephenson's Rd. Miss Tait had tame magpies that she fed, and that used to bark like dogs, it is said. Mary and Eileen also have pet birds - butcher birds that sing for their supper at the kitchen door where they are fed. The mail Mary sorted used to come out from Oakleigh by horse-drawn coach. Later the first public phone was installed there, and Mary must have overheard many things, but she was always discreet.

Spending so many years in the one place, Mary saw many major changes sweep through the area. The reservoir was built, using horse teams; the railway came, and the area developed with shops and services gradually being laid on. She saw their 18 acre market garden grow and flourish, and then be acquired by the Education Dept. to become Syndal Tech., and then change again into the current crop of huge mansions on tiny blocks of land.

Mary loved the country lifestyle - friendly neighbours, trees, wildflowers, birds and rabbits everywhere. She loved being able to bring fresh milk and cream to work in the city. Helpful attitudes reigned, like in the staff of the little country train, who knew everyone, and would stop and pick them up closer to their homes, putting out a ladder to assist them.

All the neighbours knew one another and people made their own entertainments in the evening, eg gathering around a piano, picking mushrooms in paddock or plantation; and social activities centred around St. Stephens, and the football

and cricket clubs. It is not surprising, then, that many of the family married locals (like the Dillons and Doolans).

Mary found it heartbreaking to see all the old orchards and market gardens being bulldozed for housing. Many of the old families moved further out to continue their farming, and young couples came in their thousands to new houses on new estates with NO amenities. Mary felt for them in what they had to endure, but sometimes felt like a stranger in her own hometown. Mary was like that. She could understand what life was like for others in quite different circumstances from her own.

Mary had a marvellous memory for anniversaries and birthdays. Mary and Eileen show a deep awareness of and empathy with others (eg those with young babies) and a continuing interest in their extended family, often having had various ones to stay. Mary liked simple pleasures - fresh milk and cream, parties, her favourite beetroot salad, the tennis on TV, gardening, knitting, animals, birds, sitting with a cat in her lap, and teddy bears. She wore a teddybear brooch, had teddies on her stationery, in her home and elsewhere.

Mary put in a lot of hours at WHS, proofreading and copying the newsletter, helping people with their enquiries, organising the birthday function, and taking care of the copying machine, among other responsibilities. She knew so of many families in the Waverley area over the years, and almost always had helpful ideas for researchers. She was took an intelligent and well-thought-out approach to everything. For this great support of WHS she was awarded a life membership in 2005.

Our condolences to Eileen and to the wider family, and goodbye and thank you, Mary.

VALE Bert Damon

29 June 1922 - 9 January 2009

Albert Francis Damon was the oldest child of Ted and Florrie Damon, who also had Fred, Harold, Allan, Alma, and Keith. The family grew up in Waverley Rd where they ran a successful 15 acre market garden for many years.

In 1928 the family moved a weatherboard house from near Jordanville station to their land. With the "new" house, the family had the honour of being known to deliverymen as "the fourth house on the left from Warrigal Rd." The house was over 100 years old when it was sold in 1977, and Bert recalled for a newspaper article about it, how a team of 14 horses was needed to shift it.

In that time Bert and his siblings went to Mt Waverley State School, where Bert obtained his Merit Certificate. No doubt like most Australians, they enjoyed their Vegemite, which was "born" the same year as he was.

After Grade 8 Bert worked hard at vegetable growing. He found that braces restricted his movement too much, and belts were too expensive - so he used to wear a tie - not around his collar, but around his waist! However on Saturday nights the tie was in the right place and the shirt

pressed immaculately as he would pick up his current girl and "dink" her on his bike to the dance!

However he did not marry until 1964 when Gwen, the young widow of his cousin George Cornell, became his life partner. With Gwen came her two teenaged children Barbara and Ray, whom he loved as his own, and who supplied him with his much-loved grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Bert worked on the Waverley Rd property until most of the land was sold in 1956, and a new market garden was purchased in Noble Park. The family was devastated when Ted died aged 64, in 1963, but they continued on until 1970 when Bert and Gwen bought a dairy farm in Berwick. Over many years Bert was active in many clubs and societies, including Waverley Historical Society, but none so much as Minnibah centre for intellectually handicapped children.

Bert will be missed for his hard work in many places, his magnificent smile, great sense of humour, and good listening skills. He was truly a "people" person and leaves a great legacy. Our sympathy to Alma and all the family.

Changes About Town

Do you remember the curved building on Ferntree Gully Rd that was built for **New Oakleigh Motors** about fifty years ago? It has had many functions over the years, including Olinda Nurseries, and Australian Lattice Co. Behind it was McDougall Ireland Construction at first, until the back of the building was burned down; since then a stream of other occupiers have used the remaining parts of the building and land. Recently the whole property (ten acres) was razed and now a fresh batch of tilt-slab factories is being erected on the land. Incidentally, in the original subdivision in 1952 allowed for access to the back of the land via a little street called Terry Street. Obviously this plan was discontinued due to the necessity of heavy traffic then passing through residential streets, and Terry St. is now a small playground.

The **apartments** on Springvale Rd next door to St. Leonards are finished and in use. Also Syndal Baptist's huge new development on the site of the old lube centre is completed and officially opened. Major renovations at Holy Family and Mt Waverley schools are progressing.

Corpus Christi retirement home, on the site of "new" Corpus Christi on Bayview Ave. and Clayton Rd (built after the big Corpus Christi on Waverley Rd was sold to the Police Academy) is expanding onto land that was recently occupied by four houses on Clayton Rd.

Amaroo Neighbourhood House has nearly finished its facelift of mosaics and white rendering. The Clariant building on Warrigal Rd has been bulldozed awaiting its new development. **Holmesglen TAFE**, Waverley Rd campus has grown enormously and several courses are now available there. It seems to have "swallowed up" that little unmade street called Montague Rd which ran parallel to Bogong Ave. but was never used. Wadham House is getting a facelift!

What in YOUR area is changing? Please contribute to this section! It helps readers to know what is happening in parts they don't get to, and it also offers future researchers a timeframe of when developments occurred. History is what is happening now as well as what happened in the past.

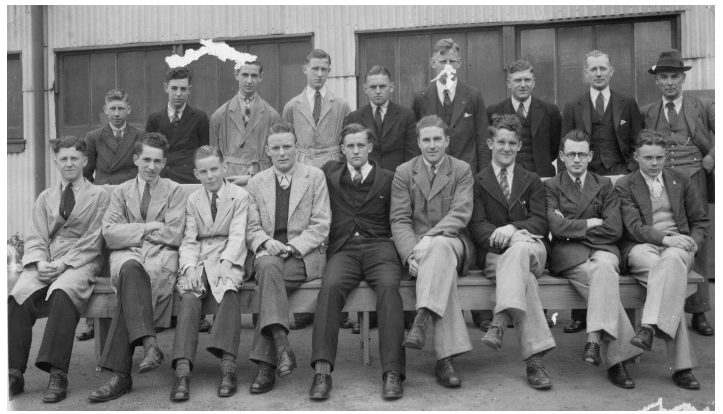
History around us

Did you know?

Stephensons Road at the north near the junction with what is now Highbury Rd was shown as Mansons Lane in the Sands and McDougall Directory of 1900. Inspection of the subdivision maps of the time reveal that Hugh Manson had 20 acres at the southeast corner of this intersection.

J. R. Cooper Timber

A recent enquirer wanted to know where J. R. Cooper timber merchant's business was in Notting Hill. Joseph Robert COOPER was his great grandfather, a timber merchant and builder. He had owned a Joinery in Dandenong Road in



Malvern East (about which Malvern Historical Society had provided information), but wanted information on his other propriety, the one in Notting Hill, officially called "JR Cooper (Notting Hill) Pty Ltd."

I was fortunate to have some information, provided by Edna Cooper years ago, when she was explaining which Coopers were and were not related to her. She had told me, "J R Cooper had earlier had a timber yard in Dandenong Rd East Malvern. After closing this business at the end of World War 2, he moved to Blackburn Rd Notting Hill (just south of Ferntree Gully Rd), where he carried on the business for many years. At this time rapid development was taking place and many homes and businesses were being established, so the need for his services was high."

This is made obvious by the large staff he employed. This is the photo our researcher supplied. We were able to answer his question about where exactly the place was, and he was able to add to our collection with this photo. Can anyone help with more details of the business?

Is February a real month?

Astronomers Declare February No Longer a Month

An April 1 story by Michael Haber, January 20, 2009

Emboldened by their success in declaring Pluto not a planet, the International Astronomical Union determined this week by a close vote that February is too short to be considered a true month. It has, however, been granted the newly created status of "dwarf month." It shares this dubious distinction with several other calendar time spans, including Labour Day Weekend, Easter, summer Vacation, and the Time Between When You Were Supposed to Get Your Oil Changed and When You Actually Did.

"It only seems fair," said IAU President Ron Eckers. "February reaches a peak size of 29 days, averaging only 28 days for 75 percent of the time. Recent research has shown that other periods, such as the Time Between When You Were Supposed to Get Your Oil Changed and When You Actually Did, often exceed this meagre time frame. In fact, this erratic behaviour only strengthens our case that February does not belong in the same classification as the eleven 'true' months."

Eckers also warned that the crop of 30-day "so-called" months should be careful to maintain their number of days. "They're already cutting it pretty close, in my book."

CALENDAR SUMMARY Autumn 2009

Thursday 26th February at 8pm at our rooms - Graham Jordan - "The Story of Melbourne's trams"

March - WHS display in display case at MT Waverley library

Thursday 26th March at 8 pm at our rooms - George Dore - "Building Mulgrave to Monash"
Sunday April 5th - Oakleigh & District meeting

Sunday April 19th BUS TRIP to Queenscliff

Thursday 23rd April at 8pm at our rooms - MajGen Frank Poke - Darwin WW2.
The winter newsletter will be available for pickup at this meeting. (Deadline for contributions is 10th April.)

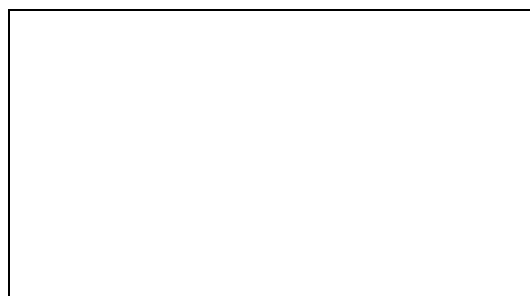
Sunday 28th June - STEAM TRAIN RIDES

Our next few meetings will be SUNDAYS 24/5, 27/6, 26/7 at 2pm

Waverley Historical Society Inc

PO Box 2322

Mount Waverley, 3149



BACK-TO-SCHOOL TEST

The children are off the streets and back in school, but how about us?

Test yourself with this five-question quiz and see whether it is time YOU went back to school...

Please answer the questions instantly. Give an immediate response and don't use calculators, pencil or paper.

1. You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?

Answer: If you answer that you are first, sorry! If you overtake the 2nd person, you take his place. You are now second. Try not to mess up the next question.

2. If you overtake the last person in the race, what position are you in?

Answer. If you answered that you are second last, then you are wrong again! Tell me, how can you pass the last person? You are not very good at this, are you?

3. Some mental arithmetic. Take 1000, add 40 to it. Add another 1000, then add 30. Add another 1000, another 20. Add another 1000, and finally add ten. What is the total?

Answer. Do you get 5000? Sorry, the correct answer is 4100. Don't believe me? Check it yourself, afterwards!

4. Mary's father has 5 daughters; 1 Nana, 2 Nene, 3 Nini, 4 Nono. What is the name of 5th daughter?

Answer. Did you answer Nunu? No! Of course it isn't. Her Name is Mary. Read the question again.

5. A mute person goes into a shop to buy a toothbrush. By miming the action of brushing his teeth he succeeds in communicating his need and the purchase is done.

Next a blind man comes into the shop wanting some sunglasses. How does HE indicate what he wants?

Answer. He just opens his mouth and asks. Simple!