



Waverley Historical Society *Inc* Newsletter

February 2011

Issue No 194

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

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.

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Extant Pre-Suburban Buildings: reminders of Waverley's rural days



The Lechte family settled in Mount Waverley in 1860 and were very active in the local community. John Lechte was an MLA; many Lechte women were crucial volunteers in the local Red Cross, and three brothers fought in Gallipoli. The family was active in the local cricket team, but especially in the High Street Rd Methodist (now Uniting) Church. In fact before the church was built, Methodist meetings were held in Albert Lechte's house. Later Lechtes donated the land for a church building. We are thrilled that a Lechte house still stands on their old land, where it used to face High Street road. "Dondarden" has been carefully and sympathetically restored to its 1914 splendor, including reinstating mantelpieces where open fires once kept the family warm.

Editorial

Dear W.H.S. Members,

Welcome to 2011 and our New Start in the refurbished rooms on the top floor of the Mount Waverley Library! At 10 a.m., Monday Jan. 10, Committee Members assembled upstairs ready to handle the packed boxes as they arrived on trolleys at the top of the steps and were wheeled to the designated storeroom either side or into the main room.

MarJo's young family proved to be expert at opening the cardboard boxes, while others put their contents in cupboards or on display and everything went smoothly and methodically for some hours. [For me, it was a great delight to see old pens and slates and school books on display again – while on top (and up a ladder!) I helped assemble the large collection of chocolate (and white chocolate) covered volumes acquired from historic St. Stephen's archives.] A second, smaller display cabinet also on the west wall held some lovely old lamps and toiletry articles – while across the room on the east side other committee members were assembling familiar books and records and on top were the intriguing shapes of larger articles: butter churns and other early 20th century equipment. The whole was made lovely by the beautiful parquet floor set with large pieces in stunning colours [especially pinks], that was complemented by a central honey coloured table - and matching chairs with grass green seats.

One disappointment, however, was the computer work room behind, shut off from the main floor by a wall well above head height, with no windows. But in a short time a committee member had assembled a tiny screen and peep camera, so that people working there could feel in touch, part of the whole. Before we left for the day we lowered

mesh screens – two for each window – that protect the collection from UV damage.

Some went down in the lift – what luxury!

Judy Borg

From the President

For this first newsletter of 2011, I hope that you have all had a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year festive season.

Our thanks are due to the Monash Council and its staff for the funding and undertaking of the refurbishment, including the installation of a passenger lift, and although we will need to share the venue with the Library, goodwill and good faith on both sides will ensure a smooth transition and workable arrangement in line with that which already exists for the Oakleigh & District Historical Society and its use of the Monash Federation Centre.

The other major objectives of the Committee for the remainder of fiscal 2011 will involve both external and internal matters.

Externally, we will be looking to finalise a formal agreement with Monash Council regarding the occupancy of our rooms, including the times when the rooms will be available solely for the Society's exclusive use. As part of these negotiations we will also need to liaise with the Oakleigh & District Historical Society as they are going through the same process with Council and, as far as is practicable, we need to ensure the terms, conditions and obligations governing the parties involved and the Societies' occupancy of Council owned premises are consistent and reasonable.

Internally, we will be looking to complete our Operations Manual which will include our Risk Management and Disaster Preparedness Planning as well as the Disaster Recovery Plan and detailed Job Descriptions for each post within the Society. We also need to address the actions the Society needs to take to accommodate the recently enacted amendments to the

Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria). It could be that changes to the administrative sections of our Constitution will be required to address those amendments, but any such actions in that regard would naturally and necessarily be put to the members for approval. One task that will be held in abeyance for this year, mainly because of the time and effort required to follow it through, will be the endeavor to obtain more beneficial insurance coverage. Past experience has shown that many hours can be spent in pursuing opportunities in this area only for them to prove fruitless in the end, and as the work involved in moving back into our rooms will take many months and needs to be treated as a priority, the existing insurance arrangements be maintained for another year at least.

You will all be aware that the Society re-structured its subscription payment arrangements for fiscal 2011 so that the previous distinction between individual and family memberships was dispensed with and all members would therefore pay the same fee. In the case of the current financial year, this fee was struck at \$20-00 per "household" membership, a fee that involved a marked increase for those that had previously paid as an individual but which remained the same for former "family" memberships. The magnitude of the fee still represents very good value for our members, especially in recognition of the quality of the four newsletters per year that are distributed to each household. The Society needed to increase its fee revenues as the operating costs that needed to be met had been steadily increasing, whereas the membership fee had been held relatively stable for some years.

It is gratefully acknowledged that the past endeavors of different committees and individual members of the Society have resulted in it now having a sound capital base. It is the Committee's view that such capital should be utilised in either the purchase of long term assets for the benefit of the Society, or for the funding of special efforts (such as our recent work in publishing Jeff Turnbull's "*Once There was Jordanville*" and also the "*Then and Now – Volume 1*"). Appropriate financial responsibility requires that ongoing operating costs are at least matched by ongoing operating revenues and for

some years this had not been the case. To use the example that formed the basis adopted to determine the fee structure for this financial year, and noting: (i), the Society's accounts are maintained on a cash basis and that therefore there can be significant variances from year to year for the different cost dissections; and (ii), that the amounts received from Bank Interest, Donations and Ritchie's are outside of the control of the Society (See table of costs on page 8.), the revised fee structures were expected to deliver between \$250 and \$300 in additional fee revenues each year.

With our return to Miller Crescent we will now be reverting back to our traditional meeting arrangements, whereby we convene on Thursday evenings for all but the winter months, during which we meet on Sunday afternoons. I, and the rest of the Committee, look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes for 2011.

Ed Hore – President.

Coming WHS Events

April Bus Trip: to East Gippsland

(Tentative: details to be advised.)

Guest Speakers and topics:

All speakers to be presenting at the refurbished room.

Thursday February 24th

John Schultz – 'Schultz' Grocery, Syndal'

Thursday March 24th

Ian Munro, snr. Officer - History of the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade

Thursday April 28

Jack Walker – 'Visiting the Somme, Anzac Cove and other Australian fields of battle'

Sunday May 22nd

Ann Robinson – 'The Waverley Riding School'

Sunday June 26th

NO MEETING - Mt Waverley Railway Station
STEAMRAIL train rides

Sunday July 24th

Michael Howes – ‘The Victorian Education Dept Grade Readers’ [Some wonderful memories there... ed.]

W.H.S. 40th Birthday – **3.10.2010**

An Account by Beverley Delaney, Co-ordinator:

President Ed Hore welcomed 86 guests/members to the 40th Anniversary of Waverley Historical Society, held on Sunday, October 3, 2010, in St. Philip’s Church Hall, Mt. Waverley.

It was a beautiful spring day and the hall was decorated in a [40th] blue and silver theme. Ladies wore “something blue” and pearls, the men a blue tie. Each person signed a special book and received a souvenir program.

Our special guest, Anna Burke M.P., spoke briefly and conducted the book launch of our prestigious **Then and Now: A Pictorial History of the City of Monash**. These books are currently on sale for \$25 a copy. Also on sale was **Once There was Jordaville** at \$30 a copy.

Member Ted Thomassen presented to the Society a painting of Valley Reserve c. 1970 by a local artist: the late, Nora Jacklin. He then purchased it back for 20 pounds.

The Speaker was Wes Marriott: his topic “Early Years When Growing Up in Waverley”. His lively account brought back many memories for everyone present. Our Patron, Dr. Morna Sturrock A.M., spoke to us and cut the birthday cake, that was iced by committee member Bev. Andersen.

A lively raffle, with many prizes, was then held and raised \$210.

Thank you all! We’ll be looking forward now to our Birthday Party this year, when W.H.S. turns **41!**

W.H.S. Christmas Party

A “Twilight Social Evening” to celebrate Christmas was held at Mount Street Neighbourhood House, Glen Waverley, on Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010, at 5.30pm. [The history of this house is outlined below.]

President Ed Hore welcomed 36 members and friends, including members of the Ingram pioneer family, while 24 apologies were received.

MarJo Angelico, in a power point presentation, told of the history of the originally Ingram house in Mount Street. Printed copies of the history [thank you Philip] see below, were also available for everyone. Father Christmas made a surprise appearance, followed by a program of singing games, Christmas quiz, and a Christmas poem – while drinks and nibbles were enjoyed through the evening and a finger food supper completed the Christmas night.

Thanks to everyone who attended this event.

Beverley Delaney, Events Co-ordinator.

The Early Years of Bellfield

(Mount Street Neighbourhood House)

In 1854 John Ingram, who had for 15 years been the gardener at a property called *Bellfield* in Ayrshire, Scotland, bought 30 acres of land which included the site of this house. He bought from speculator Ephraim Dunnett, who in that same year had purchased 212 acres from the Crown, divided them into 20 lots and offered them for sale. Ingram bought Lots 16 and 17.

John Ingram walked out to his land, blazing the trees all the way so he could find his way out. He quickly earned a living from it, cutting timber and running stock for the Melbourne markets, noting that journeys to town by horse and cart took 14 hours each way. By 1858 he was already known for his well-established garden of vines and vegetables. He helped pay for a local school (and was on the school board for many years), served on the first Oakleigh and Mulgrave Road District Board, and

helped haul local stone to build the original Oakleigh Presbyterian Church in Warrigal Rd. In 1865 he was acclaimed "best vegetable producer" in the Oakleigh district.

The first permanent dwelling here at the antipodean "Bellfield" was a two-roomed brick building, still standing and in use as the demonstration kitchen. The house faced the Dandenong Ranges and had separate outhouses and sheds. Also there were two other houses on the property, one at the present Glen Road, and the other near the Wilson Rd end of Panoramic Gve. Later, his son William further developed the property, which then included the famed orchards.

William served as Shire councillor for six years and worked to change the name of Black Flat into Glen Waverley. He was Shire President at the turn of the century and left his mark on many community projects, such as helping establish Glen Waverley Recreation Reserve, the school, Wheelers Hill Presbyterian Church, and a string of community events and services.

He also bought up more land so that by 1897 the original holding had doubled in size. After William died in 1911, his wife Jane continued for a time but by 1913 had decided to sell out, thus ending over 60 years of the Ingram connection with Glen Waverley.

The buyer then was one Carl Winter, an interesting character of German extraction who had no visible income but lived very well. He renamed the house "Ave Viator" (Hail Traveller), and he often had foreigners work for him or visit late at night. Carl often called himself an importer or just a "gentleman." Possibly it was opium he was importing. Certainly overseas trips to a variety of ports were frequent. He owned a coconut plantation in PNG but this was confiscated during WW1. Was the country estate mainly a place to hide his real line of business? We don't know, but we know that the authorities were suspicious, and raided the house, but found nothing. A book has been written on his life. It is entitled, "Carl Winter: Gentleman Rogue" by Cynthia Howell - a very interesting read!

However, life as the country squire did not really suit him after all; possibly he did not know enough about the work involved, and in 1916 he sold most of the farm to Edwin Robbins at a loss, saving 10 acres for his wife. Despite the bargain, Robbins was not able to hold it long either, and in 1918 Michael Lawless purchased this and other land to the south, creating a highly desirable 80 acre farm stretching from Hinkler Rd to Wilson Rd, and from Springvale Rd to The Outlook. He raised his four children there: Ann (Mrs Romeo Ajani), Mick who later married Mary, Mary (Mrs W Grant), and Noreen (Mrs Ray Billing, mother of Colin, Patricia, and Helen) - all familiar names in the area. **Philip Johnstone**

Coming Events in Waverley

Afterglow: Performance Art & Photography:

Monash Gallery of Art, 28 Jan-27Mar

Waverley Arts Society Inc: Tuition in Pottery

and Decorative Arts: 31Jan.-21Mar. on 1stThurs.

Mount Street Neighbourhood House

Chinese New Year: The Year of the Rabbit

Displays, workshops, artefacts, live performances.

Free entry. The Highway Gallery, Mt.Waverley, 1-16Feb

Exhibition opening, Monash Gallery of Art:

Afterglow; also work by Rebecca Dagnall. Free. 5thof Feb.3-5pm. Refreshments. Bookings pref.

Waverley Arts Society Inc –Professional Artists

Demonstrations: Mt. Waverley Community

Centre, 45 Miller Crescent, 16 Feb. 7.30-9.30pm.

ALSO:

Glen Waverley Chinese New Year & Lantern

Festival : 13 Feb, 11am-8pm. Kingsway, Glen Waverley.

2011 Clayton Community Festival, Clayton Road,

Clayton. 27 Feb, 12-6pm. Live Performance, vibrant youth area, interactive workshops, delicious foods and arts and crafts.

Growth of Syndal Baptist Church

Syndal Baptist Church recently built its Life Centre complex at the corner of High Street Rd and Blackburn Rd, on the site of the Mobile service station. Opening in 2008, this is the fourth building expansion by the church since its establishment in 1954. The Life Centre's modern style has attracted the interest of many locals.

At our October 2010 meeting, long time church member David Kemp used dozens of photos spanning 50 years to outline the site developments and their purpose. His photos included scenes of original homes, shops and roads.

As church membership grew and its programs and outreach expanded, the church gradually purchased blocks of land in High Street Rd and behind the Blackburn Rd shops. On the land it then constructed a Church Hall (1957), Sanctuary and Education Block (1968), western extension (1982) and Life Centre (2008), as well as car parking facilities. The new Life Centre includes a 600 seat auditorium, meeting rooms, library, playgroup, crèche, café and two kitchens.

This continued expansion has required significant funding which has been provided solely by Church donations. David listed a number of factors that contributed to this growth. They included a long term planning approach by successive Church leadership teams, decision making processes that included church members, and a strong belief in God and helping your neighbour.

David has been a member of various church building committees over the past 35 years. Using these experiences and church archives, he recently wrote a book that explains the developments and their rationale. "A Story of the Syndal Baptist Church Site Development – A Personal Reflection" (2008) contains around 50 photos and architects' diagrams. WHS has requested Monash Library to include the book in its local history collection.

Geoff Brown



Syndal Baptist Church Sanctuary during construction at 588 High Street Rd (1968) with Church Hall at the rear.



Syndal Baptist Church Hall in the year of its completion (1957), built at 2 Tricks Crt. at the rear of 588 High Street Rd.

Do you remember?

In 1969/70 the Golden Fleece Petrol company ran an advertisement in newspapers and on TV featuring the character "Stanley", a harassed attendant at a Golden Fleece Petrol station. The commercial was filmed in Waverley at the Golden Fleece station on Blackburn Rd outside the Pinewood shopping centre in January 1969.

This service station later turned into a Caltex station and was finally demolished a few years ago. According to the Waverley Gazette of 29 Jan 1969, Wal Saunders played the part of Stanley and Ernie Bourne played the service station proprietor.

Our new rooms: a grand occasion to celebrate!

Our New Rooms were opened by the Mayor of Monash, Councilor Charlotte Baines, on the 24th November, 2010. A number of councilors were present, together with library staff and a large number of W.H.S members, including our President, Vice Presidents and Secretary, and our patron, Dame Morna Sturrock. A metal plaque, to be laid, recorded the occasion and named the architects: Freeform Architects in Australia in conjunction with City of Monash Urban Design and Architecture. The builders were M.E.Bell Projects Pty. Ltd.

Speeches by Councilor Baines and Monash Library staff were made in the very pleasant and informal atmosphere that the bright and natural colours of the décor encouraged. All our committee members were present as well as a number of other W.H.S members and a very happy occasion was celebrated by all. Our refurbished space will be shared by library staff for play groups and meetings.



Bottom left: Norm Gibbs talks with our Patron, Dame Morna Sturrock.



Norma Schultz, President Ed Hore and Geoff Brown

Christmas at Bellfield

November 25, 2010

Photographs by **Chris Norton**

The large entertaining space at Bellfield [Mount Street Neighborhood House] is ideal for a Christmas Party, and although it rained, and the number of W.H.S members able to attend the evening was fewer than expected, we had a happy occasion. I will let the photos tell the story:



Above, Jean welcomes the guests. Below, Norma and Father Christmas and more pictures of the party.



Table from article "From the President" on pages 2-3

Year ending 30 June	2008	2009	2010
Membership Fees	\$ 1,470	\$ 1,568	\$ 1,630
Bank Interest	\$ 1,358	\$ 1,821	\$ 1,250
Donations	\$ 162	\$ 247	\$ 30
Ritchies' Receipts	\$ 181	\$ 172	\$ 209
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 3,171	\$ 3,808	\$ 3,119
Insurance and Affiliations	\$ 703	\$ 924	\$ 904
Excursion Subsidies	\$ 57	\$ 123	\$ 190
Meetings and Functions	\$ 746	\$ 293	\$ 850
Newsletter and Distribution	\$ 607	\$ 455	\$ 360
Administration (ongoing)	\$ 1,258	\$ 2,392	\$ 832
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 198	-	\$ 76
Total Operating Costs	\$ 3,569	\$ 4,187	\$ 3,212
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$ 398)	(\$ 379)	(\$ 93)

Waverley Historical Society Inc
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