



Waverley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

February 2012

Issue No 198

WAVERLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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

Yoicks was the childhood home of Vasey Houghton, MLC, after whom a bridge over the Yarra has been named. His family built the two-storey Georgian brick house and lived there for 14 years before selling the property to Huntingtower School in 1954. The school was thus named because of its previous address, Huntingtower Rd, Armadale, in turn named after an old home there. Yoicks was light-heartedly named because it received its mail via TallyHo. Thus coincidentally the school moved from one hunting property name to another. The Houghton house is still in use as a boarding home for the interstate students.



EDITORIAL

Welcome to our first **Newsletter** for 2012. Our committee is the same as that elected in August, 2011, with some additional positions that two of our office bearers, Chris Norton and Dianne Ward, will fill.

Perhaps the most exciting meeting for 2011 was our Birthday Party at St. Philip's, when everyone was invited to bring an heirloom, and a number of our early residents were invited to make a speech about the days of yore. (While two others, unable to be present on the day, have sent a record of their remembrances.) Consequently we all at W.H.S. have a wealth of information that we can dip into for future reference. One of the most detailed accounts is that of Laurie Ryan, an ex. Mayor of Waverley, whose family forbears farmed much of the land east of what is now Mt. Waverley Village, including Valley Reserve. In the account which follows we are taken right back to the beginning in the early 1830's in an area known as Crown Portion 61 of the Parish of Mulgrave, "possibly where Bruce St. is today".

Laurie's account seemed to me to be a good place to start the new series:

Presentation to W.H.S by Laurie Ryan. 23.10.2011

I am a fifth generation Mount Waverley resident. The Mount Waverley part of the family history commenced with the arrival of John Seery and his wife (nee Gleeson) in the early 1830's. They lived somewhere within the area known as Crown Portion 61 of the Parish of Mulgrave, (160 acres north of now Waverley Rd. and east of Stephenson's Rd). When John died in 1874, leaving Catherine with a young family, she managed to complete the purchase and over the years that followed she allocated portions to her

five remaining children. Three of her daughters were to marry Tom Clohesy, William Flynn, and David Scammell respectively and made their homes side by side on long, narrow allotments, each fronting Waverley Road and extending northwards, back to what is now Valley Reserve.

[He continues:] Ellen and William Flynn were my grandparents. Of their seven children, my mother, Mary, married Matthew Ryan. Frank West's mother, Ellen, married Chris West, and John Flynn's father, Eddy, married Mary O'Dea, so the family history continues on in Waverley. [Frank will tell you about the very significant contribution his family made to the Waverley area, particularly Pinewood.] If John Flynn was here he would tell you that Eddy was a jack-of-all-trades. Amongst other things he operated a blacksmith's forge in Waverley Road near where Bruce Street is now. Horse drawn vehicles were an essential part of the farming community and Eddy was kept busy providing for their needs.

[Laurie continues:] My mother, as Mary Flynn, was a school teacher and served many years at both Mount Waverley and Glen Waverley primary schools. My sister, Carmel, passed away some years ago, but my other sister Maree (now Mrs. Bob Stewart) lives in North Balwyn, has six children and seventeen grandchildren. My wife, June, and I have four children and four grandchildren. Two of our grandchildren are Ryans and hopefully will one day carry on the Ryan name. [Laurie concludes:] "That family lives in Mt. Waverley also and they can lay claim to being seventh generation Mount Waverley residents!"

From **Ray Cooper**, we have this article about the other [southern] end of Waverley:

I was born in Murrumbidgee on the 12th August, 1928. We lived there until 1931. Then Dad was asked to come and work with Uncle

Bill Cooper on a market farm in Notting Hill on Ferntree Gully Rd. near Springvale Rd. corner. We were lucky, because there were two houses on the property.

In 1933 I started school at Notting Hill State School. [My brother Neville was born in 1933.] After a while Uncle Bill and Dad moved to Watson Rd. I went to Glen Waverley State School and when Uncle Bill got married [Marie Cooper's father] we moved to Lum Rd. We had 10 acres and a house. We lived there until 1940 and the Second World War was on. Dad joined the Commonwealth Peace Officers Corp. guarding Commonwealth Buildings.

We moved to Carnegie in 1941 and then back to Murrumbena. Dad and Mum bought a house in Brisbane St.

Bevel Yeoman's account of her family's "invasion" of Black Flat in 1860 is on page 7. While in the **May Newsletter** there will be an account of Garry Coleman's family history.

Office Bearers and Committee Members

The Committee Duties are as at September 2011, with the following additions:

Hospitality: Diane Ward to join Beverley Hutchinson and Bevel Brooks.

Chris Norton to be **Videographer and Photographer**. [Chris shows his expertise with photos of the Australia Day display see page 8.]

Coming WHS Events

Bus trip [with Marie Cooper] in April.

Fingers crossed that the delayed bus trip will go ahead this year!

Guest Speaker and topic:

Our first night meeting for 2012 will be on **Thursday 23 Feb 8pm, with Jenny Davies** to speak on ""The History of Flinders St. Railway Station".

See also **p.8** for subsequent meetings.

All meetings, unless otherwise advised, will be held in our rooms on the first floor [above the library]. Access by lift or stairs.

The 41st Birthday Party:

Our President Ed Hore welcomed 57 members and visitors to our 41st birthday, held Sunday, October 23, 2011 at St. Philip's Church Hall, Mt. Waverley. [We received 22 apologies.] The hall was decorated in bright Spring colours achieved with flower posies, tablecloths, etc. Our program was as follows:

Welcome Ed Hore –President

Roll Call – Irene Marriott

Tripping down history lane with many interesting items brought by members, such as a Christening robe, old plans, very old school readers, a serving spoon, a fox fur stole, all shown to the audience.

Dr. Morna Sturrock, our Patron, gave a short address, then High afternoon tea was served and raffle prizes drawn. The raffle raised \$245. Throughout the afternoon a DVD of the 2010, 40th Birthday anniversary was played.

Thanks to all helpers on the day and to all for the beautiful afternoon tea supplied. Especially we thank the Angelico family, who set up/packed away the tables and

chairs. Looking forward to seeing you in 2012. **Beverley Delaney, Co-Ordinator.**

Christmas Party report:

Following a short meeting [on December 15] in the bedecked rooms, we divided into five groups, each around a table and guessed the titles of scrambled Christmas carols. Lots of fun and Christmas cheer!

Australia Day report:

Many exciting treasures recovered from storage were on display for the first time. Among these was a collection of many types of cameras, from earliest to modern times. See also page 7 and photos page 8.

Streets, Broad and Narrow

In Waverley and indeed in the whole of Monash we have main roads set one mile apart in a grid, dating from 1862 (a parallel to the laying out of Melbourne city by Robert Hoddle). It gave a rational, solid air to the municipality – even with the exceptions at the time, such as the occasional diversion due to a water course [for example, on Waverley Rd. near Mayfield Drive], while High Street Rd. concluded at Stephenson's Rd, due to the several arms of Damper Creek descending at the rear of the Silverman estate. [Farmers or wood cutters back from Prahran, however, could continue their journey along Waverley Rd. to Black Flat.] There was, of course, also the big diversion to reach the crest of Ferntree Gully Rd. [near the present day Monash Gallery of Art]. Called the Deviation, it extended across paddocks for half a mile!

Maps of the day were of the basic grid, with few additions except for quarries. One of the oldest of these is the quarry on the great spur near the corner of Highbury and Springvale

Rds., now Highvale Park, accessed from the latter. [It has been filled in, and become a flat elevated park, except for a high spur with a clay face jutting out to indicate its history. Bricks for the original school building at East Burwood primary came from this quarry - their pink and blue highlights due to cobalt salts in the clay giving the old school building, still extant, a special beauty. [The bricks of old St. Stephens on High Street Rd., dug from the creek bank and baked beside it, show similar tints.]

The first additional roadway to the grid was Lawrence Rd., created when Judge Barry's property Syndal, on High Street Rd. was divided after his sudden death in 1880. The large property [that was in his partner's name] ran right down to Back Creek, beside present Elm Grove, but was divided with the creation of Lawrence Rd., and a number of new land holders, farmers, moved in on smaller blocks. The Colemans on the West side bought the largest parcel of land. Charles Coleman had a successful business near the city and the Coleman family land extended from High Street Rd. past the present Waverley Nth. Primary School to Josephine Ave. While the Timberlake family, emigrant farmers from England, built a pretty, substantial house on the opposite side of Lawrence Rd. – and a number of others too.

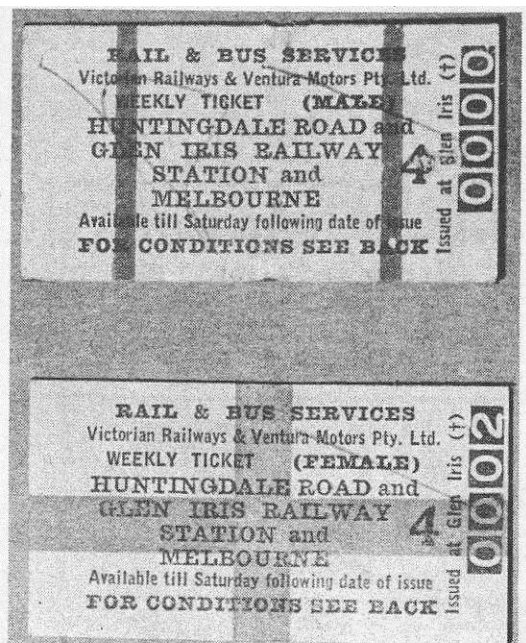
Street maps of the area around Mt. Waverley station took on a decided diagonal with the coming of the Railway in 1930, with streets providing pedestrian access by the shortest route. Most obvious to us today would be The Highway - and parallel Bruce St. - that went NW straight across the open land to the station, while north of the station Wadham Pde. cut across SE in a similar diagonal. This was to encourage people to walk and so to use the railway that had arrived after four years of hard work and duress.

A little further west, wide Grenfell Rd. made straight NW towards Syndal Station. Off Windsor Avenue that runs beside the railway line nearby, were five short parallel streets: Jack, Clive, Leila, Vivian and Leigh, with smaller blocks, intended for commuters. These were built on the old riding school land, previously the southern-most part of the large Judge Barry Estate [while north of the railway is the greater portion of Barry's land which is now the Riversdale Golf Links].

Judy Borg

Transport News

Modern day commuters might be interested in the following article from **Philip Johnstone** on 12.9.2011



The Victorian Railways-Ventura Motors combined weekly tickets are not selling like hot cakes as the numbers on these tickets show.

But the management of Ventura Motors are not alarmed. The combined bus and rail service only began on Monday as an experiment.

The bus travels along High Street Rd. through Waverley to Glen Iris railway station. People may now buy tickets to cover transport by both services.

The bus line people say the service needs time to prove itself. The tickets can be bought from the railway station only . . . and not from the bus driver.

Finding MyAncestors

Learning of our family history and how it has shaped our lives is a journey that many of us make. Who hasn't chatted with relatives and leafed through family photos to learn more of their ancestors. In recent years, thanks to personal computers and the ever increasing amount of historical information on the internet, this search has become easier.

Our guest speaker for September last year, Judy Price*, illustrated the richness of information available by relating the intriguing story of her great grandfather's life in colonial Victoria and NSW. Her first step was to start with what was readily available: chatting to older generations of her family, where possible, and broadening this to cousins and others in her extended family; looking for details in such places as the front of family bibles; and obtaining a few key birth, death and marriage certificates from government record offices. Judy advised keeping a written record of the details discovered and where they were found.

At this stage, she could see a few gaps – one of which was the life of her great grandfather, John. Working from the names, dates, places and occupations she had recorded, Judy slowly pieced together that John was born in Edinburgh about 1852. The poverty, hunger and disease that were rife in such industrial cities spurred his family to migrate to Geelong in 1853 on a disease ridden ship. After brief employment, his father died. This was followed by the death of two siblings and then in Melbourne in 1860, the death of his mother from lead poisoning caused by rainwater collected from a lead painted roof.

At the age of nine, John became one of Melbourne's many neglected and destitute children. He spent years in and out of penal institutions including nine months in

Pentridge at the age of 12 for vagrancy. However, by the age of 27, Presbyterian John had overcome the set-backs of his early years and married a Catholic girl in Ballarat where their family grew to nine children. The 1890s depression forced them to seek a new life around the Broken Hill mines and it was here his family put down roots and he died in 1926. Judy's branch of the family then moved to the newly established Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area to take up a new livelihood in farming and from where she moved to Melbourne and Mt Waverley.....

To illustrate her great grandfather's story and to explain how those interested can research their own families, Judy showed us some of the documents she had obtained. These included certificates from the Births, Deaths and Marriages office, shipping logs, medical and police files kept at the State Library in the city and Public Records Office in North Melbourne, as well as drawings and early photos of family, cities, ships and mines associated with her relatives.

Many of the above are available using a computer at home or a library. The Society's collection holds much local information and Monash Libraries can provide many historical databases and access to information from around Australia and overseas. There are also local people including Judy Price (www.findyourtwig.com) that can offer some guidance if you need help.

Geoff Brown

Early Memories of Monash

Living in Gardiner, Malvern, my first experience of Waverley/Monash as a young adult in the late 1950's was of the Drive In at the corner of Blackburn and Wellington Roads. I don't recall much of the journey, except swinging round the bushy corner of

Blackburn and Waverley Roads [the Golf Course corner] on the way home. I do remember waiting in the long summer twilight for the show to start: the dark spur opposite that was to be the rock on which Monash University was built and great white trunked gums lining Blackburn Rd. towards Princes Highway, with the moon rising. [And often, it seemed, a spectacular show of shooting stars (small extra terrestrials) behind the screen.]

But soon enough, things were to change. It was 106 years since Victoria's first university was built and, with Melbourne expanding especially in the south east, Monash University, named for scholar and General, Sir John Monash who led the Australians in the offensive that ended the Second World War, was established by an Act of Parliament. The first intake was in 1961. As Monash University grew, the flat land below eventually became a car park, with a shuttle bus to take those disinclined to tackle the hill, to the campus. [I personally remember the vibrant days of Monash Uni. in the mid 'eighties: no fees, visiting poets heading east from the Adelaide Conference, the wonderful Saturday Club for children with six super live performances at the Alexander Theatre annually. [I still have a ticket!]

Now the flat land is the site of the new great synchrocyclotron – the largest in the Southern Hemisphere – and there is also a car park for the many University and CSIRO researchers that use it each day. It looks a little like the M.C.G., the substances under investigation whirled around inside at high speeds that in some cases approach the ultimate: the speed of light!

While "Yes", on the southern boundary there is still a for-shortened car park for Monash University students' use and, perhaps, a shuttle bus too.

Judy Borg [I would like to also add a personal remembrance c.1958 of [Sir] Marcus Oliphant, the Australian who invented the first **synchrocyclotron** at the University of California. I was a young science student at Melbourne University, sitting on the lawn with friends, eating our home cut sandwiches, when, fresh from the USA, he walked right past us. He wasn't hard to pick in his bright junior navy American suit – especially with two physics lecturers on each arm, craning to hear his every word!]

Now **Bevel Yeoman**, one of our loyal tea ladies, whose family has lived in Waverley since 1860, tells her family story:

The Wilson family's settlement in Black Flat.

I'd like to say to say settled, but it was more like an invasion: seven adults and five children! Andrew, Eliza and the children settled on the NW corner of Waverley and Springvale rds. Alexander and Eliza took the NE corner of Wilson and Springvale Rds. Alexander and Eliza took the NE corner of Wilson and Springvale Rds. My great grandmother Ann Jane was born there, their first child. Three other brothers took their 20 acres in Wilson Rd. They had brought from Ireland six strawberry plants which they grew and each family eventually had one acre of strawberries from these six plants. As the families grew they began buying 20 acre lots in Wilson Rd. until they owned three quarters of it. The girls were encouraged to buy land as well as the boys.

Some were market gardeners and others orchardists. They bred like rabbits, with thirteen seeming to be a good sized family! Only one of this group was illiterate. Alexander planted a peppercorn tree. And many weddings were held under this tree. Will Rhodes came from Doncaster as a young

man and bought 30 acres on the NW corner of Wilson and Gallagher Rd. He married my great grandmother Ann Jane and they had a son Will, my grandfather, and then a daughter. When the children were two and one, just three years into their marriage, Will snr. died from appendicitis. Ann Jane remarried - to Tom Doherty. Another four children were born in their Wilson Rd. house.

James Findley bought the land on the opposite corner to Alex and shifted in with his fifteen children. His brother George Findley owned and sold his land to the Education Department for the State School no.2219. Ethel Findley was one of the fifteen and married Will Rhodes, becoming my grandparents. Will inherited his father's property at the end of Wilson Rd., cleared and planted apples and gooseberries. My father, Arthur, was the second of their three children.

Arthur and Rachel Hatch bought in Rickett's Rd., Notting Hill, about 1915. Their daughter Minnie married my father Arthur Rhodes and they bought 30 acres half way along Gallagher Rd. the west side. My brother and I lived here.

The **Yeoman** family arrived in about 1940 and lived in the billiard saloon on Ferntree Gully Rd. Herb and I married and built on the east side of Gallagher Rd. closer to High Street Rd. I'm still there. Ann and Tom bought the top of the hill [now the Police Academy] and when she died, Tom lived in Watson Rd.

[Bevel concludes:] **The Wilsons** were very much in the making of this community.

Thanks, Bevel, for a very comprehensive account of a great pioneering family. **Ed.**

Australia Day: In the Rooms

There was an exciting display of many hidden treasures unearthed from storage. Our Patron, Dr.Morna Sturrock, attended.

CALENDAR: 2012 MEETINGS

Thursday 23 February 8pm: Jenny Davies to speak on “The History of the Flinders St. Railway Station”.

Thursday 22 March 8pm: F.O.S.C.
President, Ted Mason, will speak on “Caring for Scotchmans Creek”.

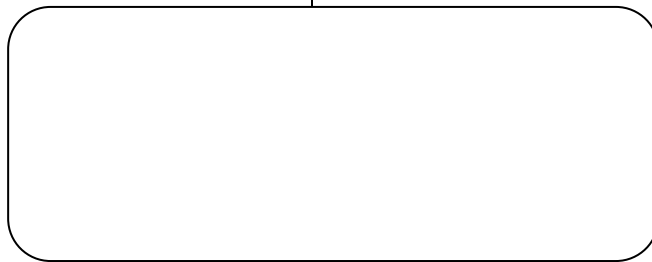
Thursday 26 April 8pm: Lambis Englezos to speak on “Fromelles and its place in Australian History”.

Waverley Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 2322

Mount Waverley, 3149

All Meetings are to be held in our rooms above the **Mt. Waverley Public Library**, Miller St. (opposite the Railway Station). Access is by stairs or by the lift [on the left just before the stair case]. Everybody welcome.



Colourful stands display historical photos.



A diverse collection of cameras; telephone