

## Historical Queries received by the WHS

MarJo Angelico

A nephew of the Jorgensens of *Montsalvat* fame is researching his uncle Peter Jorgensen, architect and designer of many Melbourne hotels built in the 1960s and 70s, including the *Burvale* in Burwood, the *Manhattan* in Ringwood and the *Village Green* in Brandon Park. He wanted early photos of the *Village Green*. (Can you help? Did you have an event there where you might have taken photos, inside or out?)



Brandon Park area looking SE across Springvale Rd with the just completed *Village Green* on the right. Taken in mid 1965 from the site of the soon to be built petrol station.

Incidentally, there is another Jorgensen connection with Waverley. The son of said Justus Jorgensen (founder of the artists' colony) lived in Mt Waverley for some years and created the low-fat Maymax donuts, pre-cooking and distributing them wholesale from the first small factory in Hardner Rd (which was then called Ricketts Rd). The factory was built before the road was constructed, so access had to be down a very steep incline from the suburban street at the back of the factory. In that street the owners lived in another Peter Jorgenson designed house.

The owner of a lovely old cottage in Kennett St Ashwood would love to know more about its history. Is anyone familiar with it?

Speaking of Ashwood, a Gallus (famous for running Ashwood Dairies where Woolworths is now) descendant has just discovered that his grandfather, Herman Gallus, owned 12 acres of orchard land in 1901 in "Springvale Rd, next to Cr Hunter's orchard, Black Flat." Who was Cr Hunter? Where did he live?

Also I am told, "Did you know that the building just back from the corner of Warrigal Rd & Burwood Highway selling antiques is the old Burwood Bakery building? I am not sure if it is in Monash or not." Well, no, it isn't but it is an interesting fact anyway.

Cr Joseph Marshall used to live in a house called Bayview Villa in Patrick St, North Clayton. It was a substantial weatherboard home with six rooms. We are looking for more details on where this was and especially for photos of the house.

Andrew McKenzie wrote to us about the Remembrance Day that was commemorated 100 years ago – the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. This date was when the Wright brothers first achieved heavier-than-air flight; plus other aviation firsts took place on 17<sup>th</sup> December in various years. In 1915, the families of famous Melbourne artists sought to raise awareness of efforts of those fighting in WWI, and also raise funds for the effort, by displays and sales of arts, crafts and foodstuffs.

Every few years I get a question from the management of Waverley Gardens shopping centre, asking for the date it opened (I know it was 1977 but the exact date didn't seem to make the newspapers of the time) as well as any photos of the centre's opening or early years. Can anyone help?

Finally I must report that the book on the history of Mount St Neighbourhood House has been completed.

## Waverley Rate Books

The *Camberwell and Waverley, Australia, Rate Books, 1857-1927* listing both owners and occupants are now available on Ancestry.com. Ancestry.com may be accessed free of charge through the *Monash City Libraries* by booking a genealogy computer: go to <http://monlib.vic.gov.au/eLibrary/Family-History/Family-History-Databases> or contact your Library branch. The *State Library of Victoria* also provides free access.

To access the Rate Books in Ancestry.com:

Click on the **SEARCH** button at the top of the screen to open a list of links.

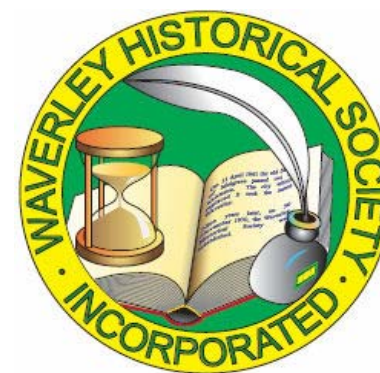
Scroll down to **Card Catalogue**, click on it

Type "Waverley" in **Keyword(s)**

Click on **SEARCH**. A link to the Rate Books will open.

Click on the title of the Rate Books to open a search screen.

Please share your searching experiences and interesting results on Facebook to help others use this resource!



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### SUBSCRIPTION

\$25 per household

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Annual subscriptions 2015/16 are  
due on 1 July. \$25 per household

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Jeffrey Turnbull

## THE HOUSE

This residence in High St Rd (and the matching shop in Cleveland Rd nearby) were designed by Robin Gerard Penleigh Boyd and built in 1952. It has been speculated that the shape was possibly inspired by the Nissen (GB) and Quonset (USA) huts of Holmesglen Migrant Hostel and Ashburton station huts. The residence and shop both have Victorian Heritage listing (H1377). Over the last 60 years the residences have had a range of occupants including offices and a Yoga Studio. The construction uses a series of wooden arches spaced at 4 foot (1.2 m) upon which was draped heavy Hessian. A concrete of fine aggregate was then poured over and worked into

*Continued P.2*

## Coming Events

**Thu 25 Feb 2016 - Evening meeting** with  
Guest Speaker: David Godfrey - Melway  
Publishing. **MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 6**

**Wed 23 Mar 2016 TBA**

**Sun 24 Apr** Wreath Laying -Glen Waverley  
Cenotaph

**Wed 27 Apr** General Meeting Guest Speaker

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



## Australia Day - Display 26.1.16

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January we celebrated Australia Day by opening our rooms to the public. As this event was advertised in the Monash Council's Australia Day booklet and in the Mount Waverley Library, many members of the public attended. Everyone was interested in the various displays featuring the history of our city. Jane Turton produced a number of display panels with a montage of old images of locations in the city.

A popular feature was the display commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Stephen's church in 2015. After viewing information about the Mount Waverley, Glen Waverley, Syndal and Jordanville areas, several visitors were inspired to write their own memories of Waverley/Monash. We'll share these stories with you in 'History Here' later in the year.

This year, old kitchen items and games of times gone-by were added to the History Mystery table, everyone loves to look at the items on show and try to guess what they were used for. Once again old newspapers, aerial photos and land sub-division brochures were of great interest – and visitors enjoyed finding out about how and why their streets acquired their names.

Thanks to all who attended, we look forward to also seeing you at our meetings and special events in 2016.

*Continued from P 1.*

the Hessian. The concrete had to be thin enough to be essentially self supporting but not too thick and heavy to crack under seasonal thermal stresses. The shape of the arches is an inverted catenary (as like a hanging chain but upside down).

This shape follows the similar shape of a major structure in Ctesiphon, the first century BC Parthian city with an extant arch. Note that the Penleigh family name is recognised in Penleigh Crt, Mt Waverley.

## Welcome to New Members

*Alvin Dana*

## WHERE IS THE WHS?

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



Some of our visitors and members plus kitchen items



Above: Display panels with image montage, Below aerial maps



Margaret Boyes 26.1.16

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## Vale—Doug Gunn 1935-2015

Douglas Neville Gunn was born in the middle of the Great Depression, the second of three sons, to Ken and Louise Gunn. After a childhood in Coburg, he spent 13 years in Mount Waverley, where he was very involved in Waverley Historical Society. Then, when his mother died he moved to Millgrove but still came to Mt Waverley regularly.

As a child, Doug didn't care much for school. He would have rather played with his younger brother. Though he was not an exceptional scholar, he was keenly interested in many things and was an avid reader. He was also not an outstanding sportsman, but loved to play footy for his side, not least because there was hot water in the club rooms (and not at home): while he was on the team he could enjoy a hot shower each week! He was also a member of Melbourne Walk Club and loved their planned walks, and, perhaps surprisingly, was also a distance runner.

Maybe that was how he met the late Stewart Bradley. Together these two single gentlemen worked tirelessly for local Waverley history, investigating areas that had not been researched previously and setting the foundation for future unearthings.

His first job was with the Myer Emporium in the city, but he didn't like having to work on Saturdays, so later he changed to a job at Spicers with paper and then with stationery. He played brass with Coburg City Band for a time.

*Not the marrying type* (as he smilingly told his niece once), Doug had three main loves in his life. The first was books. A voracious consumer of print media, he owned several thousand volumes and especially focussed on local histories of the Eastern Region of Melbourne. He had an amazing memory, and could relate details of days gone by at length. As an active member and regular attendee at several historical societies, and also a member of Warburton

Senior Citizens for 20 years, he certainly did not sit at home by himself. In fact, WSC recently created a library and named it after him because of all the efforts he had put in there. Not many of us have achieved that!

His second love was food, and he invariably piled his plate high and savoured each mouthful. He ate slowly and deliberately, chewing each morsel as if it were his last. He was typical of a child of the depression: he hated to waste food! An appreciative participant in family gatherings, he ensured that no cook's attempt to please was spurned. His words were always kind and he recognised other people's efforts gratefully.

Thirdly the countryside never failed to attract him and hold his attention. Camping in the great outdoors, hiking through the mountains, even just a stroll in a park were favourite activities, so it was not surprising that he left suburbia and settled near his favourite Warburton later in life. He never bothered about getting a drivers' licence, but settled for public transport, "shank's pony," or lifts from friends.

Andrew Lemon of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria said of Doug: *He was the sort of member everyone wants. He was always prompt to pay subs, was always in attendance and was keenly interested in all the talks; at the same time, he never caused controversy or wanted to change things or be in control.*

Doug passed away quietly on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and his funeral just before Christmas was attended by three WHS members and many other historical society members. Some have said he was a private person, though always out and about. He led a single but very social life. He will always be remembered as a kind, smiling and gentle person, well-respected and liked. Rest in peace, Doug.



Doug Gunn opening the extension to the Amaroo Neighbourhood House,

WHS Fie Image



## Do you remember 50 Years Ago?

Pratts Safeway Supermarket at Warrigal and High Street Rd, Ashwood opened in 1965.

Glen Waverley Swimming Pool on Waverley Rd, opened late in 1965.

Sandown Racecourse, the first metropolitan racecourse to be built in Australia in almost a century, opened on 19 June 1965. A new railway station - Sandown Park, was built to provide direct entry to the racecourse.

Lots in the Overland Brandon Park Estate were released and auctioned in September 1965

Finally, it is sobering to note that Decimal Coinage was introduced into Australia 50 years ago on the 14 February 1966. The initial range was 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c and a round 50c. Later came the dodecagon 50c (with less silver), \$1, \$2 coins and the phasing out of the \$1, \$2 notes.

Over those 50 years we have also seen the withdrawal of the 1c, 2c coins and the change in size, colour and images depicted on the notes. An Australian numismatist will surely be able to provide more insights into the subtle changes in our currency over the years.

## Coming Events

(Note Day and Times !)

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016, 7.30 pm** The year will start with a special meeting held in the **evening** – we hope members who cannot attend day time meetings will be able to join us. Our guest speaker will be David Godfrey, the Production Manager and Director of Melway Publishing. In May 2016 the Melway will be 50 years old – David's father published the first edition in his garage in Mount Waverley. Don't miss this meeting! Please bring a plate for supper.

**Wed 23 Mar** Event TBA

**Sun 24 Apr** Wreath Laying -Glen Waverley Cenotaph

**Wed 27 Apr 2.00 pm** General Meeting Guest Speaker TBA

**Wed 25 May**

**Wed 22 Jun 2.00 pm** - General Meeting Guest Speaker TBA

**Wed 27 Jul 2.00 pm**

Margaret Boyes

## Did You Know ?

Street Names are often proposed by the land-owners or developers and usually have some logical basis - whether connected with the family names of the original owners, geographical features, notable figures in the community or in Government, or an interpretation of local Aboriginal meanings. The City of Monash has all examples.

Ideally, the choice of name should be approved by an authority to ensure that it is appropriate and is not likely to be confused with a nearby street in the city or an adjacent city. Thus name changes can occur between the developer's estate plan and now.

Here are some name changes noted from the WHS files of subdivision plans.

Now	Was
Power Ave	Prior St in 1939

With the creation of the State Government Housing Commission estate in about 1947 the street layout was revised and Power Avenue now generally follows the route of the main storm water drain into Gardiners Creek and adjacent the sewerage main.

Winbirra Pde	Jordan Rd in 1939
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Many aboriginal names were given to these new streets (although the exact meaning of the names may be challenged).

Peartree Way	South end of Crows Lane
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Peartree derives from the local orchards in the district and Crow from the family that occupied the area. A small piece of parkland now separates the two sections. We can speculate that this was introduced to prevent the route becoming a high traffic through way.

### Strawberries in Black Flat

In a report in the Waverley Gazette of 3 July 1965 (p.3) of the death of Mary Wilson (nee Begg) aged 91, it was noted that her husband's family - Robert Wilson senior, had introduced strawberry plants to Victoria having brought them from his home in Northern Ireland to Black Flat in the early 1870s.

### Waverley's First Library

The **first** library in the City of Waverley was in Mt Waverley on Miller Crescent at Wadham Parade. This was actually a joint operation with Camberwell City Library. The building was constructed by G W Dore Builders using a blend of bricks to ensure that any colour changes in batches of bricks over the construction were masked by the variegated blending.

Bridge Quiz Answer - The section Blackburn Rd to Springvale Rd opened in 1976 with Blackburn Rd to Forster Rd opened the following year.

## WHS and Social Media

Gayle Nicholas

Our Waverley Historical Society Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/whsvic/> gets 300 plus visits each week. Jane Turton posts photographs from the Society's collection and visitors 'like', comment or ask questions about the photographs. Our @WHSVic Twitter account <https://twitter.com/WHSVic> has a small list of followers. We will work to grow the list in 2016! The twitter account may also be accessed from Facebook using the blue twitter tab.

### TWITTER TAB

#### Facebook

A jingle came to Clive's mind when the Sennitt's Ice Cream building photograph was posted:

*'Bear in mind ... Sennitt's Ice Cream'* and closely examining the photograph he commented:

*I've concluded the vehicle is probably a Morris, and was either light-green or blue in colour. The architecture of the building suggests a seaside frontage.*

Jane's invitation to post photos of your first Christmas in Waverley led to three photographs uploads from Christmases in 1965 and 1985. All show traditional dining settings. It is not too late to upload your photograph – even if this year was your first Christmas in Waverley!

Chloe popped in to ask if anyone has information on her great, great grandfather *Reginald Herbert Lockens* from Notting Hill. He was a member of the Young Farmers Club. A request for reminiscences of the Clayton Drive-In was posted by Gayle.

A photograph of the Mountain View Hotel started Pete reminiscing:

*Remember walking through the door at the drive through and getting my hair cut at the barbers then into the public bar. Miss those days. 1986*

Lesley posted her own photograph and wrote:

*Walking to school – Glen Waverley Heights Primary, now Glen Waverley Primary, High Street Rd, which was opened in mid 1960. This empty block was usually blackberries etc and is now part of the Mountain View Hotel car park. After the house on the right was cleared, we had the best Guy Fawkes night including huge bonfire on that land. Wonderful area to grow up in. :)*

We look forward to more Facebook posts and reminiscences in 2016 – please join in. More on our twitter account next issue.

## The Railway Carpark - Syndal

Some images of the recent construction of the railway carpark building at Syndal Station during 2015. The four storey structure comprises two areas on the south side of Syndal station on Coleman Parade and is designed to accommodate 250 cars. The construction was by WAT-PAC at a contracted price of \$10.8 million. During the project, car parking commuters were forced into local streets some of which were signed to limit the period to 2 and 4 hrs! The facility was officially opened on Mon 26.10.2015.



The carpark site looking NE. Note the mature trees



The carpark site looking NE. Upper floor yet to be built. Some trees at the west end of the site retained.



The carpark looking NW. Coloured open mesh cladding installed



## WHS Member Stories

Some time ago we had a meeting where YOU were the speakers. We asked members to write some memories of old Waverley. Would you like to read some of the contributions?

### Norma - How we started St Philips

*In the 1950s the empty blocks of land were being built on. The area had been subdivided many years prior and the only roads with any asphalt (narrow strip down the centre) were Waverley Road, High Street Road and Stephenson's Road. All the side streets were unmade except the Alvie estate roads around Sherwood Road.*

*Young families were moving in. There was no Church on the south side of the railway. St Stephens was on the hill about a mile from most of the houses as north of the railway was still flower farms, etc.*

*A number of young women formed a Young Wives group which was centred on St Stephens Church, but meetings were held in homes. It became clear that a church was needed in the south, so Diocesan interest was sought but the numbers of future parishes were crucial for approval.*

*Nan Watson held the first meeting in her lounge and it was decided to do a doorknock. So Nan with toddler Kay in the pusher and Norma Schultz knocked on all the doors in Mount Waverley to determine the need for a Church. The church was established on 2 blocks on the south side of Waverley Rd about 150 m west of Stephenson's Rd. St Philips went on to build a new Church in Stephenson's Rd (cnr Catherine Ave) in the late 1960s and was dedicated 24 Nov 1968. The Christadelphian Church purchased the Waverley Rd property in July 1968.*



The first St Philips in Waverley Rd, Mt Waverley

*There were very few cars and few houses around in the early fifties so Stephenson's Road was a quiet road. The block where the police*

*station is now was covered in ti-tree about six feet high. Two of the boys played a daring game on Saturday afternoons when it was very quiet. They would play in the ti-trees and when they heard a car coming they would run out and lie on the road. As the car approached and started to slow down they would jump up and run back into the ti-tree and hide.*



The original Church building 2016, now extended at the front and operating as the Christadelphian Hall.

### Beverley

*From 1972 to the present, we have lived in Kiers Avenue Mt Waverley. We were married in 1963 and the first home we bought was 312 Blackburn Rd, on the corner of Fiander Ave (now a medical centre). I remember for a child's place at a kindergarten there was a ballot system. With so many families in the area, not everyone could get in.*

*Fundraising for schools often included a "Lamington Drive" where mothers got together and made the lamingtons by hand. Bulk sponge cake was bought and in people's homes there would be a working bee making chocolate icing, cutting the cake and coating it in icing and then rolling it in a big, big bowl of coconut!*



*Syndal dairy in Blackburn Road was where once a week we paid our milk bill – later, a lady from the dairy came to the house and we left the money and bill in the meter box.*

The Syndal dairy was located on the east side of Blackburn Rd about 50 metres north of High Street Rd.



The Dairy building in 2016. It is located in the grounds of the Italian Pentecostal Church. For some years the Irelands name was discernable on the building.

The Lyons family (Les and Jack) established one of the first dairies in Waverley in 1936 and the family name is recognised in Lyons St, about 500 m west, where a branch of the family had a property on Lawrence Rd.

In the 1960s this operated as a collection depot for Mulgrave Dairy (a division of Ireland's Dairy) which had a processing plant in Fern-tree Gully Rd, Wheelers Hill. The site on FTG Rd, originally known as Wilson's pig farm, was purchased in 1958. There were also collection depots in Glen Waverley and Mt Waverley (possibly about Portsmouth St?) Ireland's site of 25 acres in Wheelers Hill was sold in 1970 for \$250,000 for a housing estate. More history of the Ireland's Dairy may be found in WHS Newsletter No. 184.

### Some Australiana

Do you know the history of the lamington? There is some controversy about whether it was invented on purpose or by accident, but according to the Macquarie Dictionary, it originated in the home of Lord Lamington (1860-1940), Governor of Queensland from 1895 to 1901. Whichever way it happened, it became Aussie tradition because the chocolate icing, plus coconut to prevent stickiness, not only tastes good but also allows the cakes to stay fresh longer in our drying climate.

**In light of continuing increases in costs, particularly postage, your committee after much deliberation, set annual subscriptions at \$25 commencing 1 July 2015. This may have to be reviewed with further postage increases in January 2016.**

### Name That Bridge

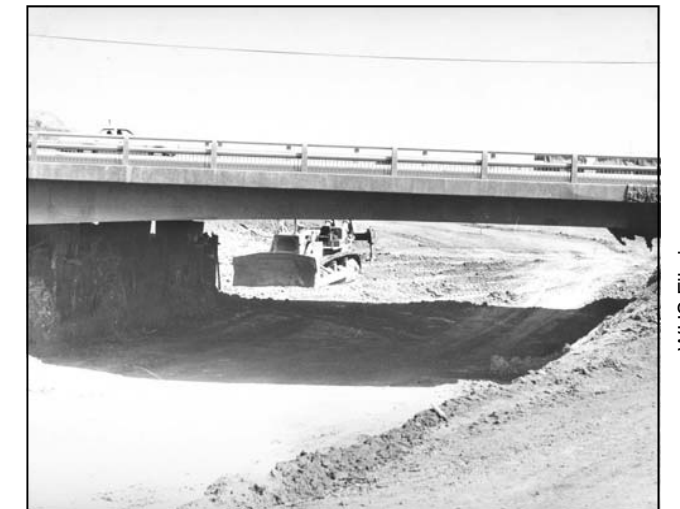
We introduce a new series to History Here – a picture quiz where you get to draw on your visual memory to recognise a scene you have seen countless times. It's strange how we take bridges for granted. We use them, drive under them, wish for them where they don't exist – but never really look at them. Yet they are all different!

Take this one, for example. It was built on ground level on supporting pylons which had been poured into reinforced bore holes. Then the earth under the bridge was excavated.

Can you recognise it from these photos of its construction? Answer p.6.



Looking NNE at what is to be the crossing over the Monash Freeway/Arterial road. Reinforcing and concrete formwork being erected. A shopping centre and Golden Fleece service station are in the right background.



Looking W along freeway with the earth now excavated from under the bridge and traffic flowing above.

### Vale

June Senior, a long time member of the WHS, passed away on 10.11.15.