

## Australian Flag - Answers

1. True. Australia is the only country that encompasses an entire continent.
2. False. It is the first and only one.
3. False. One in every hundred of the population entered, ie. there were 32 823 entries, and five people came up with near identical designs – which won.
4. True. They were not all professional artists, politicians and army personnel.
5. False. The Union Jack should always be top left. The bottom edge will be on the right.
6. True. It had had six points, but in 1908 it was increased to seven points.
7. d. The competition was judged in Melbourne so all the entries were hung there.
8. b. Actually none of the other options are constellations!
9. a, and also because Australis means Southern.
10. c, 11. c, 12. c, So it's 110 years old this year!
13. d. It was not until the Flags Act 1953 (enacted 1954) was passed by the Menzies Government that Australia finally had an official national flag, and one that was required to be flown in a superior position to any other flag. That's 52 years after it was designed and first flown!
14. b. Called the Federation Star or the Commonwealth Star, it has 7 points, 6 for the six states and one for all the territories – ACT, NT, Jervis Bay, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island, the Coral Sea Islands, Heard & McDonald Islands, Ashmore & Cartier Islands, and the huge Australian Antarctic Territory. Also of course PNG until 1975 when it gained independence.
15. d. The flag may be used for commercial purposes as long as it is treated respectfully.

### How did you go?

- 15 correct : you were supposed to do this off the top of your head, not search up the answers!
- 13-14 : You are incredibly amazing! Who would believe you knew so much?
- 10-12 : Well done! Your knowledge of history is commendable.
- 7-9 : Yes, some of these answers ARE a bit surprising, aren't they?
- 5-6 : Guess if you must, but make it an intelligent guess!
- 2-4 : You really need your WHS membership, don't you? Keep learning!
- 0-1 : You get the coveted wooden spoon. How can you know so little about your own flag?

*Continued from p. 7* the green fruit and leaves are deadly poisonous. Ian says even deadly nightshade berries are edible when black. Green tomatoes and potatoes (both from the same *Solanaceae* family) are also poisonous, but it is possible to make green tomato chutney if the poison is neutralised with vinegar.

10. Ian went down to the swampy part of the reserve to point out the edible rhizome of the bamboo-like water reeds growing in the creek bed and everywhere in wet areas. They are white inside and taste a bit like cucumber. When cooked they taste like mashed potato.

He said water chestnuts grow throughout Australia too. They have a hard shell and taste like coconut. They are best eaten in spring as they get woodier over time. They can be ground up and used as flour.

11. The purple berries of *Dianella* are edible. The leaves are good for making baskets.

Having completed a circuit of the reserve and learnt so much about the plants commonly seen there, Ian Hunter said his goodbyes. I will always appreciate his insights and local knowledge, his views on history (a topic for another day) and his down-to-earth genuineness.



Native Geranium

M Angelico

### Errata HH225.

#### Armistice Commemorative Ceremony

para 2 should read:

But there was war, and North Riding saw many of its men marching off to the battlefields, thirty-eight of whom were enlisted and of those, five never came back.

para 7 should read:

Geoff (Coleman) declared that the Waverley Historical Society, and indeed the general public, must thank Norma Schultz, for electing to have a signboard erected, in honour of those enlisted soldiers..



### Established 1970

Incorporated in Victoria  
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# HISTORY HERE 226

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Google maps

## THE HOUSE

Surrounded by towering Georgian edifices, this unique Glen Waverley house neatly blends into the background of its mature native garden. It is elegantly unpretentious.

The house was designed by Victorian architect David Godsell for the owners in 1963 using semicircles, and cleverly combines low profile, northeast orientation, reflective glazing, wide eaves and the mature eucalypts to control excessive solar input. Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright, Godsell designed a merging of indoor and outdoor spaces by glazing both external walls (the north and the south) of living spaces. However privacy is maintained by the garden and by low semi-circular garden walls.

*Continued P.2*

### Coming Events

**Tues 26 Feb. 7pm** Speaker James Nicholas: *The Mystery of Fairyland Cottage, Kew*

**Wed 27 Mar 2pm** Golden anniversary of MW library and WHS rooms. .

**Sun 14 April 10am** Wreath laying at the Glen Waverley War Memorial Kingsway.

**Wed 24 April 2pm** Guest Speaker Bill Brown on John Monash, more than a ..  
*more details P.5*

Please note that General Meetings are now held every two months. The days and times may vary depending on the availability of speakers. Note the details in this newsletter and the WHS webpages. We are located above the Mt Waverley Library 41 Miller Cres., Mt Waverley.

In addition, all the materials harmonise with the surrounds – soft-toned honey-coloured bricks, redwood doors and windows, polished slate floors, mountain-ash ceilings. All external walls are curved but internal walls are straight, being radii of the semicircle, so that rooms open towards the north and the excellent views of the Dandenongs.

The result seems perfect – a successful collaboration between architect and owner, and an ideal design for the sweeping site. It is like a tranquil oasis in the encroaching suburbia, impressively unassuming.



Some of the participants in our ever popular Mt Waverley Historical Walk, held in Oct 2018, see page 6 for a report

### Another Anniversary

The Mt Waverley Masonic Centre in Stephenson Rd will be 40 years old in July. There is some interesting history relating to land swaps and negotiations that led to the construction of this building at this location.

All part of the fascinating development of Mt Waverley.

Do any readers know a bit about this – enough to write an article for the next newsletter? Or do you know someone who could?

### 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 2019 are every second month.

### Our Rooms

Our building - the Mount Waverley Library, turns 50 years old next March 2019. Long term members may recall its builder, G W Dore, spoke ten years ago about its construction and also other buildings he had built in the area. Even then he was surprised that the building had lasted, because the architect insisted on a novel but troublesome 3/4 bond, even on the two-storey part.

So next March be prepared for some 1960s style partying. If you still have a favourite 60s outfit in the back of some cupboard, don't throw it away yet!

This golden anniversary of the Mt Waverley library will be held on **Wed 27 March 2pm** with a picture exhibition, hands-on artefacts for children, showing just how much has changed in the intervening years, plus a birthday cake and more.

Details will be displayed in the library foyer, on our website, in the local paper and in your email inbox, (if we have your email address).

If anyone has an old library card, or ex-library books bought from the trolley with an old orange library sticker on the back, or a typewriter, card file, or any other library-type paraphernalia, please contact WHS asap.

### Indigenous Food and Medicine Plants

Last year I was privileged to be able to accompany Ian Hunter on a walk around Valley Reserve, Mt Waverley, where he pointed out a number of plants that his indigenous ancestors had used for food or other purposes in years gone by.

1. Native geranium (*Geranium molle* L. subsp. *Molle*) was the first plant Ian pointed out. It is a round-leaved, low-growing plant with a small purple flower, and it has an edible rhizome.

2. Second, the common native cherry (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*) he called a lazy tree. This is because it starts life as a parasite, getting nourishment from nearby tree roots, maybe growing in the trunk of another tree and continuing to grow when the host is all but gone from the surface of the ground.

The seed of this unusual plant forms on the outside of the fruit, which has a sharp, dry flavour. Aboriginal people also used the plant's leaves to treat cuts and sores, and its sap for snake-bite. Smoke from burning leaves is said to be an effective insect repellent.

3. The Blackwood Wattle blooms in August and many aboriginals think this is a good time to die. It is a time of hope and rising warmth, but not yet comfortably warm. The very ripe (brown) seeds are edible with a nutty flavour – if you have the teeth to break into them. Ground up like pepper, these seeds have commanded up to \$200/kg as a flavouring in restaurants.

However they are poisonous when green – very alkaline. The green seeds are used as a fish poison – made into a thick green mush and applied to a narrow part of the stream. The hunter can then walk downstream and pick up the sleepy fish. Therefore, it is called the fish poison tree.

Young wattle leaves, plus a little water, rubbed vigorously between the hands make a frothy soap substitute that effectively cleans hands or utensils.

Wattle grubs are large and nutritious but too many can have a laxative effect. The sap of

black wattle cures gastric complaints.

4. Eucalyptus leaves are poisonous. Ian said that maybe black fellas played tricks on white fellas by encouraging them to add a leaf or two to tea. One or two leaves might be okay but too many is not. Only a koala can digest them.

However tree sap from any kind of eucalyptus is an antiseptic. It can easily be harvested when fresh, but goes solid within 24 hours. Dissolved in hot water and applied to cuts, grazes and rashes, it's like a spray-on *Bandaid*.

Young gum leaves rubbed on the skin are an effective insect repellent.

Spider web also stops bleeding in small wounds like paper cuts. (The spider ejects a liquid that quickly sets to become a fibre. The same process coagulates blood.)

5. Nardo tubers live in water and are edible and tasty, but they leach Vitamin D from the body. Too many and the eater will get Rickets. They have to be used correctly.

6. The Prickly currant bush also likes to live in damp areas, and makes big red seed in February.

7. The common milk thistle that is soft (no prickles, just a thistle-like flower) is native ("buckabuck"), according to Ian. It can be eaten and tastes like rocket. The sap cures warts. The rough ones were accidentally imported with fodder.

8. Bracken fern used to grow everywhere there were bull-ants, which was convenient, because the sap from the stem, and especially from the curled new growth, is an excellent antidote for bull-ant, bee or mosquito bite. The young brown curled fronds are also edible and taste nutty.

9. Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum aviculare* and *laciniatum*), thus named because the leaves are shaped like a kangaroo footprint, are edible when very ripe (splitting open). The taste is between rock melon and bush tomato. Ian said it's a woman's plant – contains estrogen – but their best contraceptive properties were active when a small branch of the tree was clutched between the knees day and night for two weeks. (!)

Like many in the nightshade family *Continued p. 8*



Ian Hunter displays a common milk thistle near a black wattle tree in Valley Reserve MW.

M Angelico

Twenty-three people stepped out on the sunny afternoon of Sunday 28 October. The car-park at the rear of the Mount Waverley Library was a good starting point – we numbered off, then away we went, with MarJo as guide.

A local builder, George Dore, built the library in 1969; it was the first of Waverley's branch libraries. It has a Danish-style copper roof; the driftwood bricks were arranged in patterns during construction simply because, when the truckloads of bricks arrived, they were not all the same; so improvisation was necessary. Further east, at the rear of the Youth Centre is the separate and original Youth Centre, which used to stand in the Safeway Car Park in Virginia Street (near Stephenson's Road). This old hall was bricked up after it was transferred to its present site. On the north side of the library car park is Wadham House, which provides meeting places for thirty-odd groups; it was once a veterinary surgery, which is now housed on the corner of Heany and Waverley Roads. Then we wandered down Miller Parade until we reached the railway bridge, which crosses Alvie Road. We could see the original part of the bridge, built in 1929, and duplicated in 1964. Back then, the one-carriage train was known as the *Flying Matchbox* and provided a shuttle service from East Malvern to Glen Waverley.

MarJo described the layout of the old Glen Alvie Estate, which sprung up in the 1920's and was designed to offer families the utmost in prestigious living, sport and leisure. (An old map of this estate is in the WHS rooms). The roads were clustered around a basic L-shape to the south of the railway, which was destined to arrive in 1929. A tax was struck, as a way to defray costs of development, for the Alvie Road underpass, a necessary link to improve communication between both sides of the railway. The famous concrete roads, constructed in the Sunderland Method (an Australian innovation), were laid down before the houses were built. (These roads are well-described in WHS's 'HH' issues 208, 209 & 218). These concrete roads were extremely durable, however they have now been replaced. Remnants and records of these roads depicting the concrete structure, are on display in Sherwood Road Reserve. Part of the *Glen Alvie Estate's* ideals was to provide easily accessible parklands for the residents; MarJo showed us one such park off Winbourne Road.

We then walked to Mount Waverley Primary School in Park Lane. The original school building, built in the early 1900's, is still in use, sur-

rounded by more modern class-rooms. The school once had its own lane running south to Waverley Road. Then, a short step to Sherwood Road; round the central reserve and to the west are very small pockets of parkland, one on either side. One had a higher concentration of native plants and the increase in bird life was evident. The local maternal and child health centre still occupies a corner at the eastern end of the reserve.

On Waverley Road, past the Masonic Centre on the eastern side, and we were amongst the shops. An interesting conversation revealed which shops had been there in the past. A plaque, next to the footpath near the entrance to The Highway, describes the very first shop and post office in Mount Waverley. This was Jessie Tait's Store; the Tait homestead was called 'Waimarie', hence Waimarie Drive, and the post office remained on this prominent site until 1961, when a new building was erected in Hamilton Place. The stables belonging to the old homestead, *Waimarie*, are still in existence, almost hidden behind a high brick fence, but the original house has gone. At the rear of these shops, where Tait's once stood, is the recently sold Highway Gallery, which is now included as part of the newly refurbished Community Centre in Miller Parade. This Centre serves many community needs and provides an excellent venue for flower shows, receptions and so on.

Walk almost over, the group passed by Hamilton Place, which was created in 1956; the original railway station was the first 'premium' station, and some of the very old eucalypts are still standing in this precinct.

Mount Waverley Rotary Club erected the *Commemoration Walkway* in the parkland on the corner of Miller Parade and Stephenson Road. The Walkway recognizes some of the fields of battle in which Australian and New Zealand forces were involved from 1914-18; plaques depict the various campaigns from Gallipoli onwards. This attractive garden area was once occupied by Sebire's fuel yard and the old home which belonged to the pioneering Closter family; finally demolished in 1978. The bricks from this old home bear the name, Blackburn, having been made at a brickyard near Whitehorse Road, and now form a path which cuts through this corner parkland.

Thank you MarJo, for a most interesting walk and for all your tidbits of information - too many for this writer to remember!

How many celebrities can you think of who lived in Waverley?

The inaugural newsletter editor of WHS, Shirley Westaway, wrote a newspaper obituary for one she had had personal contact with. It was the legendary Fanny Dango, star of JC Williamson's musical comedies in the early 1900s, and she lived in Mt Waverley for several years in the closing chapter of her life.

She was born Fanny Rudge in Birmingham UK in 1878, the fifth of five sisters who all found fame as dancers, singers and actresses with different stage surnames. According to <http://www.abtt.org.uk/event/the-british-music-hall-society-study-group/>, Fanny was "the youngest, wealthiest and longest-lived of the Rudge sisters." She was brought out to Australia by JC Williamson in 1907 and many glowing reports of her performances can be found in the newspapers of the time.

At the same time, pastoralist Samuel Peter Mackay (1864-1923) had a huge station in the Pilbara region of WA, called Mundabullangana, as well as other pastoral interests, and also buildings in the centre of Perth. He had won his riches by droving and pearling while still a teenager, and increased them through hard work on the station and also through horse breeding. In 1905 at age 41 he left WA and bought a large property in Berwick, then called *Melville Park*, and built a fine mansion that is still standing and in use in Aveo Edrington village, as are the older buildings that were on the site before it. (The next owner renamed the property *Edrington*.)

No doubt he made good use of being closer to the city with its theatres and entertainments after so long in the outback, and his eye was drawn to that charming actress Miss Fanny Dango, and after a

London wedding in 1910, brought her to share *Melville Park* with him. They had one son, Peter Angus, though Sam also had two surviving children from his first marriage in WA, the successful actress Elsie Mackay (1893-1963), and young pastoralist Keith Mackay (1900-1924).

When Shirley Westaway wrote about Fanny, she said the actress had led a fairy-tale life, with glamour, fame, beauty, riches and honour –

which is true. She was jet-setting around the world before that term was coined. She had beautiful clothes and homes and things around her; she had servants and chauffeurs, and was in demand wherever she went. This was largely because of her very gentle and gracious manner.

"She greets one with a pleasant but fleeting smile and a pretty, well-modulated voice - for the refinement and daintiness which distinguish her on the stage, and have marked all her performances with Williamson's comic opera companies, are even more marked in private life," says a reporter in *Table Talk*, 21 Oct 1909. Shirley also referred to this trait, having grown up being told, "Fanny Dango wouldn't do that. She's a lady!" whenever she had behaved poorly as a child.

The writer in *Table Talk* also refers to a little gravity about Fanny, a sort of sadness. This may well have been loneliness, so far from her close-knit family in Birmingham, and before her sister Lydia came to Australia, and before her marriage. Also the pace of tours down under was beginning to tell on her, more that when she had been in England where there are definite seasons, and breaks between them.

Clearly, despite all the nice things in Fanny's life, there was sadness too. This can be seen as her life progressed. She was predeceased by every single relative she loved – parents, all her sisters, her husband, her stepson, her stepdaughter and her husband, even her own son.



State Library Viv Image H85.73/6



Aveo Edrington

MarJo Angelico 24.10.2018

All she had left in the end was her son's lady love, Zena, and they lived and travelled together for years in their mutual widowhood.

Before Sam Mackay died, Fanny decided she would learn to drive herself, rather than always relying on chauffeurs. Seeking a local instructor, she found Shirley Westaway's father, Mr Norman Thompson of Oakleigh, and thus began a family-to-family friendship that made a deep impression on Shirley, who couldn't at first believe that Fanny Dango was a real person! The Thompsons were invited to the Mackay's homes – *Strathnaver* in St Kilda, or the Rock House in Kyneton, and always Fanny was a kind and entertaining hostess, "every inch a lady, with a special gift for friendship." Shirley was surprised to see that the *Strathnaver* ballroom was entirely given over to young Peter's model train set!

In the last years of Fanny Dango's life, she lived in Mount Waverley where Zena's family had several adjoining houses, and shared a house with her common-law daughter-in-law. Even in her nineties she enjoyed a night out and was never short of dance partners. To the end, she deserved her label – "the star whom everyone loved."

*What local celebrities do YOU know of? Can you write some reminiscences or research some details of famous people who have lived in Waverley?*



The Jessie Tait Building at the Eastern Innovation Centre



WHS - Kerrie Flynn, MarJo Angelico, Virginia Barnett with Chairman Darrell Mahoney at the unveiled plaque.

### The Jessie Tait Building, Mulgrave

The Eastern Innovation Business Centre is tucked away in Hartnett Close, Mulgrave. It is comprised of two buildings - the *Tom Morrissey* Building, opened in 1999, alongside the new *Jessie Tait* Building, erected in 2015. This is a stunning, state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly place and is the perfect setting for inspired and innovative entrepreneurs preparing their ideas for market, working in the company of like-minded people.

It is most fitting that this Council-owned building is named after Jessie Tait - the first building in Monash to be named after a woman. Jessie Tait embodied the ideals of such a Centre, at very least breaking new ground in the expanding farmlands of Mulgrave when, in 1905, she opened a general store on the corner of Stephenson's Road and The Highway, stocked with household necessities, newspapers, knick-knacks, and also handled mail sent from Notting Hill, while outgoing mail was collected from the shop for delivery to Notting Hill.

Eventually, Jessie applied for a licence to sell stamps and, after a few years, she became a fully-fledged postmistress, thus adding considerable importance and convenience to her business. By this time, the population was increasing and Jessie's daughters were old enough to take on shop duties. The substantial Tait homestead near the shop, called *Waimarie*, was situated at the south-western corner of a large acreage of orchards and vegetable gardens. As well as running the shop and supervising home farm activities, Jessie taught music to the local children. Jessie was the epitome of a community stalwart and her shop was established as a central meeting point over many years.

Jessie Tait died in 1928 and her daughters, Blair and Lillie, continued running the shop until 1944. The old home has gone but the stables can be glimpsed behind the high brick fence.

So, on the 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, the *Jessie Tait* Building was officially opened by Mayor Paul Klisaris, who unveiled a plaque in Jessie's honour. This plaque hangs prominently in the entrance to the building. Professor Darrell Mahoney, Chair of the Board, and Danielle Storey, CEO, spoke of Jessie's life and times, and the importance of her recognition. The afternoon gathering was also attended by Councillors Lynnette Saloumi, Rebecca Paterson and Brian Little (all members of the Board of Management), and other staff and visitors, including MarJo Angelico, Kerrie Flynn and Virginia Barnett, representing the WHS. A tour of both impressive buildings rounded off the afternoon. *Virginia Barnett*

### Australian Flag - Quiz

Did you know our flag is having a big birthday this year? How much do you know about it? Take this quick quiz and find out!

#### First – True or False?

- Ours is the only flag to be flown across an entire continent.
- Ours is only the third national flag to be chosen in an open competition.
- There were not many entries to the competition, but lots of interested selectors.
- The competition winners included a schoolboy and a teenage apprentice.
- If the flag is hung vertically, the bottom edge will be on the left.
- When Papua New Guinea became an Australian Territory, the number of points on the big star increased.

#### Now some multiple choice:

- Where was our flag first flown?
  - Parliament House, Canberra
  - Eureka Stockade
  - Port Jackson, Sydney
  - Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building
- The constellation featured is:
  - The Southern Aurora
  - The Southern Cross
  - The Milky Way
  - The North Star
- This is because it:
  - acknowledges aboriginal mythology
  - acknowledges our primary industry
  - can only be seen in Australian night skies
  - acknowledges that our migrants come from the north

10. Australian National Flag Day was proclaimed by the Governor-General in 1996 to 'commemorate the day on which the Australian national flag was first flown. What day is that?

- 26<sup>th</sup> January
- 25<sup>th</sup> April
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September
- Melbourne Cup Day

11. The competition was held in:

- 1888
- 1900
- 1901
- 1953

12. The current design was approved in:
- 1888
  - 1901
  - 1909
  - 1953

13. The flag was officially made our national flag in:

- 1888
- 1901
- 1927
- 1953

14. Choose the correct option: The large star on the bottom left is called the

- Union Star and has 6 points representing the 6 states.
- Commonwealth Star and has 7 points representing the 6 states and all the territories.
- Federation Star and has 8 points representing the 6 states and 2 territories.
- Australian Star and has 16 points representing the 6 states and 10 territories.

15. Which of the following is NOT true about the Australian flag?

- It may be used at any Australian's funeral.
- The flag should never be flown upside down, dirty or torn.
- The flag must not be laid on the ground or touch the ground, nor flown in strong winds or rain.
- Special permission must be obtained by advertisers wishing to use the flag in their advertisements.

### Coming Events

( Note Day, Time & Venue )

**Tues 26 Feb. 7pm** Speaker James Nicholas: *The Mystery of Fairyland Cottage, Kew*. This house was a tourist attraction for children.

**Wed 27 Mar 2pm** WHS rooms. Golden anniversary of MW library.

**Sun 14 April 10am** Wreath laying with GW RSL at the War Memorial, Kingsway.

**Wed 24 April 2pm** Guest speaker.-Bill Brown : *John Monash - more than a Military Commander*. Bill will explore some of the other skills and knowledge of this most capable man.