

Did You Know ?

Mt Waverley Youth Centre

Many groups meet in the Youth Centre next door to Mt Waverley Library, although I have never seen young people there! Mainly Probus Clubs and similar groups use the facility.

There is the large hall at the back, built in pink bricks, and the smaller room, plus wet areas, made of coffee coloured brick which match both the library and the Community Centre, in front.

Did you know that the pink Youth Centre was built first? Users of the hall need only read the brass plaque on the inside north wall to see that it was the combined effort of Waverley Council and The Community Chest that funded it. Maybe readers can supply memories of that Community Chest.

The plaque reads:

"Waverley Youth Centre erected by Waverley City Council and the Community Chest 6th October 1962."

Did you also know that the pink hall used to have an annex out the back? Before the Elderly Citizens Centre was added to the front of the youth centre, the wet areas were provided on the back lawn just left of the doorway. The marks can still be seen on the wall outside. The bricks used to fill in the wall are a slightly different colour.

Please add to our collection! What do YOU remember? Challenge us with your own *Did you know* item.

MarJo Angelico

Pinewood Nursery 60 Years continued from P.5

lege, Holmesglen. Apprenticeships prepare young people for lifelong careers within the industry. Knowledge and expertise is constantly passed on to grateful customers. Many brands of mulch and other garden products are for sale, and one brand of fertiliser, 'All Purpose' was produced with Frank's input; it is one of his best sellers and is not available in supermarkets or elsewhere.

Pinewood Nursery is one of Victoria's top nurseries, and that wouldn't have happened without a lot of hard work. Now, three generations work in the business: Frank, at the helm, his wife Nancy, daughters Annette and Dorothy, and, working mainly in the sales office, granddaughters, Ashlee and Anjee. Frank says he sees this as not a job, but a delight, and you can see this love of gardening is shared by his team.

So how is it that Pinewood has kept going, when so many other nurseries have come and gone? Quality is a big part of the answer, and loyalty brings customers from much further afield than just Waverley. Frank's team supports local growers and maintains links with clubs, gardens and nursery suppliers, and members of staff have visited schools in the area to offer guidance and build up enthusiasm about plants. This is part of their community engagement.

We can all look forward to being part of the celebrations of 2020 when Pinewood Nursery turns Sixty!

Black Flat Historical Walk continued from P.6

The stately old *Pinus halepensis*, a descendant of the 'lone pine' at Gallipoli, grows in this vicinity. It was planted on Remembrance Day, 1981. There is also a palm tree, representing Egypt.

St. Leonards Catholic church started off in this Reserve in 1912; an increased population brought about the transfer of church and school to the current premises further north in Springvale Road.

A plaque on Springvale Road, near the entry to the Bowling Club, represents the Wesleyan Church, 1887-92, which also housed the original Black Flat School, situated on land donated by James Colley.

Across the road is an old Chivers home, which is marked for demolition. This family had market gardens in Waverley Road for at least four generations. We were told that the Antique Market in Aristoc Road was once a furniture factory – Aristoc Furniture.

Our walk closed with our return to the old school. This building was once a schoolmaster's residence and classes combined. A map on the class-room wall shows the original layout and in one of the rooms, the desks are left in their tiered layout along with artefacts, not to mention the huge fireplaces where we could imagine roaring fires spitting out sparks, and crackling above the sounds of chalk on slates.

Thank you, MarJo, for yet another most interesting walk and a glimpse of our heritage.



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Annual subscriptions 2019/20 were
due on 1 July. \$25 per household

SUMMER 2020

HISTORY HERE 230

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THE HOUSE

Hidden amongst a variety of trees and shrubs, this Cape Cod classic is now over 100 years old. Some original features like the impressive herringbone timber vaulted ceilings and a huge stone fireplace, the rose window and other leadlight windows, the slate roof with dormer windows, still hold their original charm. Once it was surrounded by "Hewlett's Lane" orchards and free-range poultry farms and now by Blackburn Road houses and traffic, but it always turns heads as a solid reminder of farming days of the past.

Unless otherwise stated,
General Meetings are held
at 2pm on the fourth
Wednesday or Sunday in
our rooms above Mt Waverley
Library (Lift Available) 41
Miller Cres., Mt Waverley.
For excursions and outings
please carefully note time
and location details.

Coming Events

Wed 26 Feb 2pm A talk on the History of Burwood Cemetery and some of the services now available.

Sun 22 March 1pm A walk along the banks of Dandenong Creek. Registrations required. Participants will be advised of the exact location to meet.

Sun 19 April 10am ANZAC Wreath laying at GW cenotaph *more details P.7*

Badges available

In 1995 the WHS was offered the old schoolhouse on the corner of Waverley and Springvale Roads, now known as the Black Flat Community Centre, as its headquarters. The historic building was to become a combined local history museum and an educational history participatory theatre. The arrangement did not actually come to pass, as you can probably guess, but the decision to instead offer it to Le Pine Funeral Services as a tea room came after many preparations had been made.

One of those was the creation of badges to honour the occasion of our shift, and coincidentally, our 25th anniversary. There are still some of these badges left, and we are offering them to you at just \$1 each – much less than cost price all those years ago. The badges feature the schoolhouse and read, “Waverley Historical Society 1970 – 1995.” They are made in Australia by NCV.

If you would like to purchase one, ask any Wednesday afternoon or at our meetings.

Ritchies IGA

Did you know that Ritchies would like to support Waverley Historical Society? Their “Community Benefits” program not only provides the buyer (you!) with personal discounts, but also donates a small percentage of purchases to a nominated club or charity. Just ask for the form at the service desk and put our name as the beneficiary, and Ritchies does the rest.

In the past we have received the equivalent of one new subscription per month! By the way, it is not only at the Mount Waverley store that the money is collected for us, but at other Ritchies stores as well, so when you are on holiday or for other reasons shopping further away, zapping your Community Benefits card will still benefit us!

Welcome to new members

Sheila Evans, Christine Last, Robert Burrows

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 2020 are every second month.

Then & Now

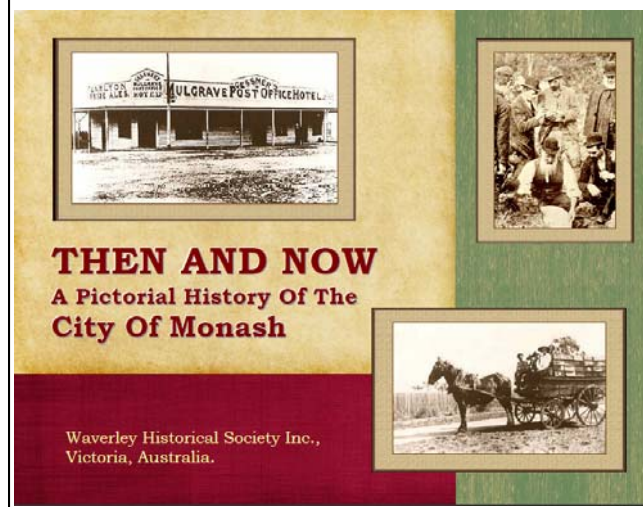
A Pictorial History of the City of Monash

New stocks of this popular book have now arrived. It would make an ideal present for someone with connections to the City of Monash.

This A4 book comprises 60 pages of *Then and Now* (B&W and colour) images, maps and text of scenes within the City of Monash. Copies available for pickup from the WHS rooms at \$20 or by post at \$27.50.

See the WHS webpages for more details or Email the WHS Secretary.

We are working on *Then and Now Book 2* which is planned for release for our golden anniversary later in 2020.



WANTED WHS Family History Records

We have been sorting through the WHS family folders, and would love to see them include more people. We are eager for any members who have information about their families to send us a brief background to your family's history in the Waverley / Monash district.

It doesn't matter how long you have lived here. It all leads to a better knowledge of the history of families in the area. Email:

kerriewhsv@gmail.com

or drop in with any information you have on Wednesday afternoons at our rooms.

WHS Coming Events

Burwood Cemetery



A member of the Greater Melbourne Cemeteries Trust will talk of the history of this cemetery where many of our city's pioneer families are buried.

2pm Wednesday 26th February 2020

At WHS ROOMS

Above Mt Waverley Library

RSVP to:

waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea or a gold coin donation.

Dandenong Creek Bushland Walk



The *Half Bad Lands* Historical investigation.

The walk will cover the story of the re establishment of the area as a revegetation project and a wildlife corridor 20 plus years ago. The historical context with the Wurundjeri Ngurrungaeta William Barak from prior to post settlement.

1pm Sunday 22nd March 2020

Bookings essential

Meeting point will be advised to registrants

RSVP email: waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Members free; non-members \$5

Wear flat shoes and bring water

ANZAC Day Wreath Laying

ANZAC

A Waverley Historical Society member will lay a wreath in memory of those servicemen from the Waverley district who lost their lives during Australia's participation in 2 World Wars

10am Sunday 19 April 2020

Glen Waverley Cenotaph

(Near the GW Library)

Fallen Diggers

Dennis Frank



In recognition of ANZAC day, this talk will cover the story of 27 Diggers taken off the "Missing List"

2pm Wednesday 22 April 2020

At WHS ROOMS

Above Mt Waverley Library

RSVP to:

waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea or a gold coin donation.

Black Flat Historical Walk 27 Oct 2019

Virginia Barnett

Long before the Parish of Mulgrave came into being, the rolling hills would have been covered with the native grasses – *Gahnia radula* (most likely) and *Gahnia sieberiana*, a fact acknowledged by historian, Susan Priestley. This two metre-high waving sedge-grass with its slender, black, drooping, plume-like inflorescences would, on a windy day, shimmer shiny black and that is the most likely explanation for the name: Black Flat.

Twenty-five walkers gathered in the grounds near the old schoolhouse, to listen to MarJo's description of this now very busy intersection, that of Springvale and Waverley Roads. We hearkened to stories about this corner, which was once the central point of Glen Waverley, named as such in 1905.

Houses were few and far between back then, and Springvale Road was known as Baileys Lane. One member of the well-known old Herriott family, Les Bailey, was part of our small throng, as was Kerrie Flynn, a member and descendant of yet another old family; these families interlocked, generations ago. Les ran a briquette business on the land behind Oficeworks.

On the north-eastern side of the intersection, a modern car-yard and shops replace the old buildings of the 1940's.

We walked the short distance to Wilson Road, and were informed that this road was named after the farming family of Wilson. One of the Wilsons ran a bus service from Oakleigh to Ferntree Gully, via Glen Waverley, and also carried mail. We could recall the saw-toothed roofline of the Wilson Transformer Company. This backed on to a spare house-sized block of land on the corner of Jordan Grove; a convenient play and rest area for local residents, mature trees and two very old oaks within eyeshot.

Then we strolled along the grove and crossed over Waverley Road to the old St Paul's Church (built in 1921); the adjacent Dunscombe Hall was named

after Les' farming grandfather, Harry. A vicarage was built behind the church, and fronting Kirstina Road, in 1967. In 1997, St. Pauls combined with St. James and St. Andrews to form St. Barnabas on the corner of Watsons and Waverley Roads.

Walking through the church property, we emerged on to Kirstina Road. A Scandinavian family, the Kamps, had lived here; hard-

working farmers again, and one family member occupied the house on the Springvale Road corner; he was a farmer and an amateur photographer and took many photos of the area, some of which still exist – proof that cows once ambled along the

roads. Les said he and his friends kicked their football up this now main road!

We passed a plaque outside where the old forge once stood, near the corner of Springvale and Waverley Roads. Then we crossed the road to Central Reserve. Looking back east, we could see No. 400 Springvale Road still standing in its original state; this was the home of the Oliver family, whose son, Robert, was tragically taken in a bike accident, hence Roberts Street.

The football ground land was bought by funds raised by local people; once again this area was the hub of community, and more raised funds covered the cost of building the Mechanics Institute. According to Les, this Hall was the centre of social activity, events, dances, library; visited by all. Fire destroyed the building in 1958. Not far from this site is Waverley's first war memorial. The gates were originally at the entrance to the football ground, but were moved to make way for road widening; good that they have been retained.

Continued P.8

The Value of History

According to a statement adopted on 3 July 2019 by the History Councils of Victoria, NSW, SA and WA, the study of the past and the telling of its stories are critical to our sense of belonging, to our communities and to our shared future. History shapes our identities, engages us as citizens, creates inclusive communities, is part of our economic well-being, teaches us to think critically and creatively, inspires leaders and is the foundation of our future generations.

History enables people to discover their own place in stories of families and communities. It is through these varied stories that the systems of personal and community values can guide approaches to life and shape relationships with others. Communities are wrapped in human memory: Indigenous knowledge, family stories, social customs, and cultural collections. It supports a sense of community identity and place; and that in turn promotes social cohesion and resilience. Personal stories of leadership reveal how people met the challenges of their day and can give new leaders the courage and wisdom to confront the challenges of our time. History is crucial to our future because it explains our shared past, a foundation upon which future Australians can build.

History matters!

Our May meeting will be Sunday 24 May and will feature something local that has served Waverley for 90 years. A clue will be found on the WHS webpages

Black Flat walk 27 Oct 2019

Rain did not stop play. One short shower and a time limit meant we did not venture as far as planned, so I will redevelop that part into a separate walk some time. We had 25 walkers and the commentary was greatly enhanced by two long-time residents, Kerrie Flynn and Les Bailey. Most walkers were members, but we also had 4 visitors. We were able to include a quick inspection of the schoolhouse with Les explaining what had been where, so the whole excursion took 2 hours as planned.

See p.6 for a description of the route and explanation of key items of significance.

MarJo Angelico

Waverley Memories

One Australia Day, we asked visitors to jot down things they remember from their time in the area. Here are some of the results. Please add to our collection by adding some of yours!

Jen

I moved into the area in 2000, initially to Ashwood, then to Mt Waverley, finally settling in Glen Waverley in 2009. I particularly like the undulating heavily treed landscape, the parkland and the community feel. I enjoy the mish-mash of cultures and the cafe lifestyle.



Aerial view of Wheelers Hill and Jells Park

Trevor

I grew up in Jordanville and went to Bayview Primary School for grades 1-3. I often wonder where the "bay view" was that gave the school its name. Today I discovered that it was Huntingdale Rd (formerly known as Bayview Rd) that had given it its name.

Jill

We moved into the area with a three month old baby boy in 1989 and went on to have four more. In those days the area we lived in had just been rezoned from Glen Waverley to Wheelers Hill. We still live in what we lovingly call the 'Mission Brown' area of Wheelers Hill.

Within five years, the Victorian Government "clustered" the state primary schools in the area and closed several schools. At the time, Wheelers Hill Primary School had a school population of a little over 100, but for some reason was saved from the schedule of closures.

We attended the old timber Wheelers Hill library and Infant Welfare Centre. This was before this corner of Wheelers Hill went through a 'gentrification' or upgrade. Our infant welfare nurse was 'Mel'. She was an institution herself. Story times at Wheelers Hill library were a highlight of our week as were trips to Jells Park.

Springvale Cemetery

MarJo Angelico

What place bordering the City of Monash can you enjoy a bus trip through amazingly beautiful botanical gardens, explore parts probably never before seen, and then savour a delicious free lunch afterwards?

The answer is at Springvale Botanical Cemetery. Though it may seem macabre to enjoy the beauty of a burial place, it is genuinely a local beauty spot and also an education. On the tour you will see a stunning variety of scenes and learn about other cultures, the history of the place, famous or significant people who are remembered there, and the variety of ways people can choose from to be remembered.

Regarding its history, did you know that it was established in 1901 and the original layout was based on a Union Jack? With Federation and the death of Queen Victoria, patriotism was running high. In all, 770 acres was set aside at that time for the needs of eastern Melbourne – a far-sighted plan that has met the need for nearly 120 years, even with a reduction over time to just 420 acres. The gardens have the third largest irrigation system in the southern hemisphere.

It is the only Victorian cemetery with a railway that went right into it, not just to a gateway, allowing transport of coffins and mourners right to the grave. The line ran from 1904 to 1951, and was electrified in 1922. Unfortunately that railway was not as successful as hoped, as fares were high, but a hearse wagon that was used in Springvale can still be seen at Fawkner cemetery.

Cremation, now used for 70% of deaths in Melbourne, began when people from some cultures that were accustomed to this form of disposal were making their own arrangements without the use of undertakers or cemeteries. To regulate a potential hazard, the first Cremation Bill was enacted in 1903. By 1970 Springvale Necropolis (city of the dead) was the biggest provider of cremation in Australia, and became known as The Crematorium.

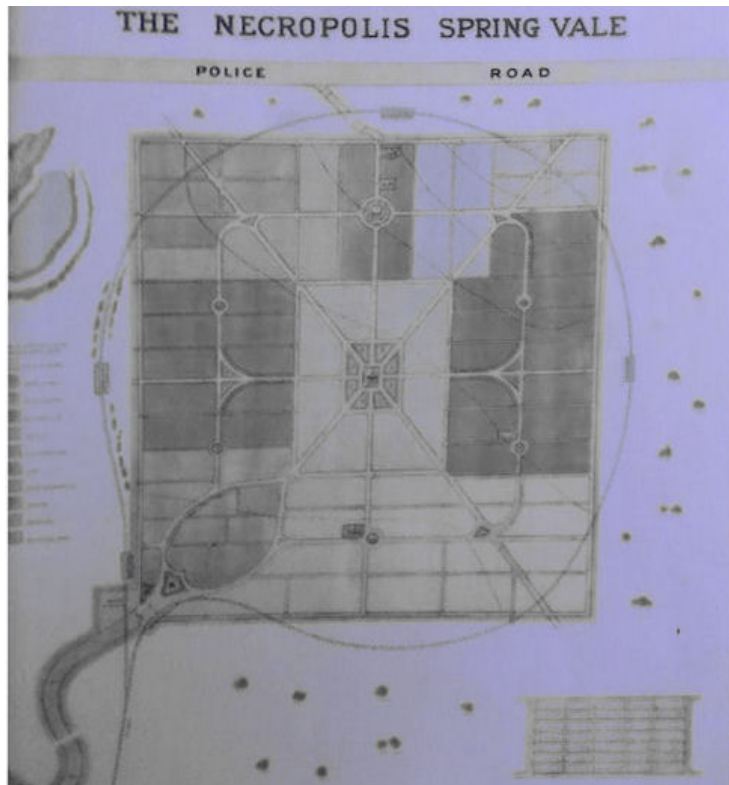
On the tour participants will see the huge variety of

memorials that are currently used: burial in graves, and above ground in mausolea, and in lawns, with markers from the very simple to the imposingly ornate; cremation with remains in walls, under rose bushes, or scattered. Whether or not the remains are in the cemetery, there are memorial books in restful pavilions where words can be attached to a date of choice and publicly viewed. There are war grave areas and police areas. And all this barely scrapes the surface of what can be seen or done! With all the different cultures now common in Melbourne, Springvale Botanical Cemetery has kept up with the times and provided space for each.

The tour is led by the knowledgeable and interest-holding Dr Celestina Sagazio, who was a speaker at WHS just last year. She illustrates her narrative with many historical pictures and maps. Then after the bus tour, a delicious complimentary lunch awaits participants, and they are handed a folder full of maps and brochures. For example there is a self-guided tour outline for viewing some of the 30,000 rose bushes growing there. Another guides walkers to the notables interred at Springvale. A “Life

Book” gives people a place to record their wishes eg. music or readings they would like at their funeral (and passwords to unlock other records on their computers!). Of course, there are leaflets about the various services for mourners, eg. there is a Centre for Care and Wellbeing, where various therapies are available, from music and meditation to gentle movement classes, art therapy and nature walks.

The park exists, of course, more for the living than for the dead. It is there to be enjoyed. The tour is commended to you as both an education and possibly a preparation for the future.



Site plan of the Springvale Cemetery showing the Union Jack layout encircled by the never completed railway (which originally terminated at a station, not shown here, on the South boundary)

Dr Celestina Sagazio

Pinewood Nursery 60 Years

Virginia Barnett

Hardworking, sharp-eyed, and ever smiling Frank Mitchell will, on the 2nd October, 2020, celebrate sixty years' ownership of Pinewood Nursery, on Blackburn Road, Glen Waverley.

What an achievement, in this world of ever-changing businesses, and watching other nurseries come and go – proof that whatever Frank and his team are doing, they must be doing it right. We sat in the little two-storeyed office block on the southern wall of the nursery, and it was from this point that, back in 1959, and even later, Frank said he could see the trains come in to Syndal Station. You would have gazed north,

over the lush market gardens from Cambridge Drive extending to Waverley Road, and from there on it was bare paddocks, grazing and gardens. Over the two-laned Blackburn Road was the start of Pinewood Shopping Centre, and a newsagency led the way.

Gardening came easily to Frank; he worked at three different markets before he struck out on his own; one of them, Parkinsons, and another, wholesaler Warners in Burwood, was where he was trained and worked for twelve years. Initially, Frank leased the land that is now Pinewood; it had consisted of several tennis-court-sized blocks and there was an old house on the property, which, instead of being knocked down, like nowadays, was shipped off to Kerang, where it probably still stands. The lease was taken out, over a hundred years, from Florence Estates, in the city. Frank's work-place was a little “7x7 shed”, where he conducted the beginnings of a nursery, helped by his wife, Nancy, and a few volunteers. He was still employed at Warners, but Saturdays and Sundays were his Pinewood days. Huge, original gum trees sur-

rounded the property. Gradually, Frank stepped up the days of work and employed more staff, so that, in 1963, he was able to leave Warners altogether.

Expansion occurred, by degrees, and now the property runs to two and a half acres, with Frank's home back gate opening into the biggest backyard in Glen Waverley. Even in his spare time, his main interest is keeping his own vegetable garden going, which is filled to capacity and staff members are the grateful recipients of the overflow. At the height of pumpkin season, trolleys are loaded with the various types and placed within easy reach of customers passing through the nursery.



Entrance to Pinewood Nursery located on Blackburn Rd, under the major power line easement, opposite the Pinewood Shopping centre

The numbers speak words. The gates open at 8am and close at 5pm. In 2017, 58,000 customers passed through these gates. It is a nursery that is constantly undergoing change and welcoming new ideas and plants.

It is set in an attractive layout and the regular customer knows where things are. There is a gift shop, which has recently been reduced in size to make way for more indoor plants; after all, we are in the apartment era and that's what people want. Pinewood's gift-wrapping service is second to none. Generally, the display area is a blaze of colour.

The attractive glass wall along Blackburn Road footpath went up in 1974. Tanks on site help in times of drought and Frank, with a penchant for numbers, could reel off the hottest years. The measurement of a good business is the loyalty of its staff – Craig has been there for forty-three years, and is General Manager; he has seen twenty-seven apprentices get their start in the Nursery, and there are other members of staff who have exceeded thirty years. Apprentices train on the job and spend one day at Horticultural Col-

P. Johnstone 10.10.19