

Waverley Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER
July 2009 **Issue No 188**

WAVERLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established in 1970
Incorporated in Victoria
Reg. No.: A 0006377 A

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SUBSCRIPTION
\$15 per person
\$20 per family

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 and reminders of Waverley's rural days



Whealers Hill was originally not the name of a suburb, but of a very steep incline near James Wheeler's land. It was so steep that horses were not able to safely pull a load up or down it. The Deviation was the track taken through the properties of Wilkes (east of Jells Road) and the Marriott-Kingsleys (west of Jells Road). It was made official in early 1927 when the CRB officially bought the land and bitumenised the surface. The route of The Deviation covered most of Marykirk Drive, Wendy Court, and the land between the end of Wendy Court and the fast food restaurant on Jells Road, as well as the short section currently named The Deviation west of Jells Road. By that time the Wilkes land had passed to Haynes and then the Ryan brothers, the probable builders of this magnificent home.

Coming WHS Events

Photographic exhibition

WHS is curating an interesting exhibition on secondary industry in Waverley, past and present at the Monash Federation Centre in Oakleigh. By the time you get this newsletter it will be open and available for visiting. Many thanks to our hard-working curating team! Please take the opportunity to bring friends or family to see it.



August Annual Meeting

Please find enclosed your membership renewal form, and the notice of our coming Annual General Meeting, as well as nomination forms.

On Sunday 23rd August your old committee reports to you and you elect the new committee.

Please consider who you would like on your committee this coming year. Maybe YOU would like to stand? You would be most welcome! Also, if you appreciate the work done by current members, please re-nominate them.

After the meeting, we hope you can stay for our special movie feature - "Two on the Aisle"

A TIME TO REMEMBER - AN AFTERNOON AT THE FLICKS.

For most Australians, until the advent of television in 1956, newsreels were the only images they saw of their country on the big screen. Before this time news was read in the papers, heard on the radio, or watched on a newsreel in a movie theatre.

Providing the only audiovisual depiction of major events such as elections, wars, local triumphs and natural disasters, they had a significant influence on Australian society. A newsreel is a documentary film containing filmed news stories. Originally created in France in 1908, newsreels became popular throughout the world and were an essential part of cinema programs in Australia.

In the 1930s Cinesound newsreels came out twice weekly, styling themselves as "the voice of Australia". Cinesound's producer-director Ken G. Hall boasted that Cinesound "never used a foreign story" except during

WW11, and all those war stories involved Australian servicemen and were made by Australian cameramen.

So please join us for "an afternoon at the flicks."

Eastern Region Meeting

You are invited to the meeting of the Association of Eastern Metropolitan Historical Societies, which will meet at OUR ROOMS on Saturday 18th September, at 1.30pm. This is an opportunity to meet with other local historical societies and hear what they are doing. Please bring a plate of afternoon tea.

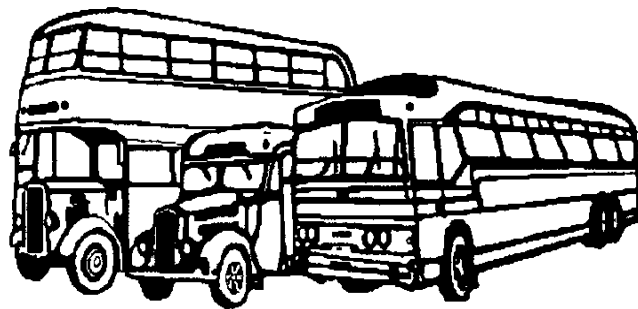
Driver Bus Extravaganza

About ten years ago, we were privileged to view the Driver Bus Museum, at the Driver Depot right here in Waverley. It was fascinating to see buses from every fleet that the company had used to provide local bus services.

How would you like to ride in those fully restored veteran buses?

On Sunday 20th September, the entire Driver Heritage Fleet (plus a few of their new coaches) will be plying the old routes, visiting old depot sites and the sites of companies taken over by Driver, tracing the entire history of the Driver Bus company from its beginnings in 1931 to the present.

Starting and ending at Glen Iris station, the tour goes from 10am till 5pm, costs \$30 and includes a barbecue lunch and a colour tour brochure.



September Meeting

Our first meeting with the new committee, and our first Thursday meeting for Spring, is scheduled for 24th September at 8pm.

The theme will be "Remembering Waverley." A panel of pioneer identities will swap stories or be interviewed for the entertainment of... visitors! This would be a great time to invite neighbours and younger generations, all ages, friends from Probus, anyone you can think of. Please bring a plate of supper to make them feel especially welcome!

Birthday in October

Your invitation to our 39th birthday gathering will be available for pick-up at the Annual General Meeting. PLEASE NOTE that we will be holding it on a Sunday once again, but at a NEW VENUE. This year we visit St. Philip's church hall, on the corner of Catherine Avenue and Stephenson's Road, Mt Waverley, just south of the freeway.

Some people are of the opinion that members need not RSVP, but we do need to set out the correct number of chairs, so please let us know your intentions. A slip will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

October Meeting

On Thursday October 22nd, Dr. Fiona Hill, currently ministering at Chadstone Baptist Church in Margot Street, will speak to us about the topic of her doctorate, "The Essex Heights Estate." What an opportunity for some in-depth local history!

WHS Events - Reports

Steam Train 2009

Another successful and popular steam train day took place happily on Sunday 28th June, our fifth annual trip. Enthusiasm for this event is certainly not dwindling, and people have come to expect it in the middle Sunday of the school holidays.

Every train was again full, and it has become impossible to walk down the train to meet up with people, as the corridors are full of happy children (of all ages) looking out the windows (and I mean OUT). The first train of the day tends to be the Stroller Brigade. One brave mother took twenty-two 7-year-olds for a birthday ride and picnic!

We were pleased to have a new display for the day, featuring historic railway photos, all done up on new boards mounted on new easels! The effect was great! Thanks to Jeff Turnbull for fixing these!

It was good to have Australian Railway Historical Society there too, selling books, badges and colouring activities.

Thanks to all who helped make the day a great success, and a good promotion of the Society.



WHS Projects

Acquisitions

We are grateful to Stewart Bradley's relatives for passing on to the Society some of his historical papers. Stewart has done a lot of research on behalf of the Society over the years, and was always helping people find information they needed. There are old newsletters, newspaper clippings, notes from his research, and some of the histories he had written, one of VFL Park, and one of Waverley Historical Society. There are also some other bits and pieces, not all sorted yet, but all much appreciated!

We have also received from a former resident, all papers connected with the purchase of a particular block on the Glen Alvie Estate, and the building of a house there, etc. This is significant because it shows costings and details that give insight into the times as well as into this special estate.

A Mount Waverley couple who built their own home near Hamilton Place have lent us their entire photographic record of the construction, including some great shots of developing Mt Waverley, to copy.

Our heritage trail has been made into a DVD, which we will enjoy together soon.

Finally we have just received the full benefit of Marj Poulton's amazing work over many decades, collecting primary documents in relation to St Stephen's church. This will enable us to authoritatively detail the history of not only the church, but also the many families who participated in the work there.

Many thanks to all who donated these treasures to us for the benefit of future Waverley residents.

Waverley Street Names

Many streets in the Monash area form a group that follow a name theme. Here is a group that was created by the Overland Development Corporation around what was to be the Brandon Park Technical School (which has since changed to a Secondary College, and then closed in 2003) and the Good Shepherd School. These names follow an educational and philosophical theme.

Collegium Ave.,	Graduate Cr.,
Plato Cr.,	Minerva Crt,
Campus Crt,	Academy Cr.,
Alumnus Crt,	Scola Crt.

Note the spelling Scola and that, strangely, up until 2007 there was no street name of "Scholar" listed in the Melway directory.

[Possibly they had in mind "Scola," the educational television re-transmitter, or Sutton College Of Learning

for Adults in South London, but surely “scholar” would have been more in keeping with the theme?

Recent naming conventions, to suit cartographers, ban the use of long names for short streets. Maybe seven letters was just too long for this very short court?

Whatever the reason, it now matters little, because Scola Court has been swallowed up by extensions to Brandon Park shopping centre. -Editor]

Research Enquiries

Can you help with any information on the **Bizley** family, particularly **Leonard William Bizley**, who fought in a world war? We know that Bizley Street in Syndal was named after that family, and that the street had previously been called Huntingdale Road, but we need information on the soldier.

Also, where did the name **Hamilton Place** come from?

Anniversaries

100 Years Ago...

On 18th August 1909, after a sterling effort of fund raising and personal sacrifice, the people of the newly renamed Glen Waverley were proud and pleased to attend the official opening of the Glen Waverley Mechanics Institute. There had been open-air concerts, bioscope shows, and of course bazaars, with everyone contributing, to get their prized hall, library, meeting rooms, and dance venue.

Opening day came after months of wet miserable weather, yet it dawned bright and sunny and stayed cheerful through the full day of celebratory events. Speeches, dances, feasts, concerts, football matches, and a formal ball gave something for everyone and a taste of things to come.

All were enjoyed for nearly 50 years, even to the extent of adding a proud new brick extension on the front of the building in 1927. Things were looking fairly good for Glen Waverley residents - until the Great Depression struck. Unable to continue maintaining the hall themselves, the people asked the Council to take over.

The railway came and gradually Glen Waverley began to move northward to its terminus. The Mechanics Institute began to fall into disrepair, and people did not find its location convenient. Complaints were frequent. Then disaster struck.

Just after the building's 49th birthday, it was burnt out (10th September 1958) and the remains stood for some six months while the fate of the building was decided. In the end it was demolished as unsafe. It would be

sadly missed by all until other meeting places emerged to take its place as a venue of choice.

Fifty Years of Hockey

Waverley Hockey Club was formed in 1959 by twelve local residents who had previously played for old school clubs. At first they played in makeshift uniforms and on do-it-yourself fields. They would often have to bring their own mowers and trim the grass, then mark out the field, on Saturday mornings to play on in the afternoons. Their first uniform was a navy T-shirt with a white band tacked around the waist hastily the night before a game.

In 1862 their first junior teams started competing, and in 1971 a women's team was formed. There are now 650 members, including seven Olympians. Congratulations, Waverley Hockey!

Forty Years of Opportunity

The Brotherhood of St. Laurence Opportunity Shop in Mt Waverley opened in 1969 and guess who one of the founding members was? Our own patron, Dr Morna Sturrock.

Established during the Great Depression, the Brotherhood of St. Laurence was the vision and creation of Fr. Gerard Tucker, a man who combined his faith with a fierce determination to end social injustice. (It was named after St. Laurence, the patron saint of the poor. Laurence lived in Rome 258-276, one of seven deacons responsible for collecting donations and distributing them to people in need. Fr. Tucker himself is remembered at the Carrum Downs G K Tucker Settlement, operated by the Brotherhood as a retirement village.)

Each decade new services have been added to this active organisation, including the opportunity shops in the 1950s. The Food for Peace campaign grew into Community Aid Abroad, extending Australians' concern to people overseas, which today is known as Oxfam Australia, a leading international aid and development agency.

The little shop in Hamilton Walk has been doing steady trade, staffed by volunteers and maintaining a good collection of saleable goods, for 40 years now. I often think what a service they provide, not only to the people who use the shops to purchase things, and not only to those who benefit from the funds thus raised, but also to the people who donate goods. I am stunned by how much arrives, and wonder where else these things would be disposed of. Thank you BSL Mt Waverley for your work in this community.

Collections Policy

On **23 June 1996** a Collections Management Policy was approved by the members and subsequently adopted by the Society as follows:

The term "Collections" as used in this Collections Management Policy is understood to mean the acquisition of historically significant artefacts, documents, photos, etc that contribute to an understanding of past human behaviour, customs, activities, episodes, institutions and personalities.

The item collected must be historically significant to the Waverley area. Priority will be given to objects associated with important episodes and personalities associated with the Waverley area and its surrounds.

The items must be in reasonable condition so that the Society may fulfil its goal of preservation, with as little alteration to the items as possible.

The Society will not collect items that do not contribute to a significant historical awareness of the Waverley area and its surrounds.

The acceptability of an item for the Society's collection will be determined by the Committee of Management of the Society.

Items collected shall be well documented, and where appropriate such documentation shall include:

1. circumstances surrounding the item's discovery and acquisition (ie: where, when and by whom);

2. the original owner and manufacturer;

3. the item's original use;

4. a chronological history of the item; and

5. any other pertinent facts.

Such documentation shall be capable of verification.

The Society may collect items that have incomplete documentation as long as they contribute to a clearer understanding of significant former customs, activities, people or episodes.

Items collected must be useful in the Society's display, research and interpretative activities.

Items are collected for the sake of displaying or using them in an historical context, not for the sake of collection. However, the display of particular items is not guaranteed.

The Society will not collect duplicates unless they serve a useful purpose, such as extension of program displays, travelling educational kits, etc. Any duplicate must have a specific function within the Society's program. Any duplicate which does not have a specific function should not be collected.

Since this policy was approved, the capacity to preserve, conserve and store additional items has been further constrained by the lack of space available to the Society and, whilst it is not the Committee's intention to dispose of any items that are already in the collection, it is important that extra effort needs to be made to ensure we all understand that an item being donated, purchased or exchanged needs to be relevant to the specific area on which the Society is focused. To this end, an updated policy is to be put to the upcoming Annual General Meeting for approval. This new policy will incorporate similar provisions to those in the old policy but, in addition, will also:

(a) stress the importance of any items being donated having to relate specifically to the Waverley area (which includes its immediate surrounds);

(b) note that acquisitions may be made by donation, purchase or exchange;

(c) require that donations be unconditional gifts (thus also transferring copyright to the Society), unless expressly stated otherwise, and that the donor needs to acknowledge that such is the case;

(d) allow the Committee to appoint an Acquisitions Sub-Committee to administer the policy requirements;

(e) make the requisite record-keeping the responsibility of a designated person;

(f) specify the parameters under which the Society may borrow or lend items;

(g) stipulate the process which must be observed if the Society is to dispose or divest itself of any items.

Without express provisions in this regard, donors cannot be confident that their interests will be considered if the Society looks to divest an item they have donated (as already noted, it is not the intention to divest any item currently within the collection); and

(h) require the Committee to review the policy annually to ensure it remains relevant to the aims of the Society, with any material changes to be put to the members for approval at the next following Annual General Meeting.



The new policy is proposed to read as follows:

The term "Collections" as used in this Collections Management Policy means the acquisition of historically significant artefacts, documents, photos, etc that contribute to an understanding of past human behaviour, customs, activities, episodes, institutions and personalities.

1. The items collected must be historically significant to the Waverley area. Priority will be given to objects associated with important episodes and personalities associated with the Waverley area and its surrounds.

The items must be in a reasonable condition so that the Society may fulfil its goal of preservation, with as little alteration to the items as possible.

The Society will not collect items that do not contribute to a significant historical awareness of the Waverley area and its surrounds.

**Items are collected for the sake of displaying or using*

in an historical context, not for the sake of the collection, however, the display of the particular item is not guaranteed. The Society will not collect duplicates unless they serve a useful purpose, such as extension of program displays, travelling educational kits, etc. Any duplicate must have a specific function within the Society's program.*

2. Acquisitions will be made through donations, purchase or exchange with other institutions.

Items collected must be useful in the Society's display, research and/or interpretive activities.

Items collected will be well documented where appropriate and such documentation will include, if available:

a) circumstances surrounding the item's discovery and acquisition (ie: where, when and by whom);

b) the original owner and manufacturer;

c) the item's original use;

d) a chronological history of the item;

e) any other pertinent facts; and

f) a Gift and Acknowledgement by Donor form signed by the donor (if there is one).

Such documentation is to be capable of verification wherever and whenever possible.

Acceptability of an item will be determined by the Committee of Management, as required by the Society's Constitution (clause 43).

*In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, donations will be deemed unconditional gifts and acknowledgement of such is to be given by the donor.

3. The acceptability of an item for the Society's collection will be determined by the Committee of Management and where appropriate the appointed subcommittee.

The nominated Archivist/Curator (who will be responsible for the recordkeeping and preservation of the item acquired), plus two other members of the Committee appointed at the first Committee meeting after the Annual General Meeting, will form the Acquisitions Sub-Committee.

* Purchases will be approved by the Committee prior to an order for purchase being placed. Donations and exchanges not incurring any monetary obligation on the

Society may be approved by the Acquisitions Sub-Committee.

4. Recordkeeping and preservation will be under the jurisdiction of the appointed Archivist/Curator who will follow the guidelines set out in the Small Museums Cataloguing Manual.

5. Items may be lent for temporary exhibition with specified time lengths according to the loan conditions established by the Committee and detailed on the reverse side of the loan form used for such purposes.

* The Society may lend items for temporary displays or educational purposes off-site. Such off-site locations must offer reasonable security and environmental conditions. Items borrowed or lent by the Society on a long-term basis must be reviewed and renewed annually, if such renewal is desirable.*

* Members of the Society may borrow books from the Society but other items are strictly for viewing in the only. The Collection will be accessible to the public under the guidance of a Committee member at designated viewing times. Loans will be recorded

in a suitable ledger.*

6. The Society may dispose of items that are not historically significant to Waverley and the immediate area, duplicates of items and items not useful for research, exhibition or loan.

* Disposal of such items will be undertaken by the Acquisitions Sub-Committee in the following manner and order:*

a) first, the item would be returned to the donor (if the donor can be contacted - if not, the Society's records should note that fact and the efforts which were made to establish contact);

b) secondly, offered to another society or educational or cultural institution; or

c) as a last resort, sold or destroyed.

7. This policy is to be reviewed annually by the Committee of Management prior to the Annual General Meeting and any material changes flowing from that review are to be placed before the members at the next Annual General Meeting for approval, prior to the amendments taking effect.

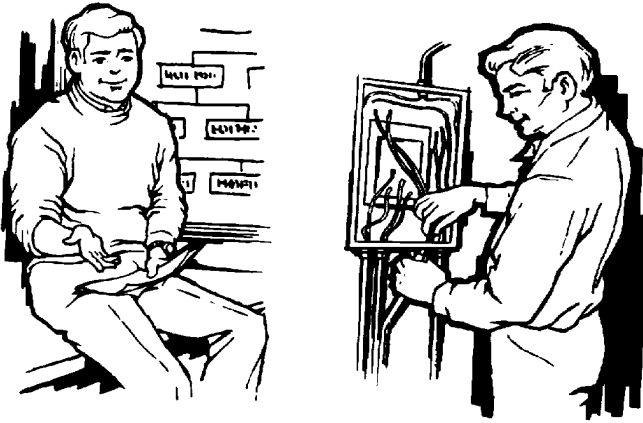
This new policy has been drafted to accord with the latest "best practice" and the Committee commends it to you.



History is Happening

Men's Shed

The old scout hall in Bogong Reserve, which has not been in use for some time, is to be converted into a permanent Men's Shed, a place for men to gather, to learn practical skills and swap knowledge, to be mutually encouraged and to build social connections.



Jack Meade Oval

Clayton Reserve is having its name changed to Jack

Meade Oval, to honour John Meade, a volunteer with Clayton football Club for 50 years.

Changes About Town

Holy Family school is being visibly changed and renovated. Huge new factories are going up on Ferntree Gully Rd, where McDougall Ireland were for many years (the original site of New Oakleigh Motors). The two-storey flats that were on Power Avenue near Warrigal Rd are gone. The Wilson's Transformers site in Glen Waverley will soon have a totally new facade.

Ritchies is undergoing major internal renovations. Please do hurry along and check them out, and use the shop - they continue to give us each month \$15 - 20, the equivalent of a new subscription every four weeks!

Corpus Christi village in Clayton Road has acquired more of the 1950s brick homes which had been used for student accommodation and were in need of work. These have been removed and are being replaced by steel-framed houses for a retirement village. The array of blue steel framework currently decorating the area is very eye-catching.

What people were saying 50 Years ago

Yes, we know we didn't have dollars back then,
but we have converted these amounts to dollars at the 1966 exchange rate
for easy comparison.

'I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20.00.

'Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$2,000 will only buy a used one.

'If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. 25 cents a pack is ridiculous.

'Did you hear - the post office is thinking of charging 10 cents just to mail a letter?

If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.

'When I first started driving, who would have thought petrol would someday cost 29 cents a gallon? Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage.

'I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get away with saying 'damn' in *Gone With the Wind*, it seems every new movie has either 'hell' or 'damn' in it.

'I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it.

'I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now.

'It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet.

'It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work.

'I'm afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.

'Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to government.

The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.

'There is no sense going on short trips any more for a weekend, it costs nearly \$15 a night to stay in a hotel.

'No one can afford to be sick any more, at \$35 a day in the hospital, it's too rich for my blood.'

'If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it.'

CALENDAR Spring 2008

All these meetings are to be held at our rooms. More details page 2-3
Sunday 23rd August at 2pm
Annual General Meetings, then movies from the 1930s

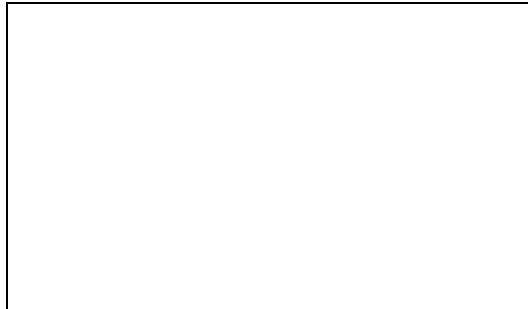
Thursday 24th September at 8 pm
A panel of pioneers Remember Waverley

Thursday 22nd October at 8 pm
Dr. Fiona Hill on Essex Heights
The next newsletter will be available for pick-up at this meeting.

Our next few meetings will be Thursdays 26/11, 25/2, 25/3, 22/4/2010.

Please find enclosed both
**Subscription
Renewal**
forms and
**Nominations
for
Committee**
forms.
Please fill in and return both
as soon as convenient. We
need current as well as
additional committee
members nominated by
financial members!

Waverley Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 2322
Mount Waverley, 3149



The next newsletter will be available for pick-up at the September meeting (deadline for contributions is 10/9).
Your invitation to the WHS October Birthday will be available for pick-up at the August AGM meeting.
Please observe the RSVP date. Thank you!

You are never old
as long as you are planning
for tomorrow.

- Anon