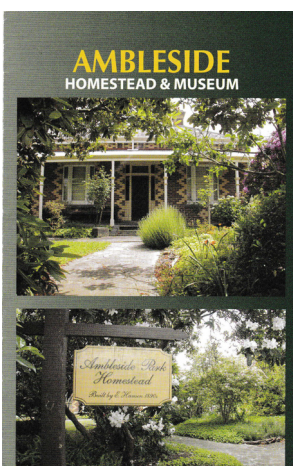


## Forthcoming WHS Visit to *Ambleside*

*AMBLESIDE* Homestead and Museum is the home of the Knox Historical Society which is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of past generations in the local area.

The homestead was built in the 1890s by Ephraim Hansen. An earlier cottage built on the site is preserved behind the house. The land was part of the Crown allotment 53 in the Parish of Scoresby. Visitors to the Museum will capture the lifestyle and endeavours of past generations, from early settlement to recent times.

The gardens are beautiful and well maintained. They contain plants and shrubs normally found in gardens of the same era and are noted for their heritage plantings. The cottage houses a large collection of cooking, preserving and domestic items used in the past.



The homestead has rooms decorated in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century styles with period furniture, historic displays and local art works. In the grounds you will also see the tool shed, with displays of tools and equipment from early families in the area, many in working condition, as well as the machinery shed and garages.

*Ambleside* is at 3 Olivebank Rd, Ferntree Gully, (Melway 65 D12). To get there - travel east along Burwood Highway, then turn left into Forest Road and continue under the railway line. Cross the roundabout (second exit) then take the second exit on the next roundabout. Turn first right into Olivebank Rd, after the School. Car parking is available at *Ambleside*.

After reading about this interesting Homestead and Museum I'm sure you will want to join the Waverley Historical Society's visit on SUNDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> September from 1 pm to 4 pm. Members of the Knox Historical Society will attend to show us around and give us tea and coffee. The number of WHS members in the group will be limited to 20 – so get in touch now and make a booking. Note that there is an entry fee of \$5 for WHS members, payable on the day.

Margaret Boyes

[boyesm@ozemail.com.au](mailto:boyesm@ozemail.com.au), or 9807 3408.

## Vale - Irene Marriott

13.09.1913 - 22.06.2017

We remember long time resident of the Waverley district, Irene Marriott as a life member and contributor to the Waverley Historical Society. Irene had been involved with many facets of the Mulgrave – Waverley – Monash community. Here are some significant highlights.

She was educated at:  
Oakleigh Primary School  
St Peters Grammar  
Dandenong High School  
Associate London College of Music

Councillor Shire of Mulgrave (1956–1960)

Justice of the Peace (1960–1975)

Springvale High School Council (1958)

Probation Officer of the Childrens' Court (1964)

President Church Ladies Guild

Baby Health Centre Committee Member

President of the C.W.A Glen Waverley Branch

Co-author of *Waverley Past & Present*

She was also a member of many other groups:

Waverley City Ladies Probus

St Leonard's Friendship Club

Friends Group of Highway Gallery

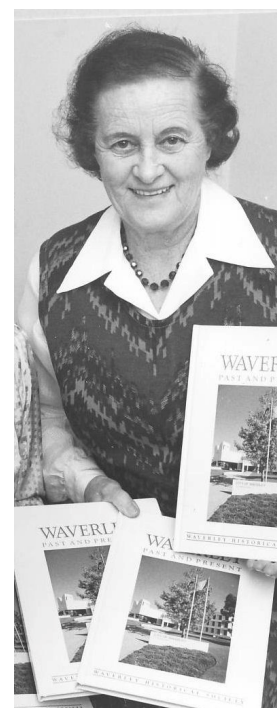
She was an accomplished speaker to Schools and Groups on the history of the area.



WHS File Images



Irene at her graduation from the London College of Music



Irene at the launch of *Waverley Past & Present* in 1988

WHS File Images



## Established 1970

Incorporated in Victoria  
Reg. No. A 0006377 A

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POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 2322,

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SUBSCRIPTION

\$25 per household

We acknowledge support of  
the City of Monash.

With thanks to the Office  
of Michael Gidley MP for the  
printing of our newsletters.

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Annual subscriptions 2017/18 are  
due on 1 July. \$25 per household

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ISSN 2206-6136



WHS File Image

## THE HOUSE

Built in 1967, this remarkable building features a distinctive butterfly roof which seems to float above the walls, due to the continuous window which separates the walls from the roofline on all sides. Other features include the louvered panels on the west side, offering protection from the afternoon sun, and the patterned cement block construction.

For many years this was the rooms of Dr A. B. Bentleigh, but more recently the complex has been modified and added to, and formed four large residential units. The development has retained the original facade and the extensions are sympathetic

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

## Coming Events

**Sun 27 Aug 1.30pm**, AGM, Elections plus a *Virtual Tour Along Waverley Rd.* A plate of afternoon tea would be appreciated.

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1 – 4 pm** Visit to historic house, *Ambleside*.

Details P. 3



## June Meeting - Ian Bock

### The History of Photography

On a wintry June afternoon, we looked forward to hearing our speaker, Ian Bock, talk to us about the history of photography. Ian, a retired engineer and long-term resident of Mount Waverley, received his OAM for service to the Arts and, in particular, photography. He continues as an active member of the Melbourne Camera Club, which he joined in 1966 and cameras have always, since his boyhood, held a fascination for him. Surrounded by publications and an assortment of cameras, mostly vintage style he, in his cheery way, got down to business.

Ian started off by asking us: "What do you think are the two most significant inventions, ever?" Number one, in his view, was the printing press – here was a breakthrough – now everyone could read, or at least learn, and not leave this pastime to the privileged minority.

His second most significant invention was, and is, the digital revolution, as it speeds along in front of our very eyes.

The principle of the camera goes back 2000 years. Progress was slow but sure; he talked about the *camera obscura*.

The *camera obscura* was a drawing aid which was popular amongst the affluent in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Ian mentioned a place called Smeaton Mill, near Edinburgh, called *Camera Obscura and World of Illusions*, full of interactive displays and many connections with the evolution of the camera.

The first permanent photograph was by Nicéphore Niépce, a Frenchman, who later collaborated with Daguerre (1837). Niépce is credited as the inventor of photography. He trialled lithography which led to heliography (which literally means *sun drawing*), and this led to the earliest known surviving photograph made in a cam-

era, taken by Niepce, in 1826 or 1827.

Historians declare Nicéphore Niépce and his heliography was the very first example of what we now call photography – the creation of a reasonably light-fed and permanent image by the action of light on a light-sensitive surface leading to processing.

Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre was responsible for the daguerreotype, which was the first commercially successful photographic process (1839-1860). He invented a process which started with silver-plated copperplate, buffed and polished until it looked like a mirror. It was exposed to fumes of iodine and/or bromine in custom-made light-proof boxes. We are all familiar with these sepia, serious images of old daguerreotypes.



Margaret Boyes presenting a thank you gift to Ian Bock

The techniques travelled across the seas to Australia and here, the very first photograph was taken in 1841. We saw various images of elegantly-dressed photographers standing proudly beside their tools of trade, which looked so impressive then and now. Which home doesn't have at least one of these old-style, beautifully mounted and signed sepia photographs? We are reminded of the old head-under-the-blanket and the serious task of posing and waiting for instructions to relax after the photograph was taken. Ian's talk was peppered with these images and the technical information left no doubt as to where his proclivities lie.

Most of us can remember the uncomplicated and inexpensive *Brownie Box* cameras, originally made by Eastman Kodak. They were introduced in 1900 and here was low-cost photography available to all. It underwent many subtle changes in its time but the basic shape remained the same.

*Continued on P.7*

### Welcome to New Members

Catherine Tate,

### 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 2017 are every second month.

## Recollections of Amber Grove

Virginia Barnett

Amber Grove, so named because the first street plantings were liquidambar, runs east off Stephensons Road. Then it turns south and ends at Waimarie Drive. This section of the Grove was once known as Clarke Street and, in the early 1950's, there was a plan to extend Clarke Street up and over the railway line and continue on the northern side. This grand plan was disbanded when it was decided that a bridge could be made more easily at Lawrence Road which, incidentally, took one whole year to construct.

Due to a slight gradient extending west from Stephensons Road, on rainy days a rivulet would form and end up in a man-made dam near Quercus Court. There was another dam, where Dunsmuir Drive is now, and this supplied the orchards. Water then trickled into the Waimarie Lagoon (corner Waimarie Drive and Amber Grove), which then flowed into the Valley Drain, now known as Valley Creek; this in turn flows into Scotchmans Creek. Not much evidence shows these days, with underground piping and so on.

Laurie Thompson moved into this street in 1959 and was the first builder-inhabitant. 'Southern Constructions' built three houses to the west of Laurie's place but plans to continue further buildings never eventuated. Others moved in and built their own homes. It was peace and quiet in the 1950's. Laurie's first three children attended Park Lane (Mt Waverley) Primary School and crossed Stephensons Road without the assistance of lights. Rapid growth of the suburb meant his next two children found it safer to walk to Syndal South Primary School.

Laurie recalls a circus visiting the suburb in the early 60's. It set up shop near the north end of The Highway and was there for several days. All the circus animals were housed behind Amber Grove and Quercus Court – it was just a wide field then. Laurie distinctly remembers the elephants with chains and other animals taking a rest from circus duties. Children living in the houses which backed on to this temporary animal nursery were given free tickets to the circus.

Laurie still lives there and can remember comings and goings over the years. Most of the original homes remain; about six have succumbed to the sequence of pull-down, wire fence and new double-storey.

Vern Hauser was a Liberal MP and lived at No. 53. Northwards, a large block, now converted

into four units, housed the owner of *Dorf Taps* company.

Laurie, still at No. 14, was an accountant and founded the Mount Waverley Jaycees in 1961; meetings were held in the community hall on the south side of Virginia Street, now Woolworths' car park.

No. 22's fence was washed away after heavy rain, probably other fences were too. No. 36 was built around the banks of Waimarie Lagoon.

Telephone connections were slow until someone from the PMG moved into the street and, coincidence or not, things moved along pretty quickly after that!

Then there was an immaculately dressed Mr. Paton, who doffed his hat to all the ladies, a relic of another time.

Amber Grove residents were upset when a large paddock was turned into Dunsmuir Drive.

George Dore, belonging to the double block at 13-15, built the Post Office. Mt Waverley Library and the nearby *Holy Family* Catholic Church.

All streets are home to gossip and intrigue; Amber Grove was no different. Laurie recalls other stories, perhaps best left to memory.

Virginia Barnett

*Continued from Page 2.*

Then the world changed and along came Pentax, Minolta, Samsung, Panasonic, Instamatic and so on.

What an enormous gulf between the photographs of yesteryear and the cheap, throw-away snaps and selfies of today; will they ever last as long? Ian advised us to **print out** valued photographs to give the best chance of preserving them.

Margaret Boyes expressed a warm "thank you", to Ian from all of us.

Virginia Barnett

### Reminder

The WHS Annual General Meeting and elections will be held on **Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> August at 1.30 pm** our rooms above the Mt Waverley Library 41 Miller Cres., Mt Waverley. Please complete the enclosed nomination forms.



## Statues around Monash

In the May 2016 issue of *History Here*, MarJo Angelico wrote about the outdoor statues we have in the City of Monash. She described the statue of a young policeman at the Police Academy but said that it had not been possible to find information about it. I challenged a member of Victoria Police to track down the origin of the statue, and thanks to the detective work of the Library staff at the Police Academy, here are the details.

In 1989 the Victorian State Savings Bank commissioned a bronze sculpture to the value of \$60,000 to be sited at the Victoria Police Academy in Glen Waverley. It was decided that a competition for this statue would be conducted in which artists would be invited to submit their proposals for the sculpture. Gabrielle Hawley of Fitzroy submitted the winning design, and the completed statue was unveiled at the Police Open Day event in February 1991.

The life-size bronze statue of a young policeman captured the police ethos *We Care*. It had been decided that the figure would be male, as most police members at the time were men. And the constable would be young – the average age of constables in 1989 was about 25. The statue was situated adjacent to the flag poles to the left hand side of the main entrance to the Victoria Police Academy. The base for the statue, whilst not originally costed, was borne by Victoria Police. The statue was mounted on this marble cube and on each of the four aspects of the cube are mounted bronze murals, each depicting a different facet of policing, namely – a mounted member of Victoria Police, the dog squad, city patrol and a policewoman with a child - remember this was the late 1980s and a policewoman's duties were largely still concerned with domestic matters at that time.

I have heard a rumour that later in the year we might have another statue erected at the Police Academy. This one might be the figure of a

young woman, to celebrate 100 years of women in the police force in Victoria. Something to look forward to!



Policewoman with child



Policeman with dog



Mounted Police



City Patrol

Stephen Angelico 2016

## O&DHS Renaming

### Oakleigh & District Historical Society

On Thursday 22 June, following an introduction by Dr Andrew Kilsby (President O&DHS), at the Monash City Civic Centre, the Oakleigh & District Historical Society formally announced its change of name to *History Monash Inc*. There were some 25 people there to witness the unveiling of the new logo of the group. The Mayor, Rebecca Paterson and Ex Chisholm MP, Anna Burke spoke to the assembled crowd on the value of Historical Societies to the community.

Philip Johnstone

### Supporting the WHS while shopping

You can contribute to the WHS financially just by shopping at Ritchies IGA supermarket Mt Waverley. Ritchies can provide a coded card that records your spend each time you shop. Once the monthly total of all WHS shoppers reaches \$2000 then Ritchies will donate 0.5% of the subsequent purchases.

### WHS Speaking Engagements

On Fri. 26 May and Thu. 13 July, Ray Price and Philip Johnstone made presentations to the Syndal Combined and the Waverley Central Womens Probus Clubs with the popular *Virtual Tour along High Street Rd*. Both groups appeared to appreciate the information.

## Coming Events

( Note Day and Time )

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> August at 1.30 pm** Annual General Meeting and elections will be held in our rooms, with a *Virtual Tour Along Waverley Rd*. followed by 47<sup>th</sup> Birthday afternoon tea. Please bring a plate.

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1 – 4 pm** Visit to historic house, 'Ambleside', (Knox Historical Society). Bookings required. See more on p.8.

**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm** Theme for meeting: *Murders & Mysteries of Mulgrave*.

**Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30 pm** Dr Andrew Kilsby: Topic: *'The Rifle Club Movement in Victoria from 1860'*. Followed by a 'Christmas' supper

Margaret Boyes

## Church Marks 130 years

The High Street Rd Uniting Church marked its 130 years of operations with a memorial service held in the church on the 18 June 2017. At the service *A Collection of Historical Document and Images* was released. Here are some highlights extracted from this soft covered book.

Albert and Elizabeth Closter, who had recently been married, held a Methodist Service in their wattle and daub home on 12 June 1887. In April 1888 Albert gifted lots 25 and 26 on the corner of his property to the Methodist Church. In May 1888 the Trust decided to build a weatherboard church of 30 x 20 feet. It was built by Benjamin Bath for £160 of which £125 was borrowed. On 28 May 1888 the foundation stone was laid and in Sep. 1888 the first service in the building was held.

Because of the steepness of High Street Rd a cutting was made to lessen the grade. In July 1892 the cutting was widened leaving the church with difficult access close to the cutting.

The Church Committee accepted the fact that the church site was not suitable and in 1902 purchased another on the SW corner of Stewart St. In 1906 the church building was moved to the present church property. The actual move was undertaken by Mr Scotney and his three sons using a team of 14 horses. Apparently they travelled through a rhubarb crop and the farmer was recompensed.

Unfortunately during painting of the church on 15 Feb. 1945 it caught fire and was completely destroyed. During the following years, while a new Sunday School was constructed, services were held in nearby Horticultural Hall on the SE corner of Stewart St.

A new brick church building was finally completed in 1954 with the opening and dedication on 4-5 December.

More history of this church and its combining with the Presbyterian Church in Larch Crescent, Syndal, may be found in this splendid publication. A copy may be purchased from the Church office while a copy is available for inspection in the WHS rooms.

### 2017/18 Subscriptions due

Reminder, your 2016/2017 subscription expired on 30 June 2017. You may renew anytime, either by cash, cheque, money order or by direct deposit to the WHS Bank Account. If making a direct deposit please include your name in the message. To ensure that we have your contact details correct please also provide us with a completed membership renewal form.



## Building in Rob Roy Street

*The family of Rex and Pat Norrish*

What was life like for those first-time settlers who built in this area in the 1950s? Newlyweds (or even newly engaged couples!) bought land with few or no services in place. How did things go? Thanks to the diary of one such person, we have the following story so we can vicariously feel the pain and the highlights of:-

### The Block of Land

I was from 'North of the Yarra,' and Pattie was from 'South of the Yarra,' and, of course, we looked for land in the south eastern region. We found a nice block in Leeds street, Mount Waverley, and put 10 pounds deposit on it with Alex A..., a local real estate agent. Weeks went by waiting for notification from Alex A that the sale had gone through and the remainder of the money was due. We finally went there one Saturday morning to ask him what was going on. He asked what was our problem, and what were we accusing him off, and was generally quite objectionable. We finally established that the block of land had been multiple listed, and had been sold by one of the other agents. It took us some weeks to get our deposit back. In the meantime, we had found a very nice block in Rob Roy Street, Glen Waverley, at the end of the street, on the North side, and adjacent to a 40 acre, (16 hectare), market garden property owned by Mr. Stocks. Unfortunately it was 500 pounds, and I had only expected to pay about 250 pounds, but we bought it as time was running out, and land was becoming dearer. A Co-operative housing society, (Coolabah), had been set up for G.M.H employees, sponsored by G.M.H, and we joined it. The maximum loan that could be granted was £3000, (\$6000), and we started looking for a house in that price range.

### Selecting the House

We looked at quite a lot of demonstration homes, and one in our price range that we liked the look of was the *Sunstar*, a contemporary home of vertical boards and an open layout, (no passages), which we thought was a good idea. All we did was to shift a couple

of walls, add a door or two, and we had our dream home. The Moorabbin Builders' Bureau was the group that was responsible for the development of this particular range of homes, and they allocated a certain Mr. Jock Smith to build our house.

### Helpful Neighbours

To stay within the \$6000 range, we had to do the painting ourselves. That wasn't too hard, as the neighbour across the road, Stan Offer, came over to help us often. A young couple, Lyn and Ramsay M..., had bought the block next to ours on the east side, and they were very agreeable people. Not long after, the block on the east side of theirs was purchased by Ian and Barbara M..., also very agreeable people.

We would have dinner with Pattie's Mum and Dad two or three nights a week, and then hop into the Morris and off to Glen Waverley for a night's painting. One night Pattie had a strange experience. I was not able to paint that night, and obviously the place was in darkness. There was a knock at the door of Pattie's home, and when she opened the door it was Stan, who said, 'Where the hell have you been? I've been waiting for you both for over an hour'.

Of course, Pattie got into the car, and Stan drove her 6 miles to the house, painted with her for three hours, and drove her back home, and then returned to Glen Waverley. They were the sort of neighbours we had in the old days. However, it was not all plain sailing.

### The Water Supply

Up on 'the hill' as it was called, there were only eight families in our immediate vicinity - the H...s on the corner of Peveril and Rob Roy streets, the B...s a bit further up Peveril, Stan O... opposite us, the L...s on Stan's east, the G...s next to the H...s in Rob Roy, opposite the G...s, the P... family, (who were on a double block), and on the east side of the P...s, the J..., and then the B...s, Phil and Audrey. We needed a water supply, and we discovered that there was a one inch pipe supplying the P...s, L...s, and O...s.

I approached each of them asking could I connect to their supply. In every case the story was the same unfortunately, 'We'd love to help you, but in

the summer, the water supply is just not good enough for the three of us.' So I decided that the only thing to be done was to put our own supply in. It was obviously cheaper for us to do it ourselves rather than employ a plumber, so I began investigating what had to be done.

When you work for a large organisation, it's amazing the number of people who have a wealth of information not related to their job. I finally found the information I required, and started planning for the work to be done on the Queen's Birthday weekend in 1957. I proposed to run the pipe from the point of entry to our block, to the west side of Durward Avenue, a distance of 384 feet, (about 117 metres). We would then get a plumber to cross Durward Avenue and connect our pipe to the water main on the east side of Durward Avenue. The trench had to be about 15 inches deep, (380 mm), and the width of the shovel.

Pattie and I slept at the house Friday night and got a flying start Saturday morning. Our first problem was outside Mr. P...'s house. He was a rather pedantic civil engineer. The road was unmade, no kerb and channel, and no footpath. From Ted's front fence to the edge of the road was an immaculate manicured grass nature strip. He introduced himself, and asked us what we were doing. When we explained, he said that he wanted us to remove neat sections of his turf, and stack it neatly before continuing with the excavation. When we had finished in front of his double block, we were to replace the sections of turf, tamp them down, and level them so that the condition of his nature strip was exactly as it was before we had started work. (I did say that he was pedantic).

### Plumbing Lessons

I had purchased the necessary lengths of pipe from Stewart and Lloyds and as the trench progressed, I had to join successive lengths together, painting the threaded pipe ends, wrapping them with hemp, and screwing them into the threaded sockets on the next section of pipe. We finally completed the job Monday afternoon about 3.30 pm., outside B...'s house. Phil came out and said, 'I've been watching you two all weekend, and you've been working your bums off. Would you like to come in for a drink?' We said, 'Yes' with great enthusiasm, and went in to meet his wife Audrey.

That was the beginning of a friendship that lasted 38 years. When I was planning the connection of our water I looked ahead, and after approaching the Mc...s and M...s with the proposal that I could easily put in tappings oppo-

site their blocks, (so that when they began building, they would not have the same difficulty that we'd had), they agreed. So I had the knowledge that in a couple of years I could recoup the total cost of our one-inch pipe, (plus possibly, a little bit more).

Our wedding day was getting closer. We had to get the painting finished so that a certificate of occupancy could be issued by the Council, and we could move in when we returned from our honeymoon. Unfortunately we were running desperately behind schedule. One weekend, Lyn and Ramsay were visiting their block to make sure it was still there, and popped in to say hullo and have a cup of tea. When they discovered our painting problem, they each grabbed a paint brush and started to help. I think they finished up painting the skirting boards and architraves. To cut a long story short, we finished on time, and the Certificate of Occupancy was issued.

*This story of establishing a home in the Waverley area in the 1950's was provided by the family of Rex & Pat Norrish.*

## Recent Research Enquiries

The WHS Research Officer (Our President MarJo Angelico) handles about 30 queries per month relating to Monash History covering families, businesses and street origins.

Last month we were asked by Monash Enterprise Centre (also called Monash Business Incubator) about their street name, Hartnett Close. This month they were back, asking advice about naming a new building. Three years ago, a building was named after ex-mayor and local businessman (plumber), Tom Morrissey. Now a new building is to be named after a businesswoman of note.

Several were suggested and enquired about, including Mrs Jessie Tait, who with her daughters Blair and Lillie managed the first Post Office Store in Mt Waverley from 1906 to 1944, and Madeline Scott, who managed Bushy Park Run in the early days of Mulgrave after her husband died. One of these capable women will be memorialised in the naming of the new Enterprise Centre building.

### Did you know?

Charlton St, Mt Waverley was originally shown as Charles St on the sub division plan of Closser's *Waverley Gardens Estate, Mulgrave 1942* at the NW west corner of Waverley and Stephensons Rds. We can imagine the potential confusion with the existing Charles St at the SE corner of Stephensons and High Street Rd. Hence the name change.

Norrish - 25 Rob Roy Street, Glen Waverley  
Photo taken 1957

