

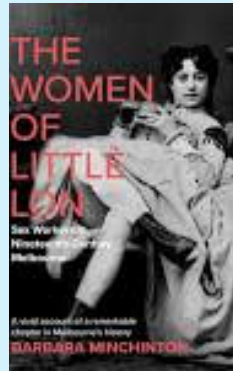


HISTORY HERE 245

Journal of the Waverley Historical Society Spring 2023
ISSN 2206-6136

2pm Sunday 24 September
WHS Rooms above MW Library
Historian & author
Barbara Minchinton
will speak about her book
Women of Little Lon

A vivid account of a remarkable but little-known chapter in Melbourne's history



Bookings essential by 19 September
via our Email
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com.

2pm Sunday October 22

WHS Rooms above MW Library
Gary Presland speaks on the place of
Gardiners Creek (Kooyong Koot) in
Indigenous and European history.



Booking required by 17.10.23
via our Email
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Established 1970

Incorporated in Victoria
Reg. No. A 0006377 A
PATRON

PRESIDENT
Ralph Bartlett
SECRETARY
Kerrie Flynn
EDITOR
Philip Johnstone
www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

POSTAL ADDRESS
PO Box 2322,
Mount Waverley Vic. 3149

SUBSCRIPTION
\$25 per household

We acknowledge support of the
City of Monash.

Contents

The Lawless House	1
2023 AGM report	2, 4
Recent Acquisitions	3
Our Flood, August update	4
Recent Acquisitions	5
From our map collection	6
A letter from our collection ...	7
Did you know?	7
Coming Events	8

Annual subscriptions 2023/24 were-
due on 1 July 23. \$25 per household

Thank you to Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood District, for assistance with printing of this publication. If you require assistance with any State Governemnt issues please contact Matt's office.

Matt Fregon MP P (03) 9561 0511
M 0448 206 688
STATE MEMBER FOR ASHWOOD E matt.fregon@parliament.vic.gov.au



The Lawless House

This house east of Springvale Rd once faced Wilson Rd and was occupied by the Lawless family. Michael and Honorah Lawless. Later they lived in what is now Mount St Neighbourhood House, and G R Ward occupied this one for many years. It had originally (1853) been part J Porter's 212 acres, but 19 acres were sold to M Lawless over 100 years ago. Though the corrugated iron roof speaks of its remarkable age, it is clearly well built. The timber walls and the interior are well kept and attractive.

The WHS is open each Wed afternoon 1 to 4.30pm.

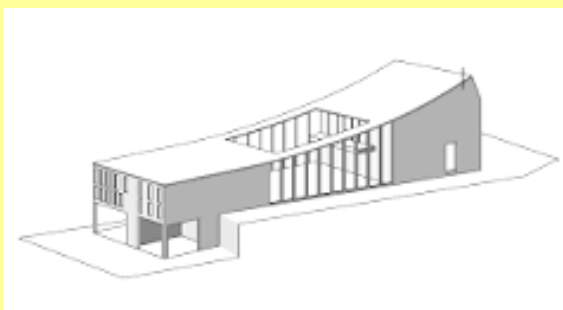
Events on page 8: Unless otherwise stated, General Meetings are held at 2pm on the fourth Sunday in our rooms above Mt Waverley Library (Lift Available) 41 Miller Cres., Mt Waverley.

Coming Events

Next Event
2pm Sunday 29 Sep
Women of Little Lon
See P.8 for other events



2 pm Sunday November 26
WHS Rooms above MW Library
Robin Boyd's Small Homes Service
and how it applied to Waverley 1950s
By **Tony Lee**



Booking required by 19.11.23
via our Email
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

2 pm Sunday February 25
WHS Rooms above MW Library
London to a Brick Veneer
- Bartlett's Designed House
By **Ralph Bartlett**

Booking required by 20.2.24
via our Email
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Our Annual General Meeting

2 pm Sunday 27.8.2023

The President's Report was introduced by the retiring President, MarJo Angelico, see below.

MarJo has been with the Society for some 25 years and has performed in the roles of Committee as Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Vice President and more recently, President. Over this period she has also made educational presentations on Monash-Waverley history to many primary schools as part of their local history studies, plus countless speaking sessions to local community groups. All achieved this while teaching English part time at night.

Altogether a great ambassador for the Waverley Historical Society.

She announced that she was taking leave of WHS secretarial duties while she embarks on a trial as a teacher in the remote township of Mt Magnet in West Australia.

The financial report was distributed.

Election of Office Bearers

All positions were declared vacant and with elections the following positions were filled.

President: Ralph Bartlett

Vice President: Philip Johnstone

Secretary: Kerrie Flynn

Treasurer: Sueie McGrath

Committee: MarJo Angelico, Norma Schultz, Chris Norton, Virginia Barnett, Sandra Hymas, Carina Leitch.

There was no other business and the formal AGM was closed at 2.20pm.

The August general meeting resumed but with our planned speaker Les Bailey absent due to hospitalisation. MarJo outlined her planned visit and duties to Mt Magnet WA with some images of the town.

President's Report

Welcome to our 53rd Annual General Meeting. This is the last time I stand before you in this capacity and I trust the Society is in good order to continue well into the future with its excellent committee and other volunteers.

Committee

Your WHS committee continues in its usual hardworking style. Thanks to these members for continued faithful work week in, week out: Philip Johnstone – vice president, editor, equipment, and website, as well as extremely regular weekly attendance; Kerrie Flynn – secretary, researcher, facebooker and more, despite her sad loss this year; Sueie McGrath – treasurer and program; Norma Schultz – archivist and volunteer coordinator as well as

extremely regular weekly attendance; Chris Norton – photographer and videographer; Virginia Barnett – newsletter articles and general help; Sandra Hymas – safety officer and finder of interesting articles and pictures; Ed Hore – membership secretary; and Ralph Bartlett and Carina Leitch – though it is their first year on committee, both have contributed a lot in research, newsletter articles and generally. Many thanks to all for keeping the Society actively recording and presenting Waverley's history for the future.

Many of those roles will be held by the same people in the coming year, though we already know of some changes. Sueie will take over membership from Ed, but is passing program to Ralph. Carina will take on Education from me. We thank them for volunteering to do these tasks. Changes keep things interesting!

Last year three members joined the committee at the AGM and helped us recover from challenges of 2020-21. It would be great if that occurred again. We particularly need an archivist to help Norma, and more newsletter contributors – perhaps even an editor and/or webmaster?

Membership

The Society's membership profile as at the end of the June, compared to former years, is increasing, with new members joining and some earlier members rejoining. Despite the sad loss of valued older members, pre-Covid numbers are being restored as new people add their enthusiasm to the Society.

Year ended	30.6.21	30.6.22	30.6.23
Life Members	6	6	6
Households	10	11	11
Individuals	35	36	41
Total	51	53	58

Program

This year we have had general meetings every month, with varied themes of memorabilia, motor-ing, cartophilia, convict ancestors, ephemera, and photographing local changes. We have also had local historical walks, an excursion to Schramm's Cottage, and a wreath laying. Numbers at meetings vary between 15 and 25.

Publications

Then and Now 1 and *Then and Now 2* continue to be popular with mail order and direct purchase from the WHS rooms. A steady demand also continues with mail order and direct purchase of *Once There was Jordanville*.

These three volumes have been made available at Peppercorn Gifts in Mt Waverley Shopping Centre for resale. More recently we have been able to offer Les Bailey's self published book *My Glen Waverley* by mail order and direct purchase from the WHS rooms.

Continued p.4

A Letter from our Collection

MarJo Angelico

Found in our collection recently is this letter from an old resident of Mt Waverley, written in the first years of our operation. Apparently in those early years, Waverley Historical Society did not limit its attentions to local history, as art shows, embroidery exhibitions and native plant shows also featured. The letter came addressed from a roadside mail service box in northern Victorian town and was date 16th September 1970.

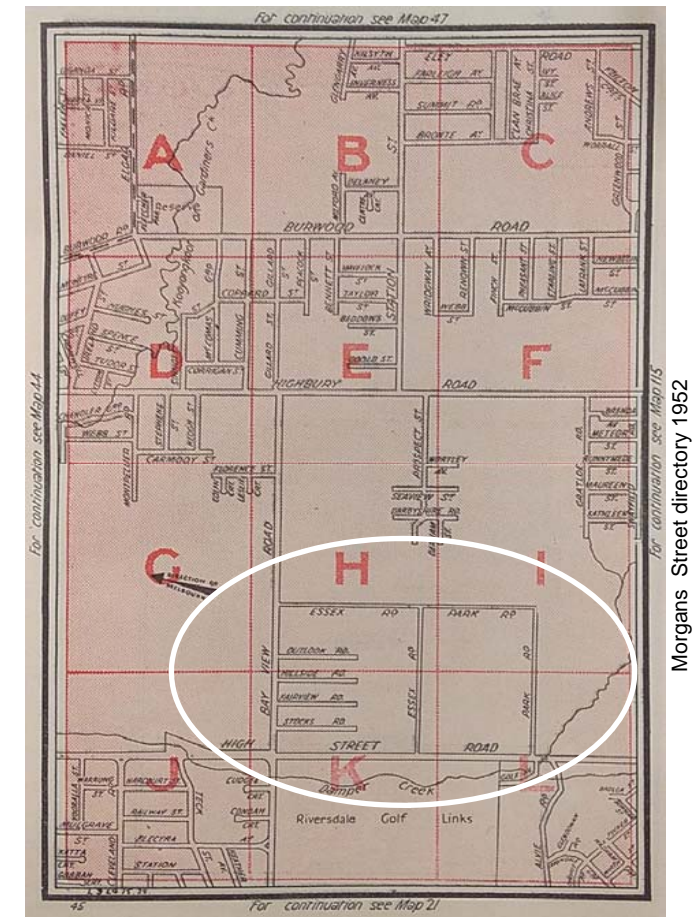
"Dear Secretary, I saw your show of native plants listed in the Weekly Times for October 17th, and hope to be able to attend. I lived my childhood in the lovely area until the spring of 1912, when there were still many bush paddocks, and so loved the wildflowers, which I gathered in armfuls.

"What I should like to know is, whereabouts is 484 High St? Is it near Stevenson Rd (sic), or further up to Lawrence Rd, or nearer Blackburn Rd? Also are there buses running up from Ashburton Stn, or say from Mt Waverley stn, or even a taxi? Being now 70, I cannot walk far, although I'd love to. I realize the flowers must mostly be garden-grown now, but the whole area was a lovely garden in earlier years.

"If anyone is interested, I was brought up on my father's block, through which Lee Ave now is made, off High St (sic), and attended Tally Ho School 1904-1912. My grandparents, George and Mary Capper pioneered the area and named Essex Rd, having come from there in England in 1859. Their block was at the bend of the road. Since I left I have only made brief visits, generally by car, driving through to see the old home.

"Would accommodation be available, say motel or guesthouse, as I'd like to stay over the weekend. Enclosing a stamp for reply, Thanking you, Elsie Binder nee Capper."

It is a lovely item to share close to our birthday! We can see that Tally Ho school educated her



Extract from Morgans Street Directory of 1952 showing Essex Rd with a right angle bend. The North South section was to become Surrey Rd. Note also Park Rd with the EW section later to become an extension of Essex Rd.

very well – the hand writing is neat and clear, and grammar correct. The venue in question was 484 High Street Rd being the Uniting church, and yes, buses did (and still do) travel up from Ashburton. I am not sure whether there were motels then – does anyone recall? Essex Rd used to be L-shaped, including what is now Surrey Rd, so Cappers lived on that corner. Sad that she could not walk much at only 70!

Did You Know?

In the Victoria Police Training Academy in Glen Waverley there is a number of streets used for training purposes that have historical significance.

- Jackson After Reginald Jackson
Chief Commissioner 1971– 1977
- Miller After Sinclair Imrie "Mick" Miller
Chief Commissioner 1977 – 1987
- Porter After Selwyn Havelock W. C. Porter
Chief Commissioner 1955 - 1963

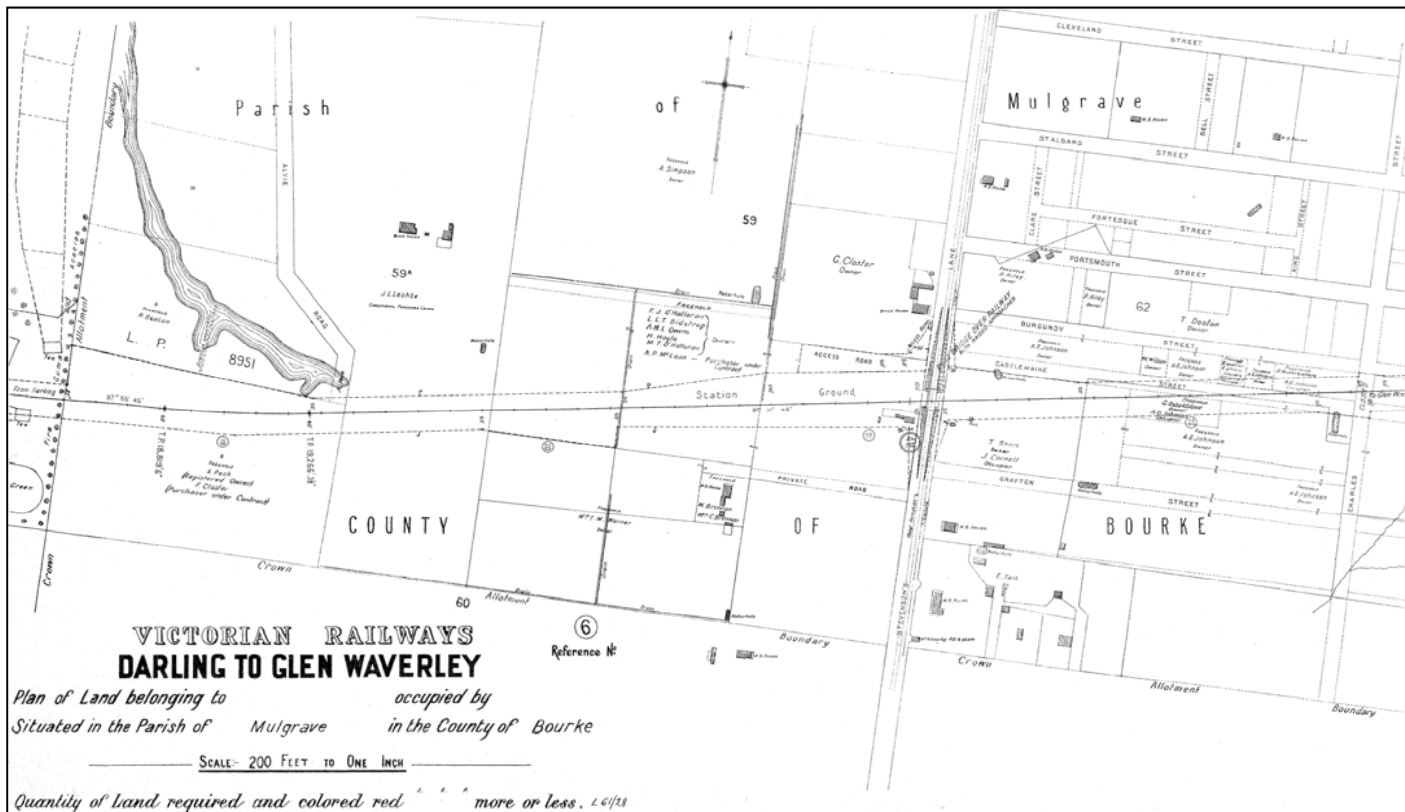
- Kennedy Rd After Sergeant Michael Kennedy
- Lonigan St After Constable Thomas Lonigan
- Scanlon Way After Constable Michael Scanlon

All three policemen were found to have been killed by Ned Kelly at the Police camp site at Stringy Bark Creek in the Wombat Ranges, near Mansfield.

From our map collection

Here is a Victorian Railways map from about 1928 showing the route through Mt Waverley and the adjacent landowners. Some interesting points to note are in the original Waverley township where it can be seen Clare, Fortescue and

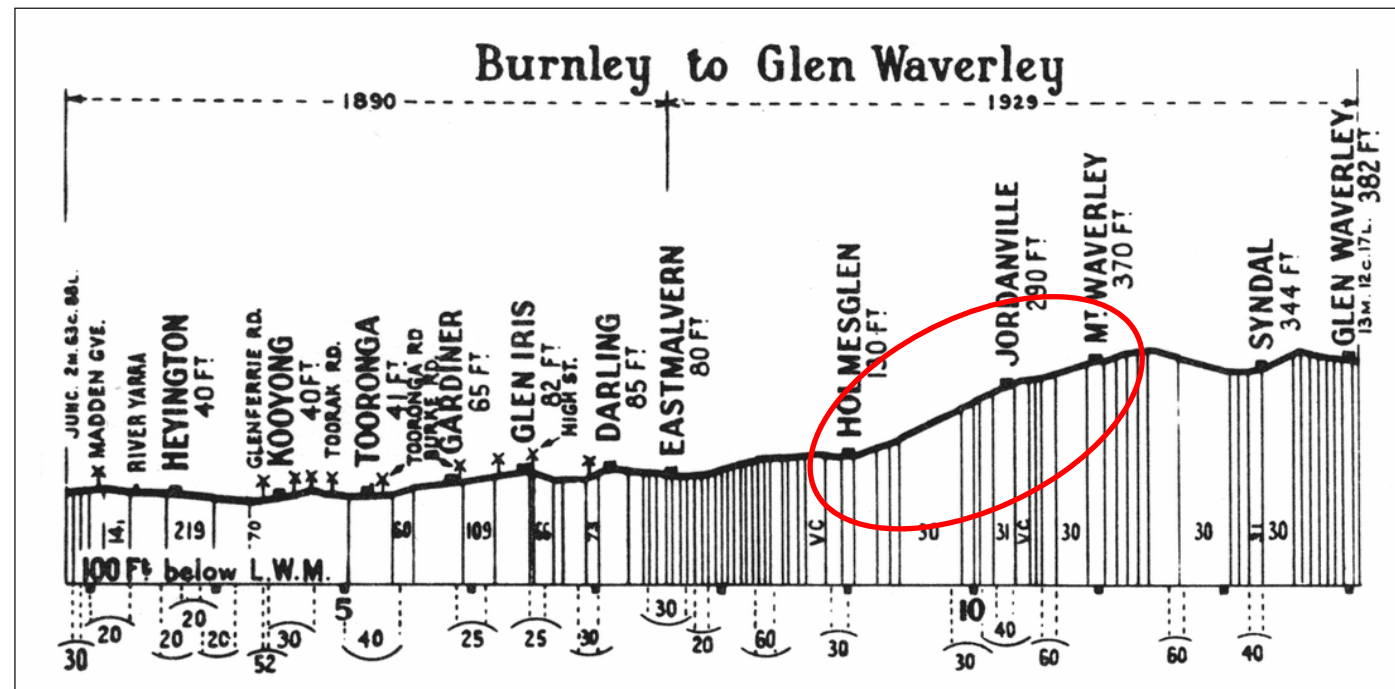
King Sts fit between St Albans and Portsmouth Sts. Also Burgundy St south of Portsmouth was replaced by the Holy Family complex, Avila College and the railway. Grafton St became Amber Gve. It is interesting to note how so few houses are shown. Was this true at the time?



Steep Railway Grade

If you have ridden the Glen Waverley railway line over the section Holmesglen to Mt Waverley then you will have noticed that the train is climbing. This is quite noticeable, particularly when steam locos have operated a special service. The grade of the line rises

240 feet over 2 miles (73 m in 3.2 km) or about 3%. This is one of the steeper grades in the Melbourne suburban rail network. Indeed, we can speculate that early designs probably provided for a bend to the north because Station St, Chadstone is located some 400 m north of the final rail line.



Our Flood - August Update

Many hours of work have gone into the clean-up and restoration. Since it was impossible to open the wooden drawers for several weeks, they developed mould which has now been successfully cleaned away with various cleaning agents.

Many thanks to Ed Hore, our previous president, who prepared a Disaster Recovery Plan document years ago so that we were basically prepared; also to council staff who supplied a dehumidifier and attended to it when we were absent. The ceiling has not been repaired yet but the room is now dry and the collection is being stored once again..



Ted Sullivan re-assembling the wooden cabinet after drying and cleaning

Subscriptions were due

As the financial year closed, annual subs become due. Despite rises in postage and insurance costs, we are maintaining the \$25 per household fee for membership, for which you get free research time in our rooms, this newsletter, and the knowledge that you are contributing to the only organisation preserving the history of every corner of old Waverley.

Some of the items that were in the wooden plan cabinet affected by the leak were multiple copies of the plans for the Le Pine funeral chapel on the site of the old Glen Waverley school.

However we have separate documents from the old Waverley Heritage Centre Committee, which oversaw the development of the old school building, now known as Black Flat Community Centre and used by Le Pine and local groups. (WHS has used it from time to time.)

The other school facilities (not the historic building) had been used by community groups for meetings, book sales, and such for many years, and there was a team from Rusden Teachers College that ran educational re-enactment programs in the old schoolhouse for school groups wishing to experience the history of education. Thus there was already a tradition of community use on the site.

When the school amalgamated in 1994 with Glen Waverley Heights on the corner of Springvale and High Street Rds to form a new Glen Waverley primary school, Waverley Council's proposal had been to make the old building a combined local and educational museum, that is, WHS and the re-enactment group would share it. The Waverley Heritage Centre Committee was well into preparations for this wonderful use of the buildings, as was WHS, which even had badges and teaspoons made for the upcoming move.

Imagine the outrage, then, when suddenly the local papers ran articles saying the Commissioners who were establishing the City of Monash had changed Waverley Council's plans – without a word to any of the relevant parties. In our files we have the WHCC's outraged and scathing letter to said commissioners, pointing out the facts of the matter, and accusing them of either ignorance or "intention to mislead." Sadly the letter is too long to reprint here, but it may be viewed in our rooms any Wednesday afternoon.

Apparently the letter achieved its goal. Community groups DO have access to the old school house, as you are probably aware.



Newsletter

Four editions of *History Here* have been published over the 2022-2023 period. Eight pages of content have included reports of Society meetings and walks; a feature house in the Monash district in each issue and a range of local history studies. About 55 copies of each issue have been distributed to members, guests and fellow Historical Societies. We are indebted to local State MP, Matt Fregon, for its printing.

Web Pages

A start on a new suite of WebPages using Wordpress has been made. Initially it will be basically a copy of the old WebPages but the change will permit editing by any authorised person with any computer.

Collection

The main progress this year has been to catalogue and store the many loose photos. There are now 80 binders containing 100-150 photos each. Year books, church magazines, CDs, very old logbooks and similar are stored in special archival boxes of which there are 45, or are displayed in glass cabinets.

Two very small items were recently catalogued. One is a wedding photo with the dates of birth of bride and groom, the wedding date and sadly the groom's date of death, just four years later. The other is a bereavement card of a young woman in 1888. Nowadays such would be announced in the newspaper. How this little piece of paper has survived is amazing.

Kerrie is continuing the very big job of updating and restoring the vertical files, which are packed tight with information. Volunteer Ted Sullivan and Philip Johnstone have been tackling the massive task over many months of building a system for organising the many maps and display posters in the five plan cabinets (a total of 40 drawers). Rohan Gibbs is terrific at sorting, spotting double-ups and labelling.

All was going well until the ceiling in the east store room fell in, flooding everything in that corner and the whole floor. The wooden cabinet under the leak was inundated and everything that was in, on or near it was affected. If it were not for Rohan noticing the leak when he did, things might have been a lot worse. MarJo, Kerrie, Philip and Ted have done a marvellous job gradually opening, repairing and inhibiting mould from the swollen drawers, drying and restoring the contents, and restoring order.

In the past few weeks two new non-committee volunteers, Maggie and Robyn, have also

joined the Wednesday voluntary Workers and we thank all the volunteers for their wonderful efforts.

Research

Research during 2022/23 has been from various people both local and overseas. As a few places start celebrating Big Os people ask for assistance. Some interesting inquiries have been from a NZ resident eager to know what type of tree is planted in our Avenue of Honour. Another was a request for a photo of the train accident from our *Then & Now 2* book. This person is doing a music piece on it so we wait to see what is produced. People continue to ask about the house they live in. More enquiries are online and some then venture into the rooms if we have something to share.

Photography (Chris Norton, WHS photographer and videographer)

This last year has been as busy as ever attempting to capture as many images as possible that won't be recorded anywhere else. Most images have been of change, mainly in building knock-downs and re-developments. The method of storing these images and videos has improved with the society investing in 3 x 2 Terra Byte Hard Disk Drives. This will ensure easy update and storage of images. Storage is taking up minimal space. We are in the process of improving photographic display and storage.

Education

This year the Society has spoken on Local History to 6 groups (U3A, a school, 2 Probus groups, and 2 other clubs) and run 3 walks (Ashwood, MW and Pinewood), two of which were new. All were well attended and well received.

Thanks to all these committed and conscientious volunteers! You all do a fantastic job, and I hope present and future generations will appreciate the enormous efforts involved in keeping all these wheels turning. We wish to thank Monash Council for providing our rooms, Matt Fregon MP (40 Montclair Ave Glen Waverley, Ph 9561 0511) for printing our newsletter, and early members and committees for setting WHS up so well. Without the dedication of many people, Waverley Historical Society could not do all it does, so many sincere thanks to everyone, especially these with especially difficult current circumstances.

MarJo Angelico, President, for the WHS committee 27.8.23

Wanted

The WHS would like a set of cuisenaire rods from the 1960s used in Victorian schools as an aid to leaning addition and subtraction. These will add to our school artefact collection. Does anyone have an old set tucked away?

Recent Acquisitions

Our sister group, History Monash (formerly the Oakleigh and District Historical Society) has passed to us the formal Minute Book of the Boroondara, Nunawading and Mulgrave Horticultural & Fruitgrowers Association.

This book commenced on 19 June 1902 and not only includes the handwritten minutes but also the Member Roll for the initial period 1902 to 1919. So at over 121 years old it is in very good physical condition with just some wear on the bound corners and looseness of the thread bindings. .

Its contents make for wonderful reading of the issues that concerned this nascent group. It is illuminating to consider the actual words of the constitution as it relates to foundation members of the local community that was to become city of Waverley .

Constitution

The Objects

To promote the welfare of Gardeners and the Gardening industry. To attain this it will watch over any laws being made, and when made , their working, to endeavour to prevent them from being arbitrary or oppressive to the gardener or destructive to the Industry. It recognises the necessity of united action by gardeners for the destruction of insects and diseases injurious to their produce but consider legislation should only enforce remedies and avoid unnecessary destructive measures. The Association aims at mutual instruction amongst its members by exhibiting at meetings specimens of insects or disease Freights and other methods of transit with a view to their improvement and lessening of cost, also the Customs tariff in so far as it affects our industry to be considered. The Society will seek to educate its members by means of lectures, essays and discussions and by exhibiting at the different meeting specimens and general gardening produce.

There were five rules governing the operation of the Association. One of these might appear quite strange to the unfamiliar reader:

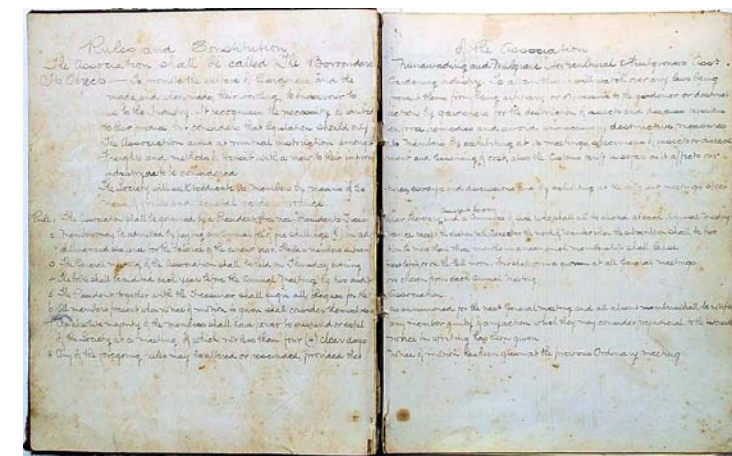
The General meeting of the Association shall be held on Thursday evening next before the full moon

The reference to the full moon was not of any ritual observance but it was to enable travellers to see their route to the meeting as there were rough roads and no street lights.

Member Roll

This lists some 49 people with a number of family members. It is not surprising that Herbert J Cornell should be first as he was the President. The attendance has been meticulously recorded within extremely narrow columns.

The minutes of the meeting 9th June 1902 refer to a letter from the Royal Tent of Rechabites at Burwood who were seeking a meeting with the committee of the Association to discuss their conduct at the recent show. *It was unanimously resolved by the Hs&Cs that, there would be no meeting and that they would ask the Rechabites to either substantiate the charges made or withdraw them and apologise to the Horticulture and Fruitgrowers.*



The Rules and Constitution neatly written in ink with a sharp pen nib and no corrections.

We learn later that it appears the Rechabites were offended by the Association having alcohol available at recent function at their hall. *Turning their hall into a common tap room.* Initially, the Association's Committee members refused to meet



The Member Roll 1902 - 1907

with the Rechabites but following challenge within from members they later submitted their resignations. Their resignations were not accepted. Following what appears to be some lengthy discussions within the Horticulturists and Fruitgrowers, it was agreed that they apologise to the Rechabites for refusing to meet and discuss. The resignations were withdrawn.

So we can conclude that the simple objectives of Association adopted in the formative years were overshadowed by a dispute with Rechabites.