



# Waverley Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER

May 2010

Issue No 191

## WAVERLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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### **VENUE:**

SEE SPECIAL NOTES FOR  
EACH MEETING. OUR  
ROOMS AN INACCESSIBLE  
AT PRESENT.

### **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



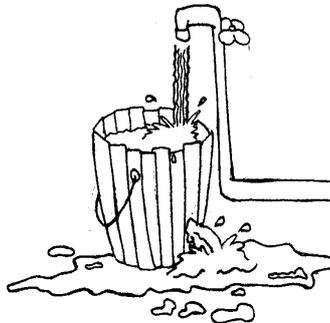
Harry Field bought this property from Thomas Doolan in 1920, and it passed to Sidney Field in 1926. The new house ("White Gables," pictured) was built soon after that and completed by 1929. Fields sold their house and land in 1950 for subdivision including the making of Pamela St. The tragedy associated with this house is well known, and was reported in The Herald on 18th May 1936.

"A few seconds after he had gaily waved to his mother, Norman Kenneth FIELD, aged 20 years, was killed when the De Havilland DH-60 he was piloting, crashed near his parents' home in Waverley Rd Mount Waverley yesterday. Field was flying alone. He had obtained an 'A' class flying certificate only three weeks before."

**Welcome** to our May newsletter - in April! This issue has been produced and mailed early to let you know of changes to our program, in particular **to the venue**, over the next few months.

We were already expecting an upheaval for the imminent installation of our long-awaited lift. This is still due to happen before June 2010.

However, a small oversight on the part of an unnamed person, who left a tap dripping overnight, has meant that our beautiful parquet floor is severely compromised for the second time in two years. In fact, it is currently a Health and Safety issue, and we **may not enter** our rooms until the hazard is cleared up.



Therefore we have been working at finding alternative locations for our monthly meetings. **Note carefully the various venues for all the meetings listed in this newsletter.**

## Coming Events

### **April WHS Meeting**

We are delighted at the opportunity to meet at MGA - Monash Gallery of Art, Ferntree Gully Rd and Jells Road Wheelers Hill for our ANZAC meeting. This will fit in very well with our theme, as Ray Price speaks about his father's war diaries in "My Father's Legacy." Surrounding us as we listen will be the new MGA display, "Icon and Archive - Photography and the World Wars," which will open just days before our meeting.

Thursday 22nd April at 8pm, "My Father's Legacy" at MGA, 860 Ferntree Gully Rd Wheelers Hill. Please bring a plate of supper.

### **May WHS Meeting**

The first of our Sunday meetings for 2010 will be on May 23rd at 2pm. On this occasion we are remembering that our Glen Waverley railway turns 80 years old on 5th May this year! Ian Jenkin of Australian Railways Historical Society will tell his favourite stories of the railways of the area.

LOCATION - St Philip's church hall (Melway 70 D8), corner of Catherine Ave and Stephenson's Rd Mt Waverley, where we held the October Function last year.

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share.

### **June WHS Meeting - Steam Train**

Instead of a regular meeting, we will again enjoy riding the steam shuttles from Darling to Glen Waverley on Sunday 27th June, all day.

For us, this is a key time to grab the interest of people who would not otherwise realise that they are, in fact, interested in things local and historical. Please help the Society by inviting others to the Train, and telling of the benefits of WHS membership. We always need more members!

We hope to again have a **photographic display** at Mt Waverley station, with information and people to talk to. We may even have some other historic vehicles present!

There will be a **roster** of people willing to help with our display. Please let us know when you are available.

Some may not realise that this (now annual) event was inaugurated by us to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the line six years ago, at a time when Steam Rail was unable to operate due to certain regulations. It is a long and complicated story, but Waverley Historical Society's keenness to commemorate its local history was the catalyst that got SteamRail out of cottonwool and back on track. Ever since then, other suburban shuttles have been operated, as well as longer country trips.



Please join SteamRail and Waverley Historical Society in celebrating the 80th anniversary of our railway!

The push-pull steam train featuring locomotives K153 and K190 (one at each end) and W type wooden carriages will operate between Darling and Glen Waverley, picking up passengers at Darling, Mount Waverley and Glen Waverley.

**Date** - Sunday 27th June

**Prices:** Adult - \$10; Child u/16 - \$5; Family - \$25 (2A + 2C or 1A + 3C)

**Departure times** (may change) To Glen Waverley

From Darling 10.15, 11.20, 12.20pm, 2pm, 3pm

From Mt Waverley 10.27, 11.32, 12.32, 2.12, 3.12

To Darling.

From Glen Waverley 10.54, 11.54, 1.34, 2.34, 3.34\*

From Mt Waverley 11.01am, 12.01pm, 1.41pm, 2.41pm, 3.41pm\*

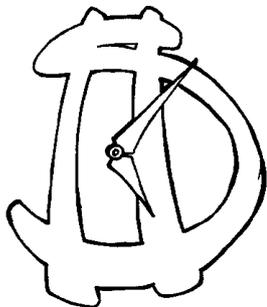
\*the last train from Glen Waverley, departing at 3.34pm, will not return to Glen Waverley. It will terminate at Darling then run empty back to Newport Workshops.

Get your grandchildren to mark their calendars now. Tickets will be available on the train on the day .

### July WHS meeting

We have invited Barbara Hawkins, of Port Phillip Pioneers Association, to speak to us on Sunday 25th July after our usual meeting at 2pm. Her talk is entitled "The Melbourne Story." Be prepared to learn something of our own history that you might not have realised before!

LOCATION - St Philips Hall in Stephenson's Rd.



Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share.

Subscriptions fall due in July each year. It would help our hard-working treasurer tremendously if all members paid promptly **between 1st July and the August AGM.**

### Coming Annual Meeting

Following the July meeting will of course be our Annual General Meeting. Please consider standing for committee and helping with the ongoing work of preserving our history for future generations.

Also please be active in NOMINATING new AND EXISTING committee members. Show your support of the Society by ensuring that there is a committee. New members always welcome!

## WHS Events - Reports

### Cemetery Tours

We are pleased to report that the 150th anniversary of the Oakleigh Cemetery was successfully celebrated with cemetery tours, a new display at the Federation Centre and the launch of a booklet of stories about some of the people buried there. WHS contributed to the display and also ran tours centred on Waverley people. The day was marvellously set off by a static display of old hearses and historic cars. There was a lot of positive feedback, and we hope to host tours again sometime. The display is still up and may be viewed till June. Many thanks to all involved.

### Stocks Plaque Unveiling

Just a few days later we honoured the Stocks family who over several generations have contributed much to the local area. We unveiled a plaque placed in their honour on land which till recently was still held in their name, heard the story of how it came about, and introduced many long lost cousins to each other! The Stocks family presented us with a photo of a large Stocks family reunion taken in about 1907, for our collection. Then we enjoyed a lovely morning tea together. There is an article on the event in the current Burwood Bulletin, including a copy of the photograph. Again, thanks to all who helped make it a success.

### Bus Trip to Noojee 11/4

Our 33 who travelled to Noojee had a wonderful experience and came back much the wiser about forestry and bushfire control, and that great burnt trees make good timber, but must be harvested within 2 years. At the trout farm we had a fascinating demonstration of cross cut sawing, timber splitting, the use of curved shovels for post holes etc. We were taken then to see the highest trestle bridge in Victoria, that carried the timber trains over a gorge. Our enthusiastic guide, the president of N.H.S, William Langoor, then took us to the site of the Noojee Station, where he hopes to restore the tracks. At lunch he showed many historic film clips of pioneer days and bush fires.

### Did you Know?

Found in our files - the full score and lyrics to our very own Waverley hymn. No doubt it was written for some significant event - maybe even our becoming a City in 1961, but no provenance is attached.

## Anniversaries

### Congratulations Enid!

Many happy returns to Enid Pepperell, who became a nonagenarian on Christmas Eve.



### Geoffrey Blainey

Guess who celebrated his 80th birthday last month? *The Australian* ran an excellent article on him on 6th March (ask me by email and I will forward the link), which I summarise and quote below.

You will remember that we have heard both his wife

(Ann Blainey, on Moran and Cato) and his daughter (Dr Anna Blainey, on Women's Temperance Movements) speak at our Society.

In earlier years he offered the Sid Brown Memorial Lecture for WHS. Also, his mother was a foundation member of our Society. Thus, we have a small claim to "own" this outstanding local-bred historian, and to be proud of his tireless contribution to Australian history.

In the early 1970s, Blainey was "the first academic historian in the country to include Aboriginal history in a general Australian history subject. Blainey had come to the then unusual view that Australia's history before European settlement was worth studying."

His book, "Triumph of the Nomads" argued that the common assumption that Aboriginal society had been static was erroneous, and also that "previous writers had underestimated Aboriginal economic success." Blainey suggested that "by the standards of the year 1800 . . . the Aboriginals' material life could be compared favourably with many parts of Europe." As well as these "positive aspects of pre-1788 Aboriginal life, Blainey also drew attention to some of the less pleasant characteristics of their society, such as infanticide and inter-tribal wars."

Then in 1984, some comments on Asian immigration sparked a furore of attacks on him personally, marking "the beginning of the so-called history wars in Australia, wars in which ideological correctness became more important than any other factor in assessing a historian's worth."

However, Blainey's career "has been a remarkably productive... almost 40 books, ...a highly regarded teacher and university administrator, a chairman of important government committees and a participant in some of the big debates of recent decades. And he invented the perpetually busy phrase 'the tyranny of distance'."

"Just as the breadth of Blainey's work is remarkable, so is the longevity of his career. Both are the product of his insatiable curiosity to find out about the past and to explain it to others by writing about it in beguiling prose."

Congratulations to Geoffrey Blainey, and long may we have historians who do not limit their comments to the politically correct!

## ANZAC DAY REFLECTIONS

### **WAVERLEY AND THE CANOE TREE**

On Anzac Day Eve last year, we were privileged to hear Major General Poke's personal account of the war in Darwin and his rationale for the Japanese invasion

### **60 years - Mt Waverley Youth Club**

Brian Seymour founded the Mount Waverley Boys Gymnastic Club in February 1950, outdoors on a vacant block of land, now the Mt Waverley Kindergarten and Infant and Maternal Health Centre. In 1951 the Mount Waverley Progress Association built a small hall in Stephenson's Rd (near Virginia St) and the Club moved into the hall one night per week.

1952 the Club rapidly increased membership. It changed the name to Mount Waverley Youth Club and started a girls' calisthenics group. The Club grew to a five night per week operation and began energetically fund raising to build a new hall. With assistance from the Waverley Council and the Community Chest, the Youth Centre in Miller Cres became a reality in 1962.

In 1963 the Club acquired funding to move the old Progress Hall from Stephenson's Rd, attach it to the rear of the new hall and then brick veneer it.

Brian Seymour retired in 1977 after 27 years of voluntary youth work in the City of Waverley, leaving a Youth Club which provided programs 7 days per week with a membership in excess of 600 young people.

The programs included Girls & Boys Clubs, Basket Ball, Net Ball, Gymnastics, Calisthenics, Judo, Camera Club, Athletics, Archery, Marching Girls and Disco.

Other programs he was involved included Chair of the Waverley Youth Advisory Panel and Coordinator of the Lifetime Sports Program

### **Schools 50 years ago**

Several schools are coming up for their half century this season. **Glen Waverley Secondary College**, formerly Glen Waverley High, will have a big display and celebration including pictures of Glen Waverley in 1960 - that should be fun! Glen Waverley Primary School, which was once called **Glen Waverley Heights State School**, was also opened in 1960.

Also **St John's Preschool Centre**, in Ferntree Gully Rd, Notting Hill, thinks it is about to celebrate a big birthday, but is having difficulty establishing when it was opened. I suspect that it, along with Macrina Neighbourhood House, was once a Presbyterian Church. Can anyone help with information on it?

and US defence that resulted in the Battle of the Coral Sea. He mentioned the beheading of an Australian POW in Rabaul as an honour. I recalled that Harry, the eldest son of the Marwick family, who grew up on their

37 acre farm close to the SW of corner of Waverley Road and Jells Road was similarly honoured in 1942, after a brave attempt to escape a POW camp.



*Another canoe tree, located near Goolwa SA*

I recalled that I'd contacted several members of the Marwick family shortly after Ron Chivers' death, because it was his wish that W.H.S. have a photo of the aboriginal "Canoe Tree," that was located SE of the same corner in what is now Jells Park, but was felled with other large gums to make a car park and loading area for a pig farm, to feed the US navy. There was already a farm there, run by the Herring family. The second Marwick son, Gordon, married Dorothy Herring and lived on the property, but died aged 35. [Their daughter, Jessie Roberts, had heard of the tree but, of course, never saw it. She imagined it as like the "two huge gums near a cement retaining basin" beside the creek. A fourth son, Doug, also still living in the Waverley area, said he remembers the tree well, but knew of no photo.

Ron said that the canoe shape was huge and could only have been cut by one man standing on another's shoulders. "It would have been carried [the considerable distance] to Dandenong Creek and floated down to the Corhanwarrabul Wetlands." These, also in Monash, extend between Ferntree Gully Rd. and Wellington Rd. on the west side of Dandenong Creek and teem with wild life still, especially the broad area beside Wellington Rd.

Jessie Roberts kindly brought down some information on Jells Park to our rooms. Not long afterwards I went on a historical excursion at Jells Park to look for remains of the farms that used to be there. The Herring's property was not on

the itinerary, however - but as we climbed to the top of the western hill above the car park, I asked the guide about the pig farm that used to be on the western slope and flat area below. He knew of its location - and an older walker contributed that he'd seen the US naval officers pull up on the car park and dismount as if they owned the place. [They both laughed, as if he'd told the story before - and he mentioned duty free grog. I expect there were big trucks too.]

But they didn't know of any photo of the canoe tree. I'm still hoping!

Judy Borg

### **MONASH - THE MAN, THE CITY, ...THE SMALL COUNTRY TOWN**

Since the launch of the council booklet, "Monash - The Man, The Leader, The City" we are much better informed about the remarkable person after whom our university, freeway, and city are named.

To quote from it, "The City of Monash is named after a man regarded as one of Australia's greatest heroes. General Sir John Monash was a civil engineer and volunteer soldier who rose to the highest rank in the Australian Army by the end of World War 1. His life and career represent the opportunity that Australia provides for migrants and their children to excel and contribute. He is a model of leadership, community service, and achievement for everybody living and working in the City of Monash today."

So - do you know where this memorial is? It reads: "Erected in memory of General Sir John Monash, GCMG., KCB., VD., 27 June 1865 - 8 October 1931."



1200, 1420, 1486, 1494, 1275, 1955, 1023, 1989, 1500



*The monument is here, outside Monash Memorial Hall. Monash is a little town a few kilometres north of Berri in South Australia.*

*All four photographs on page 5 & 6 are by Philip Johnstone and used with thanks.*

## **Stranger Than Fiction - World War II**

From Col D. G. Swinford, USMC, Ret and history buff.

1. The first German serviceman killed in WW II was killed by the Japanese (China , 1937); the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940); highest ranking American killed was Lt Gen Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps. So much for allies.

2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonourable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.

3. At the time of Pearl Harbour, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pron. 'sink us'), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry Div was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named 'Amerika.' All 3 were soon changed for PR purposes!

4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, an airman's chance of being killed was 71%.

5. Generally, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot: you were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese ace Hirooyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died as a passenger on a cargo plane.

6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet,

Another Monash Primary School -  
NOT the one that used to stand in the Westerfield estate behind Rusden College.



tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.

7. When allied armies reached the Rhine, the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act).

8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City , but the Germans decided it wasn't worth the effort.

9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

10. Among the first 'Germans' captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.

11. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 United States and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands. 21 troops were killed in the assault on the island. It could have been worse if there had been Japanese on the island.

12. King's steam sawmill near the Forresters Arms hotel, Oakleigh, blew its steam whistle loud and long on 15th August, 1945, so that everyone in Oakleigh and District knew that World War II had ended.

# In the Papers

Did you know that Monash Croquet Club have just won the Club of the Year for providing a platform for people with disabilities to participate in croquet.

We have also seen the names of some of our members in print recently!

On 28th February, the *Herald-Sun* ran a full-page article featuring author **Laurie Burchell**, and his book, "Recognising House Styles." The gist of the article was warning home-buyers to avoid being taken in by short-term house fashions, and also to be aware that period homes must be maintained sensitively. Our Laurie was quoted extensively. It is great to see him given credit for his extensive knowledge and painstaking work.

Also, in this month's *The Melbourne Anglican*, in a four-page "Seniors' Supplement," our patron is honoured as an example of the very full life that can be achieved at 85 - "not old, but getting older."

And of course, you will have seen Laurie and June Ryan quoted recently in *Monash Journal*, in regard to The Highway Gallery.

And now, for some excerpts from not-so-recent papers, to remind us that "our" railway came not without its struggles.

## **THE GLENWAVERLEY RAILWAY**

First, more (see also last issue) on the dispute about the route of the railway, which was originally going to cut the newly moved Riversdale Golf Course in half.

<http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/3829774>

The Argus, Thursday 11 November 1926

### **"GLENWAVERLEY RAILWAY**

#### **"PROPOSED ROUTE OPPOSED**

**"Objections by Riversdale Golf Club**

"Before the Railways Standing Committee yesterday opposition was offered by representatives of the Riversdale Golf Club to the proposal to construct a railway line from Darling to Glen Waverley through the new links at the corner of Bay View road and High street road, Burwood.

"Mr. Ivor Evans, a director of the Riversdale Golf Club, said that the club was leasing an area of 80 acres of land at Riversdale. The lease would expire in 1930. Owing to increased land tax, the annual rental, including rates and taxes, would be £2,625 a year, but the club had the option until the end of this month of allowing the lease to expire on August 31, 1927. After searching for some years, the club found a suitable area of 160 acres of

land in Bay View road, Burwood, and had purchased it at a cost of £18,464. Since purchase, £9,300 had been spent on improvements, and the links were now practically completed and ready for play. Several men were engaged in upkeep work. It had been found extremely difficult to obtain suitable land, and it would be impossible for the club to move and find is good a site in the district. There were 464 members of the club, and it was estimated that on week days 40 to 50 golfers used the links, while on Saturdays and Sundays between 100 and 125 persons were playing. This number was greater in the holiday season. About two-thirds of the players would travel to the new links at Bay View road by train if a railway line were constructed. Population would follow the golf links. The new Riversdale links would be the only one between Doncaster and Oakleigh, and it was desirable that such a large area should be served by a golf course.

"The directors of the club had not personal knowledge of the Camberwell City Council having provisionally purchased 13 acres of the Riversdale Golf Links for £10,000 for use as a public park, such purchase being conditional on the golf links going to Burwood. Neither had they any knowledge of the proposed transfer of six acres of the Riversdale Park to the Education department for school purposes, and did not know whether the purchase of golf club land was conditional on the Camberwell Council selling or transferring to the Education department the Riversdale Park area. If the railway line traversed the course, it would so affect it that even if the club were continued, there would be no inducement for first-class players to visit it, and it would be debarred from competing in the pennant competition.

"Mr. W. J Home, barrister of Camberwell, and one of the lessees of the present course, also gave evidence. The chairman (Mr. Lind) promised that serious deliberation would be given to the evidence, which would be considered in conjunction with the report by the railway surveyors."

**And secondly**, a little later, fine-tuning access routes, eg this one concerning what is now Coleman Pde.

From the Argus, Friday 22 February 1929  
<http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/3996104>

### **"GLENWAVERLEY RAILWAY**

**"Department Cannot Provide Road.**

"A deputation for the Darling-Glenwaverley Railway Construction Trust yesterday asked the Minister for Railways (Mr Groves) to provide a road beside the new station at Mays road, Glenwaverley, to give access to the station. The plans of the Railways department

provide for a footpath within the railway land extending from Mays road to the foot of the ramp to the platform, a distance of approximately three chains, but vehicles cannot come closer than six chains from the platform. It was pointed out that the resumption of the land for the railway had isolated a number of properties, which now had no access to a road. The compensation to be paid would be very great unless a new road were provided from Mays road to Glenwaverley road beside the station. The road would be between £1,000 and 1800, as a small bridge would be required across a creek.

“Mr Groves said that the position was difficult, but would have to be faced by the trust. The railways had no power to construct such a road or to give a grant towards it. He explained that the power had been given to the trust to make the road, provided that it would cost less than the saving in compensation which it would effect.

“The. deputation was introduced by Mr Knox, M.L.A..”

*Many thanks to Brad McLean for pointing these out, and Clive Haddock for fixing the electronically transcribed text on the National Library’s website where many old papers can now be browsed.*

### **What’s your guess?**

When were the following first used?

- |                           |                     |                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. buttons (for clothes), | 2. oil painting,    |                 |
| 3. copyright,             | 4. whiskey,         | 5. eye glasses, |
| 6. polio vaccine,         | 7. paper money,     |                 |
| 8. world wide web,        | 9. flushing toilets |                 |

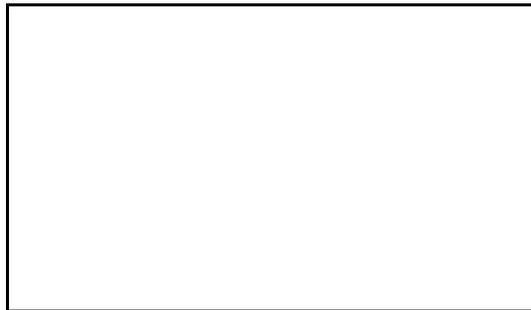
Answers are on page 5.

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Waverley Historical Society Inc

PO Box 2322

Mount Waverley, 3149



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## **CALENDAR Winter 2010**

**Thursday 22nd April, 8 pm at MGA**

Ray Price - “My Father’s Legacy”

**Sunday 23rd May at 2 pm at St Philip’s hall, Stephenson Rd/Catherine Ave**

Ian Jenkin of ARHS - “Eighty Years of the Glen Waverley Line”

**Sunday 27 June all day STEAM TRAIN RIDES from Mount or Glen Waverley**

**Sunday 25 July at 2 pm at St Philip’s hall, Stephenson Rd/Catherine Ave**

Barbara Hawkins, of Port Phillip Pioneers- “The Melbourne Story.”

The next newsletter will be delivered at this meeting.

**Sunday 22 August at 2 pm - our AGM at St Philip’s hall**

Our following few meetings will be Thursdays 23/9, 28/10, 25/1

The next newsletter will be available for pick-up at the July meeting. The deadline for contributions is 10th July.