

## The Glen Waverley – Hampton Park Connection

Our WHS president has just moved (temporarily?) to Hampton Park, and has already found a connection with the old stomp-ing ground.

We all know that St Leonard's church started life south of Waverley Rd, next to the Glen Waverley Mechanics Institute. Then after the railway came in 1930, the centre of Glen Waverley gradually moved northward to the rail terminus.



A CHURCH ON WHEELS! It was a tight fit as the former St. Leonard's church from Glen Waverley, is eased across the Eumemmering Creek bridge with inches to spare, on the way to Hampton Park, its new resting place.



The day Fr. O'Donnell opened the new church of St. Kevin's in Somerville Road, Hampton Park.

Not to be left behind, St Leonard's parishioners picked up their church and trundled it to the present church site – north of Waverley Rd. A new hall was built behind the little wooden church, and later a church to the left. Then the little wooden structure was no longer needed, and it was again picked up and moved. Where to?

The answer is to a little country parish beyond Dandenong – St Kevin's, Hampton Park. It is seen here JUST fitting the bridge across the Eumemmering Creek. It then settled at Hamp-ton Park, where it served for many years. It's an amazingly well-travelled building!

Pictures from: *A Parish carved from the Bush: the centen-ary history of the Dandenong parish (St Mary's) 1883-*

## Street Names

A recent enquiry into street name meanings led us on a long chase to find the people who originally named the streets in an area. Our informant, a member of the Olney family, told WHS about the naming of Yanigin Drive and nearby streets.

It seems Arthur Olney, a leading builder in Glen Waverley in mid 20th century, with a friend purchased bush land bordered by Springvale Road to the east, Pindari Road to the west, Madeline Street to the north and about half way to High Street Rd to the south (where Yanigin Drive bends).

The remaining land to the south (that is, to High Street Rd) was occupied by a Mr Petter. Mrs Olney says, "We kids were scared of him as he had a long beard, was short, bent over & incredibly filthy. He lived in a humpy and probably did not own the land. He was what we might describe today as *homeless*. I seem to remem-ber the name Peter Flett who may have owned that land".

The Olneys subdivided the land in about 1963, naming the streets ac-cording to a saved article from the Australian Women's Weekly (when it was actually weekly) of Wednesday 20 De-cember 1961. The cover of this magazine announces, "Naming your House? 500 Abo-riginal words and their Meanings."

This article informed that "Yanigin" meant green trees growing, "Pindari" meant high ground and "Terama" meant mountain. This is certainly an area of high ground and green trees.

Sadly in those days one Aboriginal language group was not distinguished from another, and it is difficult to say exactly which area the words are from. We must remember that "Over 250 distinct indigenous Australian language groups covered the continent at the time of European settlement in 1788" not including dialects (<http://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/indigenous-australian-languages>). It is important to resist the temptation to treat aboriginality as one ho-mogenous group.

However, it is good to have this new information for this area that was previously a mystery.

MarJo Angelico



www



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## THE HOUSE

Millar House. This house is easy to miss, on a normal block size in the midst of 1950s and more modern houses, but its style places it in the early 20th century, when N. Hill owned 53 acres on that corner. In 1945 aerial views the house stands out as one of only two houses in this stretch of Huntingdale Rd. It was occupied by Otto Millar in the 1950s and was surrounded by grazing land. A little further north was Dennis Owens' large market garden. In fact, Huntingdale Road was named variously over the years Owens Lane, Owens Road, and Bay-view Road. If you know more about this house, please write down your memories and let us know.

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

**Wed 26 Apr 2pm**, Guest Speaker, Dr Andrew Kilsby (O&DHS) will talk on *The Rifle Club Movement in Victoria from 1860*.

(Did you know that the Waverley District had a Rifle Club? )

A plate of afternoon tea would be appreciated.

Details P. 3



## February Meeting - Dr Jim Poulter

### ABORIGINAL HISTORY AND SONG-LINES

Our meeting room was filled to capacity on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, to hear our learned and likeable speaker, Aboriginal historian Jim Poulter, who opened our eyes with his vast and intimate knowledge of the Australian Aborigines.

Jim's authoritative quotes came from a long family association with Aborigines, spanning 270 years; Jim's many old relatives passed on their stories. His grandfather grew up with Aborigines and he even learnt their language. Anecdote tumbled after anecdote; Jim related how his great-great-grandfather came to the colonies in 1837 and settled in Templestowe. He was harsh in his treatment of convict labourers and the Aborigines who roamed the area.

The Aborigines displayed linguistic proclivities and some were able to speak a smattering of French after listening to conversations; they picked up sayings and mannerisms and the Europeans had difficulty understanding how quickly the Aborigines adapted language-wise.

Tribal structure was explained; the head man ran the tribe, or company, so to speak, and the song-man was the secretary, who turned memories into song. Eldership required skills, knowledge and character: initiations began at about age thirteen, followed by a range of tests in subsequent years.

We were told William Buckley was an illiterate English convict, who befriended the Aborigines and, in time, was able to speak six Aboriginal languages fluently; he lived alongside the Aborigines for many years. Old family stories included that of Simon Wonga, son of respected leader of Wurundjeri, Billibellary. Wonga was cared for, following an accident injury, by William Thomas, the Australian Aboriginal Protector. Policeman William Barak was Wonga's cousin and also his right-hand man. Wonga was twenty-five when he was invited by his elders to become head man. These men, English and Aboriginal, were able to work together in procuring for the Aborigines their own economic base and strove to achieve their inalienable rights.

Jim declared that Simon Wonga stands along-

side Sir John Monash in stature, in relation to his contribution to Australian history.

Snippets of stories followed as Jim squeezed in as much information as he could in the given time. The early footy games, although the precursor to the modern game were, by necessity, vastly different and seemingly complex, not to mention entertaining.

So much of our knowledge is based on myth. The Aborigines were permaculture farmers, not hunters and gatherers.

The tops of the hills were kept clear to establish the important food source of grasslands, thus the wild animals kept away due to lack of trees and ergo the grains could grow.

Jim has even witnessed, at first hand, the art of burning in Framlingham Forest (another story on its own!) – mosaic pattern coal-fire burning, performed only in mid-April and mid-May to catch the dry and safe window. Fires remained low. The new colonists, in the early days of settlement, stopped the burning off, not understanding the correct principles and methods.

### Finally, song-lines

Stories and names were embedded into the environment. No strict names, per se, but a song to describe the area. Song-lines are Aboriginal walking tracks; they criss-crossed the Australian continent, linking sites and were maintained by regular use, fire burning and clearing. They often followed ridge-lines and contours; all the main roads which radiate beyond the central Melbourne grid are in fact following song-lines; a lot were intersected when railways went through.

The natural markers and features were coded into song, which was memorised and sung as you travelled, to remind you of your destined route. When entering another tribe's territory, the song had to be adapted to the language of that area, out of respect and also a sort of passport into the area.

Springvale Road may well have been a song-line connecting Carrum Wetlands with the Pound Bend eel-farms.

### Welcome to New Members

N. Johannesen, B. Sanders

### 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.

cent days and that she argued constantly with them.

Thomas was not well at this time and Catherine was afraid that he had Typhoid Fever and this was adding to her mental problem. Thomas was resting on the evening in question and heard screaming coming from the chaff house; he thought the children were teasing the younger boy, who was their foster son. He went to investigate and was met with the awful sight of his son with horrific head wounds and unconscious and his daughter walking around in a daze also with head wounds thought to have been made by a hammer. The children were transported to the Alfred Hospital but the boy died shortly after arriving and the girl recovered in due time.

Catherine screamed at Thomas that he should have watched her and she tried to drown her-self in a nearby waterhole. She did not succeed and wandered some distance to her friends' home in Springvale Road. They didn't know what had happened and she was not able to speak to tell them. They undressed her and put her to bed and set about drying her clothes.

The police from Oakleigh eventually arrived and Catherine was arrested and remanded to the Melbourne Gaol Hospital. At the subsequent trial she was found insane and was imprisoned in a mental institution, how long she lived in custody is not known by me. Thomas continued on with the hotel for some time. The house that Catherine went to was next to Copes' store on the east side of Springvale Road.

A man with a club foot and some say a club hand, I think, was Hec Petter who lived there and later still the Cutting Family and then Mrs Armstrong with her daughters, Mamie and Pat. Mr and Mrs R. Lane lived opposite on the west side of Springvale Rd. Mr Roe and his son Lyle had the garage on Springvale and Waverley Roads where the store used to be and next to them on the north side was Mr and Mrs Barr.

More of life in Waverley in later issues of our *History Here*.

*Bevel Yeoman is the daughter of the Late Arthur Rhodes*

### Bridge Quiz Answers

1. We think that the Stephensons Rd bridge crossing the freeway and Scotchmans Creek is the highest with the roadway pavement about 22 m above the water of the creek.



Stephensons Rd bridge looking west

2. Only Stephensons and Lawrence Rds. cross **over** the rail line.

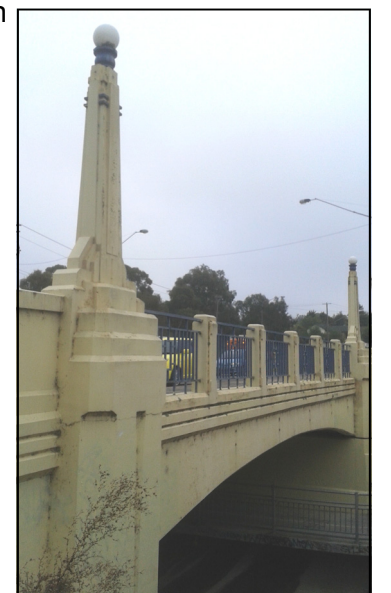
3. Park Rd over Scotchmans Creek in Oakleigh is single lane with northbound traffic required to give way to southbound.



Park Rd bridge looking south

4. Drummies Bridge on High Street Rd over Dandenong Creek is named after the local pioneer.

5. The Warrigal Rd bridge over Gardiners Creek, built in 1938 is heritage listed.





Withers had the Cab Company from Oakleigh and it was bought by Frank Wilson. Dave Wilson put up the cash for this deal. Later Bert Wilson bought a Motor Bus and he and Billy Wilson drove. Billy was very protective about it being the carrier for the Royal Mail. It didn't matter that it was thrown under a tree in a bag for someone else to collect. Bert Wilson lived in Waverley Road next door on the east side of the Church of England and now Dunscombe Hall. Billy was on the corner of Waverley and Watson Roads. The new School Master's home was in Waverley Road next to the Church of England on the west side. The brick house next to the school in Waverley Rd on the east side was used after the head master's home in the school itself was turned into classrooms and the new room on the east side was added.

During WW II Billy had trouble with the American Army that had billets in the Police Paddocks in Dandenong and they turned off Dandenong Rd onto Ferntree Gully Road to get there. Billy on a trip in the bus from Oakleigh didn't give way to the convoy as he turned right into Box Hill Rd (Huntingdale Road). I'm not sure but I think it was a tank he hit. He said he had right of way because he was carrying the Royal Mail and any way "he had been turning that B#@ corner for so many years they should have known where he was going". The bus came off second best. Billy was a one-eyed Collingwood supporter and went to most of their games, he had a Magpie emblem on his hat at all times. Billy featured in a few mishaps with the bus as one day he was coming down Waverley Rd from Watson Road and the brakes failed when he tried to stop at Springvale Road. He went straight on and nearly finished up in Hussy's dam. (opposite the Waverley pool) I think Newman's had this property later on. Sally and Betty were the two girls and there was a boy, Ray, as well.

While we are at Box Hill Road, Oakleigh I remember about Percy Pavey. He was a world's best shot at rifle shooting and won many a trophy in this field. He lived at the top of the rise in Box Hill Road on the west side, south of Ferntree Gully Road and until the 1980's his house was still there with the brick front fence decorated with old gun barrels making the iron design in between the pillars. On the south west corner was a very old house which we were told as kids was haunted. It sure looked like it could be!

When I was 16 Billy taught me to drive using the bus trip to Oakleigh on a Sunday morning, not sure if the customers were happy but I was! Billy was one of my many cousins.

My grandfather Findley kept the fires going in the

brick kiln in Box Hill Road during the night. It was in the gully on the east side of the road down from Ferntree Gully Road. This was his late in life job as he was a furniture removalist with a covered wagon. He liked to do the trip to and from Sydney when my Mum was little. She was the 6<sup>th</sup> in line of 15 children Ethel May Rhodes nee Findley. The big hole at Gambles' brick works was always a fascination to us as kids. I have heard a story about the men taking their lunch down the hole when they worked, because it took too much of their lunch hour to go back up. One day a man sat down to eat and as usual he put his pocket watch on the top of his lunch bag. Someone yelled "look out" and he jumped up and ran because a boulder had come loose out of the side wall, hit the floor of the pit and rolled across and stopped on his lunch bag, squashing it and his watch.



WHS File Image.

The Mountain View Hotel at one stage was called Kelly's and run by two women. You would think education would have improved but in recent years a new sign was put up on the Mountain View advertising its modern ideas. This sign continually turned around and it should have been good but the word View was spelt VEIW. It stayed for a few weeks and then was taken down and has not been corrected or replaced. (circa 1990's). There is also a sad story connected to this hotel. It takes place on Thursday evening the 16th of January 1896. Catherine Moylan the 30 year old wife of the licensee, savagely attacked two of their four children, resulting in the death of the five year old boy and severe head injuries to their eight year old daughter.

Catherine was drinking heavily but she also had an underlying mental problem that had become evident over the 14 years of their marriage. She often told her husband and their relatives that she should not be trusted alone with the children and requested that she should be watched. The relatives had noticed that Catherine had become very aggressive in re-

Some song-lines were celestially coded; for example, there is one from Alice Springs to Byron Bay, because the Aboriginal people of Byron Bay used porpoises to help them harvest fish (they actually knew the porpoises by name and talked to them), and the people of Uluru travelled to see this happen – likewise the Byron Bay Aboriginals visited Uluru!

These travel routes stretched all over Australia and were coded into song; the songs depicted the sights along the way, like signposts of song.

One wonders if song-lines were uniquely Australian.

Jim's final words: *"we should celebrate our unity and diversity"*.

Margaret Boyes sincerely thanked Jim, on behalf of all present.

Virginia Barnett

### WHS Speaking Engagements

On Friday 7 April, Ray Price and Philip Johnstone made a presentation to over 100 members of the Mt. Waverley Combined Proboscis Club with a *Virtual Tour along High Street Rd.*

### Coming Events

( Note Day and Time )

**Wednesday, 26 April 2pm.** Speaker, Dr Andrew Kilsby (O&DHS) will cover *The Rifle Club Movement in Victoria from 1860*. The Waverley Rifle Club which included both men and women, operated in the area at the south end of Lawrence Rd.

**Wednesday, Wed 28 June 2pm** Guest Speaker Ian Bock - *Early Photography*.

**Sunday 27 August 1.30pm** The WHS Annual General Meeting and birthday.

**Thursday 26 October 7.30pm** *Murders and Mysteries in Waverley*.

**Wednesday 22 November 2pm** Christmas celebration.

Margaret Boyes

## Know your Waverley district

### Bridges

1. What is the tallest road bridge in Monash City?
2. How many road bridges cross over the East Malvern - Glen Waverley railway line?
3. What road bridge(s) are single lane?
4. What bridge is named after a local pioneering resident?
5. What bridge has heritage listing?

Answers P7

### Research Query

We have had a query regarding the origin of the name of the David Crawford Council Reserve. This reserve at Orchard Rd and Cherry St, Glen Waverley connects with the track of the major water supply mains from Mitcham to Notting Hill reservoirs. If you know of the contribution David Crawford had made to our city please let us know.



WHS File image

David Crawford Reserve looking SW

### Supporting the WHS while shopping

You can contribute to the WHS financially just by shopping at Ritchies IGA supermarket Mt Waverley. The WHS 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. The WHS is getting new stocks of these cards. Ask the Secretary for a card.

### 2017/18 Subscriptions due

Reminder, your 2016/2017 subscription expires on 30 June 2017. You may renew anytime.



In 1917, Victoria's first baby health centre opened.

This now state wide system grew from the efforts of a small group of women, following their concern over a fall in birth rate evident in Melbourne by the end of the 19th century. Social reformers began to campaign for the introduction of measures to decrease infant mortality from a shocking 15% in mid 19<sup>th</sup> century England, also reflected here. The main contributing factors were preventable: malnutrition, poor hygiene and lack of knowledge about infant care.

Some Australian women reformers, strengthened by public concern about the WWI losses of life, began conducting a school for mothers in Richmond in 1917, persuading the council to fund a baby health centre. Nine centres were operating in Melbourne by 1919 funded equally by local and state governments. The movement grew, despite having rival organisations with similar aims, but helped in 1929 by the passing of the Notification of Birth Act which ensured that centres would be notified of all births.

Here in Waverley, our first Centre opened in Mount Waverley in 1951, with Glen Waverley following in 1953. The purpose built centres in the Waverley area were generally of a similar cream brick style as shown in these Glen Waverley and Mount Waverley examples. The Jordanville centre in Burton Street follows this theme.

There are currently nine centres in Monash, but there were many more in our growth years 1960s-70s. The names of centres have changed often – Baby Health Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres, Maternal & Child Health Centres, reflecting broadening and narrowing of goals, but always they have housed the go-to person for anxious mothers.

In the 1950s they monitored municipal immunisation programs and, during the 1970s, were often the instigators of playgroups and gatherings for new mothers designed to break down the increasing isolation of women at home with young children. In Waverley in the 1980s they were the place toy libraries began, further extending their role as part of the urban fabric, but in the late 1990s

that changed when the State Government compelled local councils to place such services up for tender, and limited the previously open access by instituting a system of appointments.

With Victorian infant mortality now down to 3.2%, the initial goal has been fulfilled, and it is time to celebrate a century of better health for mothers and babies.



Glen Waverley Infant Welfare Centre opened 1953 (near Civic Centre). This building was demolished for the construction of the new Civic Centre complex in Springvale Rd



The present Mt Waverley Childcare Centre and kindergarten in the NE corner of Sherwood Park, is one of the oldest operating in Monash City from its original location

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/scs/2016-research-projects-women-children.html>

Shurlee Swain in:

<http://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM00753b.htm>

<http://www.cyh.com/SubContent.aspx?cp=89&p=115>

<https://minerva-access.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/35365>

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3302.0>

I've told you about the fire and brimstone preacher, well he's been at it again, I just hate to go to Sunday School, I used to like the Bible stories but he said we would be thrown into the bottomless pit and fall forever. I'm so scared the hairs are standing up on the back of my neck. I can't sleep again tonight and even think of tying my leg to the end of the bed. Falling forever makes me sweat and I couldn't eat my tea tonight. It was one Saturday and we were having lunch when we heard a loud noise. We all rushed outside and it was an aeroplane flying so low you could almost touch it. This is the first aeroplane I have seen and it's so exciting. He went right over our back yard and we could see the pilot clearly.

As a teenager my father had bought a Cylinder Gramophone and Bill, Freddy and I have rigged up an intercom system through the house so that we can be in bed and still hear the records. (Len Rhodes has this machine now). Dad likes his music and so do we!

I spoke about Auntie Sissy (Mrs Ann Jane Marriott always called Jane) earlier and she hated her stepfather, she called him old wire whiskers because of the beard he had. He made her go to Sunday school until she was 19. This was the Wesleyan Church in Waverley Road later to be Methodist. The minister had asked for her to be allowed to go to church now that she was older, but her stepfather would not let her do this. The church body had a meeting and agreed it was humiliating for her so they made her a teacher and that is how they got around the problem. It was only a few years later that she married Bill Marriott. They sold jam by the side of the road on the weekends to make ends meet. Catching people in their horse drawn vehicles as they travelled to Ferntree Gully for picnics. Added to the sales were strawberries, blackberries, bunches of gum leaves, mushrooms and anything else that would make money.

Bill Marriott approached the hotel (Wheelers Hill) and asked if he could have the scraps from the lunches they provided. This was okay by them and it was put into a drum for them to collect. Next was to build a pig sty and buy small piglets to be fattened for sale. All went well until one day when there was bedlam in the pig sty. Jane and Bill thought the pigs must be sick they were making so much noise. Not so, just a new bartender who turned the slops from the counter into the pig barrel. The pigs were all drunk and fighting like there was no tomorrow. It was very quiet the next day when they all had hangovers and wanted nothing better than to be left alone. Jane always called them real pickled pigs.

Bill had a phaeton to drive around the district and I suppose it must have been the result of good cooking and little work that in his older years he had developed the biggest paunch you would ever see. It sat on his knee like an extra person and Freddy Finch said when he lay on his side on the sofa his guts was on the floor. The Stott farm was east in Ferntree Gully Rd from Jells Rd and down the hill on the north side. They too had goods for sale and Bill got cross about the money they were missing out on at weekends. He painted a sign and in the dark took it to the bottom of the hill where The Deviation branches off, (now Marykirk Drive). The sign read "Why tire your horses. Use The Deviation and save them from this steep hill, and the arrow pointed to the left." It worked well until the Stotts found why they didn't have any customers that day. Bill in the meantime had shifted his table to the corner of his property which took in the other end of the Deviation and came back onto Ferntree Gully Rd, west of Jells Rd getting customers on two fronts. It only lasted for the day but it was a good try.



The other branch of the Rhodes family operated the Post Office Store in Ferntree Gully Rd, Notting Hill.

Mick Gallagher had brothers and one of the nephews was also Mick. He was a heavy drinker and all his mates the same. Well, Mick in his early 20s was killed and I don't know the details just that they had a "Wake" in Oakleigh. Mick was laid out in his coffin and on the dining room table, minus the lid. The party was going on around him and the alcohol was flowing. After a while two of his friends got crying drunk and were hanging over the coffin saying, "poor Mick, he would have loved his party and he can't even see it in there!" So as inebriated people do, they had an idea. Lifting the coffin they leant it against the wall quite happy now that Mick could see his party. They all drank on and after a few hours, Mick fell face first out of his coffin onto the floor. It was suggested to us that it sobered the drinkers in a matter of seconds, but I will leave that for you to decide!