

From the South Bourke and Mornington Journal
(Richmond 1877– 1920, 1926-1927)
Wed 24 Sep 1879 page 3 OAKLEIGH POLICE COURT

Jos. Dillon v. Wm. Stephenson ; committing damage to property. The parties are neighbours residing at **Waverley**, which is a 160-acre township cut up into small lots, the roads and streets looking very nice on the map, but difficult to find by personal inspection amongst the scrub. Complainant stated that defendant had fenced off one of these roads, the only available one he could get out on.—Dismissed ; no jurisdiction, as there was a question of title involved.

The Court then adjourned.

The 160 acre township area refers to that portion bounded by what we know as Stephensons Rd, High Street Rd, Stewart St and Waimarie Drv. This was the original *Waverley Subdivision* established by Dr Silverman in 1854.

Did You Know?

That Victoria's floral emblem, the pink heath, was proclaimed 60 years ago, on Remembrance Day? Also known as Common Heath, this slender shrub *Epacris impressa* is just 30cm tall in drier areas or times, but can grow to up to a metre tall when rainfall is more generous. The pink flowers can be seen through winter and spring in coastal and mountainous heathlands. Victoria was the first state to give official recognition to a floral emblem, and clearly we all love it: most of us carry its picture around in our wallets – on our driver's licences.

The species is called *impressa* because of the small indentations at the base of each tubular flower.



Seven Stories of Success

A few years ago, the Waverley Historical Society acquired a copy of *Burwood Boys Home to Best-Chance*, which celebrated the passing of time and institutions.

As a corollary to this edition, seven of the original Burwood 'boys' have collaborated and produced *Seven Stories of Success* compiled by Kay Edwards.

The launch of this book took place on Sunday, 4th February, 2019, at Cameron Close, in Warrigal Road, Burwood, which occupies the site of the original Burwood Boys Home, built in the early 1930's, of which nothing remains.

The seven stories in the book are told by former residents of the Home and provide a window into an earlier era of Melbourne's social history, from the 1930's to the 70's.

They are stories of pathos and resilience, good humour and positivity. At the launch, each writer presented a brief account of individual lives at the Home.

This self-published book is of limited edition.

Virginia Barnett

Fifty Years of Opportunity

The opportunity shop at the south end of Hamilton Walk is celebrating its jubilee this month!

The shop's purpose is threefold: to provide goods for people who enjoy second hand items at a fraction of the price of the new alternatives, to help all of us de-clutter our homes and create space by donating no-longer-needed items, and to raise money for the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL).

It started when volunteers enthusiastically started fund-raising through social activities mainly run at St Stephens for a while, and actually started a second-hand shop there. Thus a modest amount of money was raised to fight poverty in Australia through the BSL. However, it really took off when they moved to the current site in 1969. In the first week there, the shop made more money than they had in a year at the church.

St Laurence (258-275 AD), the patron saint of the poor, lived in Rome in the 3rd century and was one of those tasked with collecting and distributing donations for those in need. The Brotherhood was established in the great depression, led by Fr. Gerard Tucker (1885-1974), a man who combined faith with a fierce determination to end social injustice.

The BSL is also responsible for starting that well known international aid and development agency, Oxfam.

MarJo Angelico

Established 1970

Incorporated in Victoria
Reg. No. A 0006377 A
PATRON

PRESIDENT
MarJo Angelico
SECRETARY
Norma Schultz 9802 9332
EDITOR
Philip Johnstone
WEB
www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/whsvic?fref=ts>
POSTAL ADDRESS
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40 Montclair Avenue GW
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Annual subscriptions 2018/19 are
due on 1 July. \$25 per household

AUTUMN 2019

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THE BUILDING

Although no longer bearing the name "Peters," this distinctive structure is a recognised landmark in Mulgrave. It was built in 1964 as part of the general move of factories away from the inner city with its abundance of crowded saw-tooth rooflines and grimy concrete, to wide green parklands with futurist front buildings. This was the *Petersville* administration building, designed by the successful architectural firm of Lumsden, Hale and Ashton (who also designed the Aspro building on Waverley and Warrigal Roads). Behind the wavey roof and gold anodised aluminium grille, were factories producing among others Birds-eye frozen vegetables, White Wings flour and biscuits, Edgell canned foods, Four'n'Twenty pies, and, of course, Peters icecream, yoghurt and butter. Also the company was involved in sales of commercial re-

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Unless otherwise stated,
General Meetings are held
at 2pm on the fourth
Wednesday or Sunday in
our rooms above Mt Waverley
Library (Lift Available) 41
Miller Cres., Mt Waverley.
For excursions and outings
please carefully note time
and location details.

Coming Events

Sun 26 May 1pm Oswego historical
Walk. Reservations essential.

Wed 26 June 2pm A Virtual Tour of
Stephensons Rd.

Sun 28 July Open House Melbourne.

Sun 24 Aug 2pm WHS 49th Birthday
and AGM.

more details P.5

frigeration and transport, vending machines and insect control appliances. Before building this factory, Peters HQ had been in Richmond (1934-64) and previously Meyers Place, Melbourne (1929-34). Unfortunately, the company and the building were taken over by Nestlé in about 1995.

The land had previously been Roy Steyne's 44 acre dairy farm, plus another 44 acres, creating one of the largest very early manufacturing companies to establish operations here in Monash (then the Shire of Mulgrave).

Since Nestlé removed the Peters sign, the huge site has been subdivided, but the heritage listed administration building remains as a reminder of its history. The building is to be the new HQ of Nissan Australia.

WHS April meeting

Our April meeting had an ANZAC connection, with Prof. Bill Brown, a local Monash resident, speaking from personal view on Sir John Monash.

He drew on some interesting points of Sir John Monash's career other than military history and found some interesting parallels with his own life. A more detailed report will be given in our next edition of *History Here*.

AOEHS Quarterly meeting 27 April 2019

The quarterly meeting of the Association Of Eastern Historical Societies, of which the WHS is a member, was hosted by the WHS in our rooms. Featured speaker was WHS member Jane Turton, who spoke on the production of her recent book *Stories from Under the Carpet*.

These meetings provide a useful forum for the interchange of information and promote money making ideas to support the Historical Societies in the group. These quarterly events are hosted in rotation by different societies in their local venues.

The annual (full day) AOEHS conference on 22 June to be held in Ringwood, promises an exciting range of topics and speakers, most of which will be relevant to the WHS operations. Anybody may attend these conference workshops at a fee of \$40 (including refreshments).

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 2019 are every second month.

WHS in the Digital Age

As printing and postage costs continue to rise, WHS has decided to go digital. We will be Emailing newsletters to those members whose Email addresses we have on file.

In future, members will have a choice - either continue receiving the newsletter as a paper copy via AustPost, or change to Email. If your choice is paper, please let the WHS know. Remember, you can print out the Email copy if you wish. Anyone who wishes to opt in and save the trees, just needs to supply their Email address.

Please advise the Secretary via:

waverleyhsvic@gmail.com of your preference: Email or paper copy.

Can You Help?

We have received this image (below) via a descendant of the Best family which was associated with the Oswego farm property on the NE intersection of Blackburn and Waverley Rds. (This area will be part of our next Historical Walk on Sunday 26 May).

The picture shows a group of girl guides with whom we believe to be Lady Baden Powell, in March 1931. Can you help with the exact date and the connection between the Oswego site and the Girl Guides Association? The Vic GGAss. has been unable to help on the details of this event.



Welcome to New Member
Yolanda Zhao

When Bevel Mae Rhodes was born to Arthur and Minnie (nee Hatch) Rhodes, her father filled in the form for the government. Hmm... how should it be spelt – Bevelie? Beverley? Or maybe Beveleigh? He had written only the first five letters and was trying to find out the rest when someone else, thinking it was complete, took it and posted it for him. Thus his daughter was to live out her life with the unusual name Bevel.

She grew up with her parents and brother, Arthur, in Gallaghers Rd, where they had orchards and a market garden. Minnie had an increasing problem with her eyes, and Bev had to help look after her, and the house and farm. Eventually she married Herbert James Yeoman and they bought a place in Gallaghers Rd so Bevel could continue helping her parents.

In 1959 Bevel and Herb welcomed twin boys and later two daughters, but unfortunately Herbert turned very sick and died, aged just 39. To support the family, including her blind mother and arthritic father, Bev did ironing and cleaning for other families. The money from these chores did not, of course, go very far in supplying the needs of seven people. However, having been born so close to Christmas, she eagerly welcomed birthday money from relatives, so that she could make Christmas special for her family!

The time came when the children had grown and left home, and her parents and husband were all gone, and the busy carer needed some care herself. She turned to the Salvation Army, and used to say it was *the second best event of her life*. Not only did the Salvation Army play a large part in her life, she also played a large part in it, as a Senior Soldier.

Another love of Bev's life was local history. Readers will probably remember the stories she wrote in recent issues of *History Here* about her father and other local identities. She has filled

many roles in Waverley Historical Society, having been Treasurer for many years, newsletter producer (she proofread, copied, enveloped and mailed many issues), member of the Bicentenary Committee, to name just two. Every WHS event was attended – meetings, bus trips, promotions of the Society, preservation of the Black Flat school building, open days, excursions, displays, wreath layings, colonial games

events, etc. She even made a copy of her grandmother's wedding dress and wore it on occasions when colonial wear was called for. This happened often in the years Bev was active in WHS.

Bev's four children, 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren remember her as someone who taught them to always be kind, who always made them laugh, even on bad days, and who was extremely generous – but tricky. She would hide their birthday money in unusual places and they would have an exciting treasure hunt to brighten their day! She made each one feel special.

Like many of her time, Bevel saw life move all the way from horse and cart days to putting a man on the moon; from bush telegraph (call it gossip if you must) to everyone over the age of five having a mobile

phone (and unable to live without it for an hour!); from the baker, grocer, milkman, iceman and even the *night man* providing door to door service, through the rise of supermarkets and full circle to electronic shopping from home. Her generation made all these changes happen. They established the Waverley area, building the schools and churches, the sporting and hobby clubs, the services and infrastructure we could easily take for granted. Bevel in particular did all this cheerfully through some very tough times. We are grateful for the life of Bevel Mae Yeoman.



Bev in a reproduction of her grandmother's wedding dress, at the Black Flat (Glen Waverley) school 1991.

Alvie Rd Rail Bridge Incident

Chris Norton

At about 8am Wed. 20 February 2019 I heard an almighty crash that sounded like an empty skip had been moved off the back of a tray truck and dumped onto the road under the railway bridge over Alvie Road, Mt. Waverley.

I jumped out of bed, put on my dressing gown, armed, of course, with iphone camera video going and went out the front door. An orange skip truck was backing away from the bridge on the south side up the hill to Windsor Ave to make a quick getaway. I filmed but couldn't see the registration plates. As it was, a quick acting neighbour chased the skip truck and apprehended the driver. There was a lot of broken concrete strewn over the road on the Windsor Avenue side which is the City bound train direction.

I immediately rang 000 and was put through to the Police whom I told there may be significant damage to the bridge. They took my details and address. Then a train came through and I thought: *Well, if the bridge has been damaged enough and the train derails over the bridge it will happen now.*



Looking south. The cracked yellow safety warning beam (similar to that shown here on the north side) being removed from the site on the truck. Note the shorter span of the original 1930s bridge on the south track compared with the later built north side.

Thank goodness all was well and it went through. That was the last train. The rest were stopped until engineers had inspected and much work was done. What I was unaware of is there are concrete safety barriers across the tops of all these bridges just for these sort of occurrences. The concrete was so badly damaged they had to remove and replace it. There was structural damage done to the 1929-30 original upright, which must have steel re-enforcement inside as the force left the top of the pylon cracked but still intact. There were at least 12 people working on it all day and more came every day.



Looking south; The yellow safety barrier beam and steel mounts (similar to the north side) have been removed.

Cranes, trucks, lorries etc. Security guards manned it night and day. It was opened to pedestrians after a couple of days but not to vehicles. Apparently the truck had 2 arms that lift the skip up and over the cabin and tip the contents into the rear. The operator/driver had left the arms up when he tried to drive under the bridge from Windsor Ave.



Looking north. The steel mounts for the warning beam have been refitted to each concrete pier.

It took until Sunday 24th February to re-open Alvie Rd. Alvie Road had just been re-surfaced and the signs were still out and now this. Fortunately there are safety concrete beams up for this sort of incident.

The cost must have been massive for all the labour and crane and truck hire involved. All for one mistake made by the truck driver who forgot to put his skip arms down. Apparently he was sacked the same day.

The possible consequences of a peak hour train derailment are horrific.

Famous People who have lived in Waverley – Bob Rose

MarJo Angelico

AFL Footballer Bob Rose (1928-2003) was born a country boy from tiny Nyah West in the Mallee beyond Swan Hill (1920s population 483; not much more today). He was a genuine all-round sportsman, who was looking down the path of a professional boxing career, but decided instead to play VFL as he had been in the local team for years.

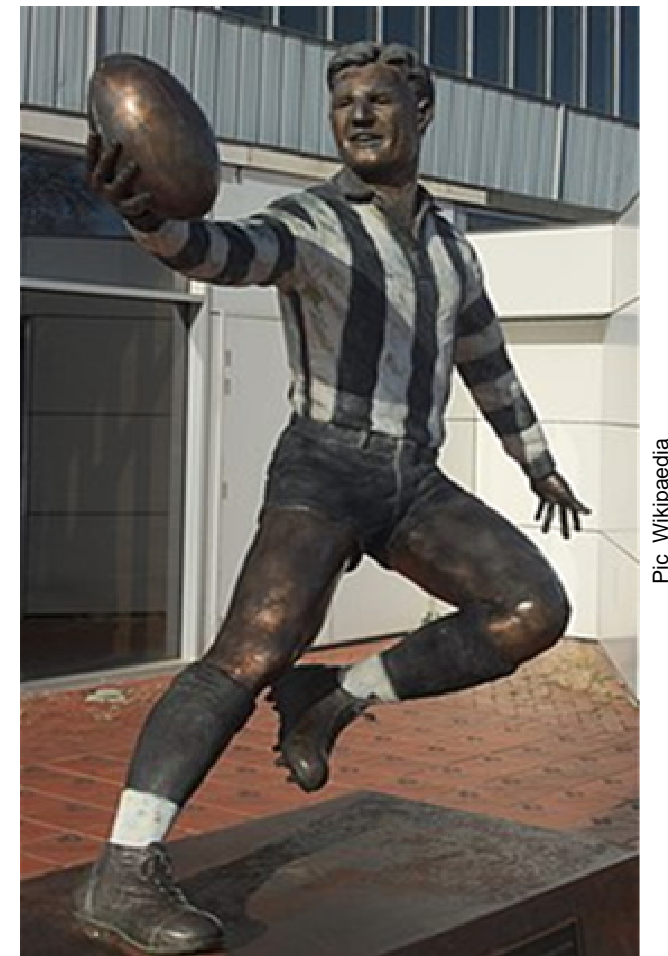
Rose debuted at age 18. He says of his first day training in Melbourne, *I trained out there for the first night and that was unbelievable. I was 15 (sic) at the time, and to be with the Lou Richards and Colliers (the Colliers had finished playing, but they were always at the Club) Phonsie Kyne and those great players, Fothergill. I could hardly believe it, and I was in some pretty shabby old gear because the war had just finished and things were pretty tough in Nyah West, so yes, Lou Richards and the boys have let me know over the years about that silly-looking green and white guernsey that I was wearing, with moth-eaten holes in it. But it was really a bombshell to be able to run out on to the nice green grass, because droughts were pretty prominent in the Mallee at that time, and we were almost playing on clay grounds...*

Dubbed the greatest player to ever pull on the black and white for the Magpies, Rose played 152 games after arriving at Victoria Park in 1946 and won four Best and Fairest awards before retiring in 1955. Rose was very skilful and courageous in the midfield, often preferring to enter a fray rather than avoid it. Injuries had got the better of him though, leading to an early retirement aged 27. He had kicked 214 goals for Collingwood.

On retirement, he and his wife Elsie built a three-bedroom house on Crosby Drive, Glen Waverley and lived there over 40 years. Bob became well known as a local business man. That was the year his second son Peter, now an accomplished poet, reviewer and novelist, was born. His first son, Robert, tragically ended a promising career in both AFL and cricket when, at age 22, he had a car accident that left him a quadriplegic. Robert's uncles Kevin, Bill, Ralph and Colin had also played for Collingwood, making it quite a family affair.

Bob Rose was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1996. He was selected as the centre in Collingwood's Team of the Century, and the AFL Players Association's annual award

for the Most Courageous Player, struck in 1991, is named in Bob Rose's honour. In 2006, a memorial statue of Bob Rose was unveiled outside the main entrance of the Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Centre, the home of the Collingwood Football Club. Present at the unveiling was his widow and surviving son Peter Rose.



Bob Rose was an inspiring Waverley resident. What was HIS inspiration? In his own words, *In about my third year of playing for Collingwood, I walked into the ground at about 11 o'clock, to watch the reserves play. (By this time I was in the seniors.) And I just saw all these Collingwood supporters. It was a cold, middle-of-the-winter, rainy day, and they had taken up every seat available in the ground, and it was mainly standing room in those days. And I thought then, it really hit me, that these people are there to support people like me, all the players, so it was a real lesson that I would, and I swore to myself, that I would never let the people down, that I would give 100% all the time. And it was really an inspiration to me...*

The Mystery of *Fairyland*, Kew

Virginia Barnett

James Nicolas was our first speaker for the year (Tues 26 Feb); he is an author of several books, all centred on local histories – his passion is to share and inform others. This book, *The Mystery of Fairyland, Kew* is a most unusual story about Grace and Jim Tabulo and their old miners' cottage at 57 Malmsbury St., Kew, during the years 1944 to 1965. None of us knew of the cottage, but, story and photos combined, we were transfixed.

A sincerely written foreword was by Philip Brady, (Radio Announcer) who lived in the area as a child and was a frequent caller at *Fairyland*.

The cottage was owned by Grace and Jim Tabulo, back in quieter, more innocent times. Grace was an avid collector of knick-knacks mainly, but also many more items of precious bric-a-brac. Her 'gift' to the children of Kew, was to turn her house and garden into a place of pleasure and fantasy, so that little ones were always welcomed and felt safe in the garden of treasures. Grace was a wonderful story-teller of fairy tales plus many whimsical renditions of her own, for children and adults alike. The house became famous locally and beyond. Every child walked away with a happy memory and impressions which have remained in their hearts. In James' book, we see photos of the garden and its cornucopia of treasures. The house doubled as a 'drop-in' place as well and many a troubled soul would call in to chat with Grace and solve whatever problems were there. The front garden also had many old broken pieces of china, cup and tea sets, none of them off limits to small hands. Dolls, rajahs on elephants, clay elves and fairies, ivory, Venetian glass and so on. We saw photos of Grace in her long black dresses, cameo brooch, white hair pulled back; a product of Victorian times.

Grace, a staunch royalist, always celebrated Empire Day, Coronation Day, the births of Prince Charles and Princess Anne. The children became royalists too, swept up in the activities of Grace and Jim, such as marching around the block, singing patriotic songs on Empire Day, and waving little flags supplied by Grace. Such patriotism!

Why did James write the book? Growing up, he was always puzzled as to why his mother was so secretive about her past. His father appeared to know nothing either, but seemed content not to know. We learnt that his mother was orphaned at birth and raised by neighbours – the Tabulos (before they owned *Fairyland*). Why such an is-

sue? Back then, people did not discuss cases like this and when, in her late teens, James' mother was told she was adopted, an argument ensued and the emotionally charged young lady left the house, never to return. She eventually ended up in Sydney and met and married James' father.

This event had an enormous impact on Grace and Jim Tabulo. Their child had gone. It was so traumatic that Grace had a breakdown, then they sold their Hawthorn home and moved to 57 Malmsbury St., Kew. The idea of turning the house and home into a veritable *Fairyland* must have been a huge reaction to grief, but it was turned into an act of benevolence and love for other children. Jim's life was sadly affected as well. He survived two World Wars but his end, in 1950, came as a result of an accident – he was thrown from his horse when going about his work as a wood carter, suffering fatal head injuries.

Grace, with another great sadness to bear, stoically continued in her role of convenor of *Fairyland* and story-teller. The garden was daily visited by many children, and on occasions such as New Year's Eve, whole families would gather, showing community spirit and sharing. Grace knew children's perceptions were different, and the parents knew their children learnt only what was good, from this now elderly lady.

Here, our speaker included a memorable anecdote. Although all ornaments and belongings were openly displayed, a theft did occur, and this was the disappearance of Jim's war medals. Grace was devastated and friends and community were shocked; one of them placed a notice and tribute in the local paper. Another neighbour wrote to the then local member, Robert Gordon Menzies and, thanks to his persistence and intervention, the medals were re-issued and copies of the correspondence relating to this incident, are in the War Records in Canberra. The medals were very gratefully received by Mrs Tabulo, just on the day before the Anzac Day celebrations!

Visitors' Books, spanning the years and recording the names of the thousands who visited over the two decades, are housed in the Kew Historical Society's rooms. Grace died in 1965 and left everything to local charities. Many attended the auction, if only to procure a little knick-knack or two, to preserve the memories. The house is still there, but has no heritage listing.

The theme of James' talk was, I suppose, that "things are not always what they seem."

Events and Acquisitions

Noel Reid, Local Estate Agent and Historian

We are privileged to have recently received a framed photograph of Noel Reid, founder of NR Reid Estate Agents.

The donor, Suzanne Maschler, says, *Thank you for your email and kind wishes. I am very pleased that you have accepted this lovely photograph of Noel Reid. I have personally worked in the office (previously known as N.R. Reid, Glen Waverley) at 245 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley for 15+ years.*

I felt that Noel Reid certainly contributed a great deal to the people of Waverley over many, many years. When we left our office recently I wanted this lovely photo to be preserved for everyone to continue to enjoy. I had countless clients over the years come into the office and speak so admirably to me about Noel Reid. Some had personally known him. Many thanks again for adding this photo to your collection at Waverley Historical Society.



Motoring in Oakleigh

Over a century on the road



An Exhibition Open 10:00am to 5:00pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays until the end of May.

Monash Federation Centre 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh - Ph 9563 2823

Produced by History Monash and sponsored by Barry Plant, Oakleigh

Bendigo Bank

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Scar Trees – Silent Witness

At Melbourne Museum until 9th June 2019 is an exhibition of photographs of Indigenous scar trees. Museum literature says, "With a photography career spanning decades, Jim Berg, a Gunditjmara Elder, turns his focus to Scar trees. These trees are a window to the past, bearing witness to the way of life and freedom for Victoria's First Peoples. Scar trees are a reminder of the past and are a link to all trees."

WHS Coming Events

(Note Day, Time & Venue)

Sun 26 May. 1pm Oswego Historical Walk will cover the *Avendon Estate*, which was a subdivision of the CRB site plus the Oswego farm and Waverley Golf Club course. Bookings are essential, tel. 9802 9332.

Wed 26 June 2pm A Virtual Tour of Route 27 Following the style of our previous *Tours* we will follow the route of Clayton and Stephensons Rds from Dandenong Rd to Highbury Rd noting old and new buildings and learning some history of the people and the area while comfortably seated in the WHS rooms.

Sun 28 July Open House Melbourne. Expressions of interest are sought please for making our arrangements.

Sun 25th Aug 2pm Our 49th birthday and AGM. Guest speaker long-time GW resident Joy Olney.