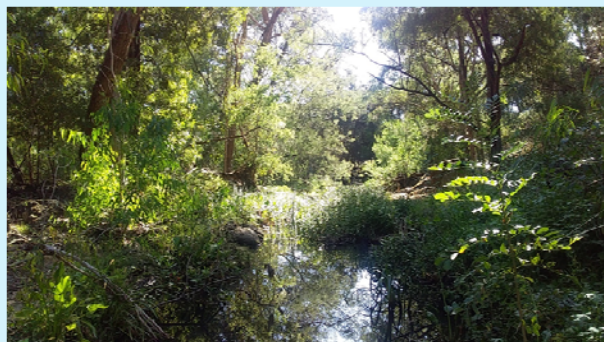


2 pm Sunday 26th May 2024  
 WHS Rooms above MW Library  
**The Friends of  
 Damper Creek Reserve**  
 By Doug Scott



Booking required by 20.5.24  
 via our Email  
[waverleyhsvic@gmail.com](mailto:waverleyhsvic@gmail.com)

**AEHS** The Association of Eastern Historical Societies  
 presents

**The Value of Local History – Into the Future  
 2024 Conference**

Speakers: Sat 29 June (9am – 5pm)

Dr Bryan Kalms – Keynote: *Surviving Hard Times and Crises*

Anthony McAleer OAM – *Reinvigorating a Community Group*

Patrick Ferry, National Archives of Australia – *Local History is family history (and vice versa)*

David Taylor, Public Record Office Victoria – *The value of public records – into the future*

Professor Graeme Davison – *Melbourne from the Air*

John Peterson – *Significance 2.0 – Objects in the Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear*

Professor Richard Broome AM – *Keeping History Relevant: RHSV's Melbourne Lanes History Project*

Dr Rosalie Triolo – *A future for all; Finding the diverse cultural groups in your community and collections*

Valerie Polley OAM, Warrandyte Historical Society – *A Most Remarkable School – the story behind Koorong School, Warrandyte*

Dr Janice Newton – *Responding to Contemporary Challenges: COVID, Climate Change and the Digital World*

Christine Barker Byrnes & Chris Byrnes, Malmsbury Historical Society – *Foray into the Future*

Jackie Fraser, Victorian Collections – *Online collections, now, never or forever: an infinite responsibility with infinite value*

Kitty Owens, Yarra Ranges Regional Museum – *The power of collaboration, some recent projects from Yarra Ranges Regional Museum*

Venue Lilydale Lakeside Lakeside Conference Centre  
 Cost \$55



# HISTORY HERE 247

Journal of the Waverley Historical Society Autumn 2024  
 ISSN 2206-6136

## Established 1970

Incorporated in Victoria  
 Reg. No. A 0006377 A  
 PATRON

PRESIDENT  
 Ralph Bartlett  
 SECRETARY  
 Kerrie Flynn  
 EDITOR  
 Philip Johnstone

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Annual subscriptions 2024/25 were-  
 due on 1 July 23. \$25 per household



P. Johnstone May 2024

## The House History of Alvie Hall

Alvie Hall is a small public building on High St Rd, Mount Waverley, available for community groups to hire. "Alvie" is the name of the road beside the hall, which was once the driveway to the Peck family home, Glen Alvie which was further south.

The earliest known subdivision of the land on both sides of Alvie Road was approved for lodgement on 28 August 1918 (LP7388). The land containing the current day Alvie Hall and immediately behind it (312-314 High Street Rd), was further approved for subdivision on 9 April 1952 (LP23179).

*Continued P.2*

## Coming Events

**Next Event**  
 2pm Sunday  
 26 May 2024

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.

Sunday 28th July 2024

## Melbourne Open House



Booking required

Book with each venue at  
<https://openhousemelbourne.org/about/>

Programme available 26 June

Select your preferred location

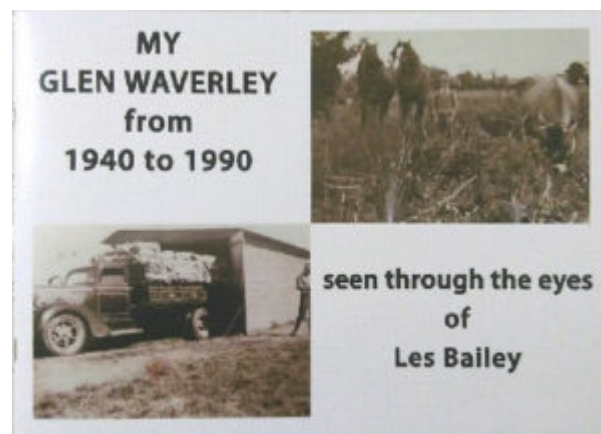
Sunday 25th August 2024  
 WHS -Annual General Meeting

At our rooms

Speaker

Les Bailey

*My Glen Waverley*



Booking required

via our Email

[waverleyhsvic@gmail.com](mailto:waverleyhsvic@gmail.com)

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 Government issues please contact Matt's office.

**Matt Fregon MP**

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Continued from P.1

Donald & Norma Bowd of Murrumbeena became the joint Registered Proprietors on 14 September 1952 and remained so until March 1970. (They had a garage workshop constructed, and also ran a service centre in Murrumbeena where they serviced VW motor cars. According to clubvw.org.au, Volkswagens were first imported to Australia in late 1953 and went on official sale in early 1954.

The first meeting of the Volkswagen Club of Victoria was held in "a garage converted into a hall at Alvie Park Autos in High Street, Mount Waverley in about April/May 1954." In 1957, branches were formed in Warragul and Ballarat and other clubs were formed in other states. The Volkswagen Club of



View from St Johns Wood Rd

Building operating as a petrol station and workshop circa 1962

Victoria is the first VW Club in Australia. Foundation members were Mr. Don Bowd (President), Mr. Gregory Drew (Secretary), and Mr. Ray Witherten (Treasurer). Don Bowd wrote to new owners of VWs from Regent Motors to invite them to join the club.



Waverley Gazette April 1971

Building now with an extension to the north side and of a hip roof.

The building operated as a service station with petrol pumps and a repair workshop. It was an independent reseller with 2 petrol pumps with discs above them that looked like full moons (Caltex). There was no hoist. Vehicles were driven in and the mechanics were able to work underneath using the slope of the land which dropped down towards Damper Creek behind.

An addition to the service station was approved on 1 April 1955 at a cost of £2,500. The project appears to have commenced with concrete foundations poured sometime between April 1955 and June 1956. The project was abandoned in September 1956.

The current ceiling of the building is reinforced concrete as the intention was to construct a second floor as a residence. The concrete floor/ceiling was required for fire proofing. The residue of the concrete that fell between the formwork during the concrete pouring can be clearly seen.

The service station was still listed in the Sands & McDougall directory until 1963. In January 1967 Alvie Road was being constructed and sealed. In August 1967 the Minister for local government (Mr Hamer) disallowed a proposal to allow the property to operate as a petrol station.

Kent Street Properties Limited became the registered proprietor on 12 March 1970 (Certificate of Title Vol.7941 Fol.137) for a Gospel Hall, which included a porch, entry and toilets to be added to the existing brick walls of the original service station's sales office. The cost of the construction was \$11,000 and the builder was P. G Bryant & Son of Canterbury. The project was completed in August 1971.

The building with amenities was in use barely two years before it was up for sale. Apparently N. R. Reid (Estate Agent) acquired the property in 14 November 1973 on behalf of The Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of the City who became the registered proprietors.

In June 1979 Waverley Council deferred consideration of the installation of traffic signals at High Street Rd and Alvie Rd in preference to pedestrian operated signals.

The building was used by local community groups for many years. While in recent years, the double doors in the NW addition were removed and the toilet facilities upgraded. In the main room, air-conditioning was installed and the gas heating unit removed.

## The Women of Little Lonsdale Street

Virginia Barnett

Our speaker at the September 2023 meeting was Barbara Minchinton, PhD, who revealed stories of a little-known section of the CBD; the eastern end of Little Lonsdale Street. It was here that Melbourne's sex industry thrived and Barbara told us how her interest in this topic began. She is a born historian and a visit to the Archaeological Museum, in the foyer of 50 Lonsdale St., revealed many artefacts which captured her attention and spurred her on to delve in places like Trove and government records and whatever else, making it a little easier for us to picture what this city was like in the 1800's. In this once-slum area of 'lights, fights and fish shops', cesspits provided dumping places up until 1870, long enough to reveal time capsules for later historians to study.

It was a tough life, and one local identity who became famous in that part of town, Caroline Hodgson, also known as Madame Brussels, was the most famous brothel owner in Melbourne. Perchance, Barbara came across an old photo album from which she was able to reproduce old sepia photos of this lady, including a wedding photo, posed and austere, typical of the times. Her husband left her two years later. Unthwarted, she set up a boarding-house which, under the guise of respect, became a brothel. She was a low-key, but very astute person; girls were paid to do their work here, Madame Brussels scraping off her commission. Working in shops and industry paid so poorly and conditions were close to unbearable; it was far easier to take on prostitution and earn in one hour what would otherwise take a whole week. Working for Madame Brussels gave them security and wealth. Today, we can walk down Madame Brussels Lane and simply wonder at its past.

Chris Norton



were rumours of tunnels from Parliament house to Little Lonsdale Street. Madame Bond built up a substantial property portfolio and became a benefactress. Beautiful paintings in St Marys Church, West Melbourne, were provided on the strength of brothel earnings.

Prostitutes fled from the rough and tumble of the goldfields to seek security and safety in the city. Selling sex was not seen as a criminal offence, yet Madames could be fined, although generally only if unruly. It was just a means of earning money. It was also illegal for children to live in a brothel; the penalty was severe - the children could be taken away. There was a certain hierarchy in prostitution; cottages could be rented out and used for work; 'short term' houses appeared; solo work was replaced by working in pairs or groups, such was the vulnerable aspect of the trade. Single mothers couldn't get real jobs and there were no pensions.

In 1903, along came John Norton, editor of *Truth*, a subsidiary of Sydney's *Truth*. This daily paper shocked its readers with frequent exposures of personal scandal and social injustice. Norton's misogyny was famous. He loved alliteration; Madame Brussels was described as a 'hellish haridan', a 'moral monster'. He jumped on brothels with great moral condemnation. Yet women were entitled to a wage. Legislation was formed in 1907 so that it was illegal to allow prostitution and live off the proceeds. Sex work was banned. Much of that filtered into the present day. Barbara touched on the work of modern times' Fiona Patten (Reason Party), who went against all of the aforesaid and decreed prostitution okay. But still, the old attitudes exist today.

In 1908, when women were awarded the vote, all women did vote. Those in the prostitution business described their occupation as 'home duties'. 1907 saw the main end of it all. Having a voice made life fairer and the women more able to find security in other ways. Eventually the area became industrialised; the Chinese cabinet-makers moved in and prostitution drifted along for a while, then the trade moved on to Carlton and Fitzroy.

Barbara's talk allowed us to peep into a segment of Melbourne's past which was most intriguing and led to some interesting anecdotes at the end. It revealed a side of Melbourne about which most of us know very little. A trip to the Archaeological Museum is now a must.

Our newly elected President, Ralph Bartlett, thanked Barbara, on behalf of us all.



## ANZAC Flags

Philip Johnstone

Our April meeting on the 29th was most apposite in recognition of our national day of remembrance. Our speaker Ralph Bartlett had assembled a number of flags at the front of the room and it was apparent that there significant differences among them.



Many of us have grown up in Australia only knowing of the one flag with the union jack in the Canton (the top left corner of the Flag), the Southern Cross and the 7 pointed star on blue. The 7 points representing the 6 states and territories of Federation. This design was formalised in 1902.

During WWI Australians fought under the British Union flag, the Australian Blue and Red Ensigns.

The Blue Ensign was designated for official functions and the Royal Australian navy, while the Red Ensign was used by the Australian merchant ships.

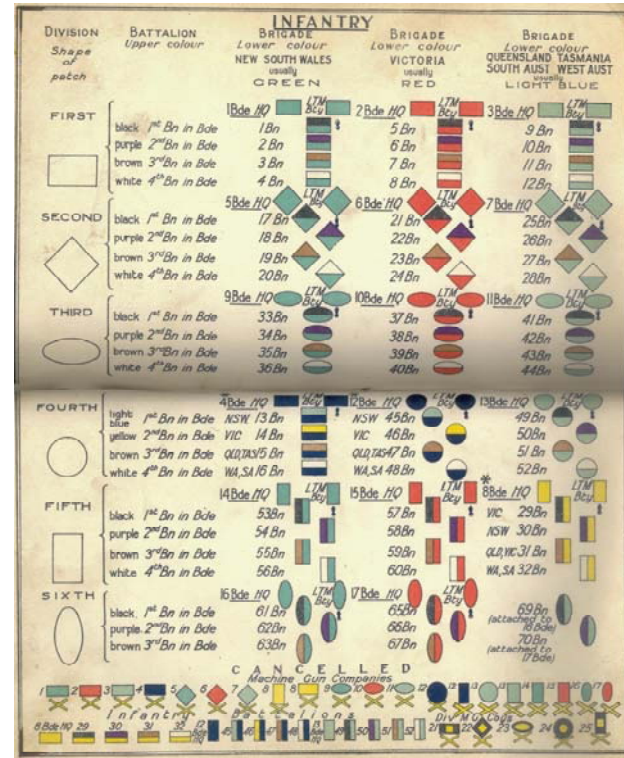
On departure from Australia the Imperial Forces troops were farewelled with the Red Ensign by Prime Minister Billy Hughes and also used when he visited troops in March 1918.

The New Zealanders had a similar national flag with the Union Jack canton and a four star Southern cross but of course no seven pointed star.



On the field in Europe the AIF had a series of coloured badges representing each Unit. Due to the shortages of Blue flags the Red Ensign was commonly used.

ANZAC Day marches were originally held to commemorate the landing of Australian and New Zealand Army Cops at Gallipoli Turkey. ANZAC Day



AIF Unit Badges

marches were not universally observed throughout Australia until 1932. Over the years, the day has recognised the contribution of Australians in a number of campaigns in the Middle East and Europe. The marchers at these events have used banners featuring both the red and blue Australian Flag plus the unit badges.

The Menzies Government introduced the Flag Act in 1953 to encourage the public to use the Blue Ensign rather than the Red Ensign.



There were questions from on the floor on the origins of the Union Jack on the Australian and New Zealand flags and also the use of the Southern Cross on other nation's flags. (Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Brazil). The Southern Cross also appears on each of the Australian state and territory flags.

The meeting concluded with the audience having an enhanced understanding of the origins of the Australian Flag.

## Fifty years' celebration at Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Virginia Barnett

Although Waverley Historical Society has surpassed its fifty years affiliation with RHSV, it was our turn to be included in celebrations on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at the Society's headquarters situated on the corner of William and A'Beckett Streets, City. This old and historically significant building was erected in 1938 as the Australian Army Medical Corps Drill Hall. Its attraction lies in its art deco style, still intact. Waverley HS was represented by Norma Schultz, Kerrie Flynn, Chris Norton and Virginia Barnett.

Chatting with Emeritus Professor Richard Broome, President of RHSV, we learnt that this repository, reeking with history old and new, is not a permanent home and in fact the RHSV has never had a place it could call its own; this is its fourteenth home and even now it exists on slowly shortening leases, down to two years, so there is an ever-

present feeling of impermanence. The leases may or may not extend. The rooms cover different levels and elsewhere in the building are armoury and the larger areas are used for orchestra practise.

Richard said that the RHSV is an 'umbrella' body for the State's 350 affiliated societies incorporating 1,350 members. He stressed that these members are the real grass roots who help to preserve so much of our history and heritage, and clubs proffer the building of friendships and societies of friends.

The RHSV is the custodian of the European history of the CBD; books are written and published on the strength of generous bequests from the public and the work of many volunteers. Currently someone is working on a book of images of Melbourne's lanes. Richard said the RHSV strengthens history generally, with committees working on heritage and collections. There is usually one event open to the public

each week, and the journal is available to academics and Society members. We viewed a timeline of events of 1973, fifty years ago which saw, among other memorable events, the renouncement of the White Australia Policy during Gough Whitlam's term as Prime Minister.

Prof. Broome presided over the presentation of certificates, first of all to Emeritus Professor John Poynter, recognising his fifty years' membership of RHSV. John's regret was that he should have joined twenty years earlier, following a lifelong interest in history and biography. Nine Victorian Societies were awarded certificates: Cranbourne

HS, Essendon HS, Hastings-Westernport HS, Maffra and District HS, Marysville and District HS, St Kilda HS, Sunshine and District HS and our own Waverley HS. Each recipient speaker outlined the growth (or otherwise) of their Group, peppered with interesting anecdotes which made us all realise what dedication and camaraderie evolve over years

of contribution and just a great interest to keep history alive.

Jillian Hiscock, RHSV, Collections Manager, added a tour of the work area and, once into the archival areas, the impression was one of utter tidiness. We even saw the beautifully preserved pages of a 1719 Moll Atlas, the ancient leather cover still in one piece. So much treasure, including a book on Minutes of the first meeting of the first Melbourne General Cemetery. Staff were quietly working away in the Images Room, e-hive explained, and Jillian said there are many objects of interest as part of the Ephemera Collection, things like old swords, crockery, then trays of glass negatives, and old lantern slide and stereo slide projectors. What a place!

We four representatives were delighted to have attended the presentation and to be part of this Society which is so passionate about our history.



WHS Members: Virginia Barnett, Kerrie Flynn, Norma Schultz, Chris Norton and the certificate

Elizabeth Dangaard



## From our Collection

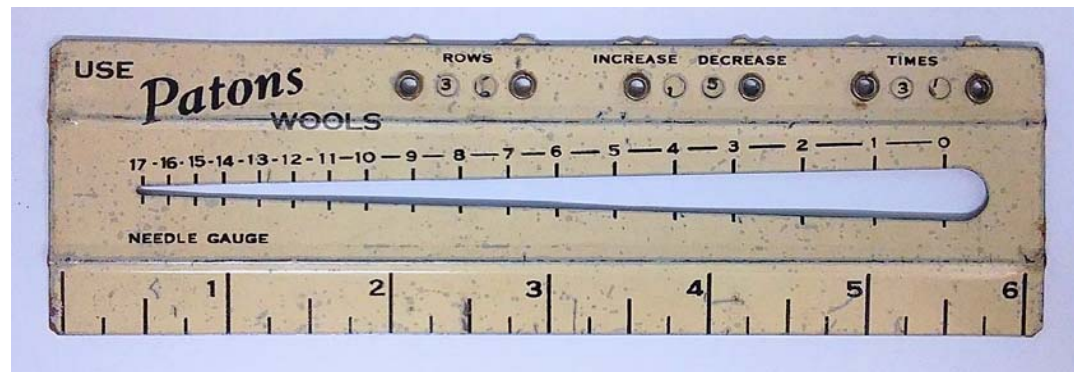
Julie Johnson

Typically, there is an intriguing history behind every object. A vintage rectangular tinplate knitting gauge featuring the Paton's brand was recently given by to us by Kate Moss, a resident of Mount Waverley. Kate inherited the gauge from her mother-in-law but thinks that it may also have belonged to one of her unmarried sisters who were all born in the 1890's. The sisters, who had a good education, did not have paid jobs but helped out tirelessly during WWI and WWII and were very much involved with supporting and raising funds for the Red Cross, Australian Comfort Fund, and other charities<sup>1</sup>.

The gauge is distinctive because it is thought to be an early tin gauge produced by Patons and Baldwin<sup>2</sup>. It is unique in that it incorporates counting wheels, knitting needle measures, and a ruler, which are not typically found together.

### Physical Description

Rectangular Metal ruler/row counter and slide needle gauge (sizes 0-17). The gauge is made of tinplate and measures 6 inches by 1½ inches



(150 x 35 mm). The colour is white. Markings are printed in black.

The gauge is divided into three sections.

The upper section of the gauge, as well as the first quarter, evoke a connection to Patons Wools. On the remaining three quarters, there are six small, elevated metal tin wheels positioned at the back of the slide with six corresponding holes with digits.

These wheels are used for keeping track of rows, increasing, or decreasing stitches, and determining the number of repetitions. The central part features a graduated, elongated aperture with numerals ranging from 1 to 17, which correspond to knitting needle sizes. The lower portion of the gauge features an imperial ruler

that measures up to 6 inches, with marks at intervals of one inch, half an inch, and a quarter of an inch. The use of imperial measures on gauges in early Australia is a remnant of the country's anglo centric culture<sup>3</sup>.

The company that produced the gauge started in Australia over 100 years ago. In early 1920, two companies, James Baldwin's of England and John Paton of Scotland, combined and subsequently expanded their activities throughout the British Empire<sup>5</sup>. The establishment of their first purpose-built manufacturing plant in Launceston, Tasmania, in 1923 marked the beginning of their significant role as a major employer in the area, which lasted until mid 1997, when the mill closed. This knitting factory focused on producing wool specifically for home knitting as well as producing and recommending their own knitting patterns, needles and gauges for measuring. Today, the iconic Paton's Wools brand is part of a family owned company in Bendigo<sup>6</sup>.

Historically, most women were involved in knitting for their families and would have used the knitting gauge to measure their knitting tension, especially if they had a propensity to knit with loose stitches. Before commencing a garment, it was customary to knit a sample swatch to verify the appropriate tension in the pattern,

ensuring the accurate size of the finished garment.

The ruler section of the knitting gauge was used at that point to count the number of stitches. The project might commence if the number of stitches corresponded to the pattern requirements. If the number does not correspond to the required gauge, it is important to adjust the needle size either by increasing or decreasing it in order to rectify the situation. In this scenario, an additional swatch would be knitted and checked until the specified criteria were correct<sup>7</sup>.

It is most probable that this knitting gauge was utilised throughout the Second World War, when individuals dedicated their hands and free time to knitting socks, gloves, and hats for our sol-

diers. The soldiers' socks needed to be knitted with exact tension so that sizes would be uniform as per the pattern requirements. It is certain that numerous women, girls, and children from the Waverley area would have taken part in this campaign to support the Australia Comfort Fund, which supplied free comfort items to the Australian soldiers<sup>8</sup>.

4. Patons and Baldwins." 2023. Wikipedia. 17 October 2023, accessed 9 February 2024,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patons\\_and\\_Baldwins;Alchetron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patons_and_Baldwins;Alchetron), accessed 27 February 2024,

[https://alchetron.com/Patons-and-Baldwins;Victorian\\_Collections](https://alchetron.com/Patons-and-Baldwins;Victorian_Collections), accessed 27 February 2024,

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/collections?q=patons>.

5. Anon, "Patons 100 Years History," The Australian Yarn Company, n.d. accessed 7 February 2024,

[https://www.ausyarnco.com.au/patons-100-years-;Anon "Australia's Best Knitting Wools," 7 December 2022, Tasmanian Wool Centre. Accessed 11 February 2024,](https://www.ausyarnco.com.au/patons-100-years-;Anon%20%20Australia%20s%20Best%20Knitting%20Wools,%207%20December%202022,%20Tasmanian%20Wool%20Centre)

<https://www.taswoolcentre.com.au/event/australias-best-knitting-wools/>

6. Anon, "Patons 100 Years History," The Australian Yarn Company.

7. Anon, "Why Knitting Gauge Is so Important?" n.d. Knitpro, Accessed February 11, 2024.

<https://www.knitpro.eu/blog/why-knitting-gauge-is-so-important/en>

8. Wikipedia contributors, "Australian Comforts Fund," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Australian\\_Comforts\\_Fund&oldid=12150269](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Australian_Comforts_Fund&oldid=12150269)

22 (accessed April 16, 2024), : Email Kate Moss 20 March 2024.

## ANZAC Day 2024

The WHS marked ANZAC Day 2024 with the laying of a wreath at the Cenotaph, outside the Glen Waverley Library in Kingsway.



WHS attendees were Elizabeth Dangaard, Ralph Bartlett, Virginia Barnett and Norma Schultz.



Our wreath placed by Ralph Bartlett and Norma Schultz

## Volunteers

Are you looking for a new outlet, a voluntary role that is interesting, sociable, and helpful? Do you have any Wednesday afternoons free? WHS would love to see you!

There is a variety of tasks awaiting helping hands – anything from checking our bound local papers for good items to index, and checking files for missing items, to data entry and digitising and more. You get to choose! Any needed skills can be taught.

It does not have to be every week, though regular attendance will help us exponentially more than occasional visits. Between 1:30 and 4pm would be good, but any part of that is also acceptable. We need to spread the skill-base, but also the fun!

If you can be part of the Wednesday Worktime team, please email the Society ([waverleyhsvic@gmail.com](mailto:waverleyhsvic@gmail.com)) or talk to MarJo at a meeting or on any Wednesday. Thank you! We look forward to seeing you.