



Waverley Historical Society Inc

NEWSLETTER

October 2009

Issue No 189

WAVERLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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\$15 per person
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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



Built in 1864, this house, "Bainton," in Sixth Avenue Burwood, is the oldest in Waverley, just a little older even than St Stephen's. Built by Edward Harrison, formerly of Bainton in Northamptonshire UK, the cottage faced Highbury Rd

and overlooked Harrison's dairy and quince orchard.

A later generation settled next door in a 1895 house built on Highbury Rd by a neighbour, A C Schotsburg, in 1910, and established apricot and pear orchards on the land where Harrison St is now. This second Harrison house still stands too.

A member of the Harrison family was still living there till 1963. "Bainton" is now difficult to see in the back yard of the current owners, who are reluctant guardians of our heritage.

Please do not approach them or breach their privacy!

Your Committee 2009-10

Following our Annual General Meeting, we are pleased to announce the 2009 committee and the positions each member is fulfilling.

Much is unchanged, meaning stability for the Society once again, and continuation of all the good work that is happening.

We joyfully welcome Margaret to our group - there is always room for new talent! Margaret has already contributed helpfully by introducing us to the Older Persons Reference Group, and informing us of the recent Positive Ageing Expo, in which we were involved (see report in this newsletter). We look forward to working with her more as the year unfolds.

Many thanks to all the following members for your commitment for another year.

Ed Hore	President, Public Officer
Jean Walkerden	Treasurer, AEHS delegate
Norma Schultz	Secretary, Archivist, AEHS
Philip Johnstone	VP, Technology
MarJo Angelico	VP, Editor, Research
Beverley Delaney	Events
Jeff Turnbull	Program, Photographer
Ray Price	Oral histories, Council liaison
Judy Borg	Ass't Curator, Safety Officer
Bev Anderson	Textiles, Membership assistant
Margaret Boyes	New - no portfolio

Non-Committee Roles

We thank and appreciate the following people who have indicated that they are willing to continue in these important WHS roles.

Irene Marriott	Welfare
Beryl Brooks, Lauris Kaye, Bev Hutchinson	Hospitality
Anne Wardell	Librarian
John Angelico	Auditor

There is still room for others on committee, so if you would like to join the fun, talk to any of the committee - don't be shy! You can see that roles are doubled up a bit - help would be appreciated.

Non-committee roles are also available.

Any help in preserving the past for future generations is appreciated!

Coming Events

November 26 WHS Meeting

This is our last meeting for the year, and our Christmas break up.

There will be a few entertainments - something local and historic, the man in red, and some angel-like singing... and other surprises!

Please wear something Christmassy and bring a Christmas supper to share.

Summer Closure

Our Wednesday research facility will be closed from 9th December till 20th January 2010, allowing our hard-working volunteers a well-earned break. Urgent requests for research assistance can however be organised during that time by contacting MarJo (email preferred). Details on front cover.

Australia Day 2010

Don't forget the annual Australia Day celebrations on 26th January next year. Remember the arrival of the First Fleet on January 26th 1788 with the flag-raising, the Oakleigh City Band, an Australia Day ambassador, and a delicious breakfast at the Civic Centre in Springvale Rd. There will not be a newsletter before then, so watch the local paper for details.

After breakfast, we plan to have another **Open Day** for visitors. Please think about who you could bring. It seems that Australia Day is the best time to interest people in their local history - we always get a great response. We plan to have activities of interest to all ages. Your children and grandchildren would be welcome, or your neighbours - anyone who is interested in our local area or in history in general.

Music in the Park

If previous years are any indication, the first Sunday in February will be a pleasant afternoon of brass band music in Warrabee Park, Oakleigh, organised by Oakleigh and District Historical Society and featuring Oakleigh City Band. Usually our newsletter comes out too late to let you know, but this time you have forward notice. Check the local papers in the preceding week for details.

February 25, 2010 Meeting

You will receive your next newsletter in mid-February, but here is forward notice of our first meeting for 2010. (Can you believe that we are already a decade into the 21st century?)

On Thursday 26th February, at 8pm, we plan to hear **Warwick Woods** from the **Australian Vintage Radio Society** speak on his favourite topic. Please bring a plate of supper and a friend.

WHS Events - Reports



Sands & McDougall Directories

These massive old tomes used to list every house occupier by their address, and also mention professions and other details, all of which are very useful to local and family historians.

You will by now be aware that Laurie and Pat Burchell have put in a mammoth effort, including thousands of hours, hundreds of kilometres, heaps of physical strength and perseverance, in sickness and in health, rain and shine - to put together the relevant pages for us. We, and all those coming after us, will continue to be blessed by their work.

One of the pleasant items on the agenda of the AGM was the official handing over of the finished volumes, and our official vote of thanks to the intrepid Burchells, as seen in the photo above. President Ed Hore congratulates Laurie and Pat on the huge effort, and thanks them on behalf of us all.

October Birthday Get Together

Our annual get together of current and old members was an enjoyable afternoon this year. The return to a Sunday timeslot, and the new venue, were both positive features. St Philips is cosy, accessible, and has good facilities. The weather was perfect. Our theme of Aussie icons was interesting, with some funny stories emerging, and the continuous loop of photographs of Society events drew many comments. The food was delicious, and the raffle had so many prizes!

The only thing that marred the day was the absence due



to ill health of both our amazing patron and speaker, Morna Sturrock, and our wonderful convenor, Beverley Delaney, who had put in a lot of preparation work, but unfortunately could not stay to enjoy the day.

We wish them both a speedy recovery and all sympathy for their current position.

Thanks to all who came along, brought a plate, and shared in the fun on the first Sunday in October. Next year will be our 40th!

Ageing, Ashwood Promotions

Waverley Historical Society was represented at two public promotions recently - the **Positive Ageing Expo** at Treseder Hall, Glen Waverley Secondary College on Wednesday 30 September, and at our regular display at the Ashwood-Chadstone Fun Day at Batesford Reserve, Chadstone, on Sunday 18 October.

It is important for the healthy continuation of WHS to keep our name in the public's eye. This is not just for the sake of gaining potential new members, but to make contact with people and give them a point of connection should they wish to make enquiries or perhaps offer us material for our files.

The Positive Ageing Expo was particularly aimed at



Glen Waverley / Mt. Waverley residents in the retired age bracket and we presented a display highlighting each suburb in picture form, particularly the area around Springvale Road in close proximity of the Expo. We had a number of enquiries from interested attendees and these may flow on to become more positive contacts.

The **Ashwood-Chadstone Fun Day** is in its seventh year and this was possibly the best attended yet. The focus here is, of course, presenting "*Once There Was Jordanville*" and we again mounted a display which highlighted photographs of the area in earlier days. There were numerous enquiries and discussions which took place around our table and once again, some interesting contacts were made. All told, eight books were sold on the day and many visitors took away application forms and information on our activities.

Thanks to Norma, Philip and Ron for their assistance on these days.
- Jeff

WHS Projects

Acquisitions

We are grateful to the family of Stewart Bradley for more of his historic papers and books. This week we received some RHSV Journals that we did not have, amongst other things. Stewart Bradley was a collector of significant local history information, and a great researcher into the details of land ownership in this area. He was also very generous with his time and resources. We appreciate having more of his materials in our collection, along with the memories they evoke of our highly respected and greatly missed Stewie.

Waverley Street Names

Many streets in the Monash area form a group that follow a name theme. Here is a group that has been created by Victoria Police at their Training Academy on the corner of Waverley Rd and View Mount Rd, Glen Waverley in recognition of policemen in Victoria's history.

Kennedy, Lonigan, and Scanlon were policemen who were attacked by Ned Kelly at Stringybark Creek on 25 October 1876

Jackson, Miller, and Porter were Chief Commissioners of Police.

Normally Waverley Council would not accept a new street name that might be confused with an existing name nearby - as in the case of Kennedy St, Glen Waverley (Melway 71D1). However it would seem that as these streets are on private property and are non residential then there would be no confusion.

Lost Streets of Waverley - Did You Know?

While new streets continue to be created in the Monash area some streets have been erased from the records and maps of the area. For example, Woodroyd Ave., Melway 61J11, ran north from High Street Rd adjacent to a drain. Woodroyd Ave was formally discontinued as a road reserve by Monash Council on 2.2.1999. It is now part of the Flatmans Hardware store carpark.

Research Enquiries

Can you help with any of these?

The workers who helped build the Mount Waverley reservoir - where were the cottages they lived in, and who built them?

Were there gold miners' cottages in the Campbell St Glen Waverley area?

Glen Waverley Secondary College will be celebrating a big anniversary and the opening of a new building mid next year, and are asking for help from anyone who might have photos, ephemera, stories, or anything to help them put together a display for those events. See a committee member if you can help.

Two separate people have told me that McDonalds Glen Waverley was originally part of a chain called

Red Barn. Can anyone verify that?

Did you know that there are THREE historical societies in Monash? As well as Waverley and Oakleigh, the Military Historical Society meets at Oakleigh RSL.

Marysville

In the Black Saturday bush fires in February this year, many historical records have been lost. Marysville Primary School (including the old Camberville State School) is currently trying to reconstruct the schools' history. If you know anyone who has been involved in either school, or has any memorabilia, notes or photographs from the area, please contact Andrew McKenzie on ph 9787 6990.

Schools in Waverley/Monash District.

Did you know that there have been over 70 schools and educational institutions established in the present City of Monash since the 1860s? These range from State primary, secondary and technical schools through private church schools and special schools to TAFE colleges, universities, and theological colleges.

Sadly, although the population of Monash has increased during this period, a large number of schools have closed or merged over the last 30 years.

Some of those that have disappeared are:

Primary Schools: Jordanville, Jordanville South, Mimosa, Coinda, Syndal, Amstel, Monash, Mulgrave, Bayview, Notting Hill.

High Schools: Waverley, Monash, Syndal.

Technical Schools: Jordanville, Brandon Park, Syndal.

Our listing of these schools and their dates helps us to determine the date of some of the old photographs in the WHS collection. Unfortunately it appears that there has been little recorded and published of the history of these schools. Those who attended these schools in their formative years must feel some sense of disappointment in viewing their sites today where redevelopment has removed all trace of their presence.

To assist in compiling more details of the development of the Waverley - Mulgrave district we have published our listing on the WHS internet pages, seeking comments.

If your children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, neighbours, or friends attended a school in Monash, please ask them to check what we have and to help us fill out the picture. Any photos, stories or memorabilia that they can lend us for copying and adding to our files would be appreciated.

Anniversaries

Civic Centre is 25

The Monash Civic Centre in Glen Waverley is already 25 years old! Its distinctive feature roofline, on which our City of Monash symbol was modelled, belies the fact that it predated the city by at least a decade.

Shrine of Remembrance

It is 75 years since Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance was officially dedicated. Fine white sand, used to build the Shrine, was mined from the creek at the back of some farms along Waverley Rd. Thanks Jim T for this!

History around us

Confusion of Names

Many of us know that Ferntree Gully Rd was once named Heads Gully Rd, and Waverley Rd was Breakneck Rd until 1871. Both Warrigal Rd and Highbury Rd have been known as Boundary Rd, and Huntingdale Rd has been Bayview Rd, Box Hill Rd, Nelson Rd, and Owens Lane. Stevensons Lane became Stevens Rd became Stephensons Rd - maybe not officially, but certainly in various maps and documents.

Quiz! What was Springvale Rd previously called?

People also go through name changes. Kloster became Closter. Prout, Prowd, and Proud were used interchangeably. Did you know that Cr Bill FORSTER's father used to sign his name Arthur FOSTER often (but not always)? To add to the confusion, there was another Arthur Foster in Glen Waverley near the Police Academy around the same time. Answer to Quiz-bottom left, page 6

On the move - well, almost!

The Checkley house at 15 Waverley Road, Chadstone (Pictured on the front page of our May 2009 newsletter) stands as one of the oldest existing houses in the City of Monash and when it was built on the site sometime in late-Victorian or Federation times, it stood on a slight rise, facing Waverley Road, or Breakneck Road as it was then with its nearest neighbour being the Colwell home *Wattle Grove*, to the east and Tuhan's Store, just down the road.

A family named Moore occupied it until the entire property was bought by Greek immigrants, Speros and Ivy Kostos just prior to the Great Depression. It seems that the Kostos family didn't occupy the house, but built a substantial brick house just around the corner in Collins (Collings) Street. The house on Waverley Road was rented to Arthur and Grace Checkley who were there until 1958.

The Checkleys were like so many farmers in rural Mulgrave, planting out their neat rows of potatoes, cabbages, cauliflowers, carrots, peas and other vegetables. They too, transported their produce to the Prahran and Victoria Markets on a regular basis. They brought up their four children, Les, Jim, Arthur and May on the property.

The old house was last sold in 1997 and since then, it has been rented out while slowly deteriorating. The owners have now decided to build units on the valuable parcel of land and the house, which once stood proud beside the dusty track, is no longer required.

All however, is not lost. The house obviously has to go

and the owners were faced with the task of demolishing it or coming up with an alternative. In what appears to be an acceptable compromise, the house has been bought and at the time of writing, it is being prepared ready for transport and re-erection at Ferny Creek, in the Dandenongs. The new owner of the house has contracted to leave the site clear in return for being given the building free of charge. The task of removing the brickwork, the chimneys, dismantling the roof structure and cutting the house in two halves, ready for transport, is currently taking place.

May Checkley is the surviving member of the family and lives in a retirement village in Wantirna South. She recalls the days of seeing her father load up his buggy to transport his produce to market. She also recalls seeing at times, her father returning with a full buggy after not being able to sell his crops. May remembers pulling carrots in the fields behind the home, now occupied by housing. She tells the story of one day pulling up a carrot and seeing a shiny metal coin in the soil - a gold Sovereign!

We will be on the spot when the house is actually on the move, to document fully the saga of this, the Checkley house.
- Jeff Turnbull

An Historical Walk

in the vicinity of Lawrence Road:

Many thanks to Judy Borg for this intriguing article. I am sure that many of you will want to retrace her footsteps, at least in your mind if the body is no longer as willing as the spirit! We appreciate Judy's insights and energy in designing this walk.

[I do need to mention, though, that technically Syndal farm did not belong to Sir Redmond Barry. His name never appears on the title. Stewart Bradley, before he died, asked me to continue his work of debunking this urban myth. In fact the property was owned by Mrs Louisa Barrow, Barry's de facto. For the purposes of this walk the distinction has been ignored. - Editor]

SYNDAL: JUDGE BARRY'S PROPERTY AND SYNDAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Syndal and Syndal Technical School were named for Judge Barry's second Waverley property, the farm on High Street Rd. below Malcolm Muir's orchard. Barry bought it for his devoted companion, Louisa Barrow, mother of his four children.

Concluding our project on Monash schools, I walked out to see what remained of Syndal Tech. which for a short time became Lawrence Secondary College, and then a campus of Glen Waverley High. Like many other schools in Monash, the land had been sold for development. Clarke Hall (the school's general purpose hall near Munro St.) remained and was marked in my 2006 Melway, but it, too, had gone I'd heard.

I parked in Munro St. and was pleasantly surprised to find that an attractive double storey house, unlike those that flanked it either side and [to me] having a hall-like appearance, seemed to have replaced the old building.

The houses on the estate were mostly on larger than

usual blocks too. I walked down Dorrington Drive [wide for an estate] to check the hall and gym there denoted in my Melway - and was surprised to find a very large hall that included a smaller gym and outside tables and chairs in its design. The hall [and gym too] had been built for Lawrence S.C. and is now the Centre for Advanced Gymnastics and Waverley Gym Club respectively. Pine trees and a depression on the west side suggest an old creek bed - while a foot path leads to Yvette Crt. and the southern part of the development.

I retraced my steps to Munro St, recalling a number of early post war houses there that had surprised me. And just before the railway bridge in Lawrence Rd. was another, mostly concrete, while across the road - below the level of the section built up to cross the railway - was a delightful small wooden cottage in a wooded garden: the farm house built by Joseph Dillon 97 years ago, still occupied by a family member.

I soon reached High Street Rd. and pausing at the traffic lights studied the large conifer on the NW corner, planted by the Coleman family, in the first subdivision of the large Syndal estate, following Judge Barry's death in 1888. It was then that Lawrence Rd. was made and named, bisecting his property which included "Back Creek."

I walked up High Street Rd. to the entrance of the modern estate The Oaks, built on the land where once Barry's house and farm buildings had stood. Halfway up I found the plaque in the footpath placed by the students of Syndal Technical College, to celebrate the Victorian sesquicentennial. Puffing a little, I reached the automatic gates at the top of the estate and behind them was a pleasant new courtyard, English style, and a number of new houses - and yes - two of Barry's oak trees, one of great girth.

I'd seen the top of another, I thought, when half way up the hill - and so I retraced my steps to Lawrence Rd. and turned up narrow and historic Lechte Rd. Just before Trevor Crt. branches off on the right, I turned left to look along a modern red driveway, flanked by two attractive dwellings, to see a very old, tall oak tree on The Oaks estate. It was un-pruned and I was surprised to see that the roof of the two storey Oaks estate house beside it was slanted right back to allow its free growth!

Feeling a little better about modern developments, I retraced my steps to Munro St. [Many interesting details about Barry's family, the orchard fruit grown at Syndal and his connections with the curator of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens can be found in *Cattlemen to Commuters* by Susan Priestley pp.51-54.]
- Judy Borg

Quiz answer - Up until 1890, Springvale Rd was called Bayleys Lane.

Society Members

Sturrock Scholarship

A new theological scholarship has been launched in the Anglican church, and named the Morna Sturrock Doctoral Scholarship in honour of our patron and her amazing contribution to church and community life. See our notice board and files for more details.

Heart of Gold

One of our WHS members, Murray Houghton, is the author of a recently published book on Warrandyte's gold mining history!

Murray grew up in Warrandyte and attended Warrandyte State School No 12, which was built in 1875. The school's annual celebration of Pioneers' Day was one of the things that inspired him to collect the history of the town, a research project that kept him busy for over ten years.

The book is called, "Warrandyte, the Community with a Heart of Gold," and it should be in the Library! (Ask about it!)

Vale Vera Viggers

3/5/1912 - 27/9/2009

Rhoda Emme Vera Viggers (nee Arnott) was known as Vera and in earlier days as Girlie. She was the daughter of Spence and Fanny Arnott and had two brothers, Dave (1910 - 1994) and Jack (1915 - 1982).

She became the wife of Wilf, mother of three, grandmother of nine, and great-grandmother of 17.



Born 3rd May 1912 at home at Wheelers Hill; passed away on 27th September 2009 aged 97 year, 4 months and 24 days - the longest-lived Arnott ever recorded.

Her father was a market gardener at Wheelers Hill (in what we now call View Mount Road). He took his

vegetables to Victoria Market by horse and dray. Vera wrote, "Dad coming home from market in the dark - we listened for the clip clop of hooves along Ferntree Gully Road to tell us where he was," and also "to take calves to Dandy market in buggy, tie legs and lay them under seat."

Her first memories were at age 3 when she broke her leg on her brother Dave's trike and Dave running to mother saying, "Girlie can't walk." Also - "baths in front of open fire in galvanised tub." And "Mother taking us to sit on the side of Ferntree Gully Road watching for cars to come."

She attended Glen Waverley SS No 2219. She had a teacher, Mr Foster, who used to strike the girls legs with his stick if they misbehaved. Vera used to walk to Mt Waverley as a girl to play rounders. She left school at 13½ with her merit certificate to do home duties for the family.

She met Wilf through one of his cousins, George Sorensen, who was one of a number of local boys who played cricket at the home on Sundays. Wilf lived at Brunswick and on weekends travelled by train to Oakleigh then bus to get to Wheelers Hill returning home on Sundays. He was so keen on Vera that on one occasion he missed the last bus and had to walk all the way to Oakleigh. There was no train service to Glen Waverley in those days.

Wilf and Vera were married at St Matthews Church in Mulgrave on 14 September 1935 and they honeymooned at a guesthouse at Wesburn in the Yarra Valley. They first resided in East Oakleigh. June was born in June 1936 and shortly afterwards they bought a house on 7 acres in Watsons Road Wheelers Hill. Wilf was a French Polisher working at Burnley. In 1937 Jim was born, followed by Elaine in 1941.

In 1941 Vera's father died at Vera & Wilf's home and soon after her mother moved in to live with them. Vera's mum Fannie was a source of joy to all, and a person of incredible intellect and current-affairs knowledge who reached the ripe old age of 102.

As they did not have electricity until 1949, all cooking was on the wood stove, lighting was by kerosene lamp and perishable food was kept in a Coolgardie safe. Vera chopped wood, milked the cow, made the butter, killed and plucked the Christmas chook, made jams and preserves, and bucketed water from the well during summer when supply always failed. Her sponges and scones were the best while she had the wood stove; results not so good when she got an electric stove.

Vera was a community oriented person, very involved with the school, the church and sporting clubs. She was the first Sunday school teacher at St Paul's Church (GW), a life member of the Ladies Guild, the church organist and also president of the School Mothers Club.

Vera and Wilf had been growing French beans on the property to supplement their income and in 1949 Wilf gave away his job to become a market gardener. He bought a 1926 Chev truck and this vehicle was the first means of transport they had other than push bikes. That Christmas they had their second family holiday -

camping at Dromana. It rained all the time. (The first had been in a rented house on Beach Road Mordialloc.)

Wilf was multi-skilled: he could do everything from agricultural skills to mechanical and even handicrafts. The Viggers were almost self-sufficient. Most of what they ate, they grew or produced themselves. The butter looked and tasted different: it was churned on the spot.

Market gardening wasn't easy and her children remember Vera out on cold mornings pulling and handwashing red beet and turnips, picking sprouts, silver beet, lettuce and peas, and helping to load the truck. Throughout her life she sewed, crocheted and embroidered, making all the family's clothes. Vera was the quintessential home-maker. She never complained, got angry or raised her voice.

In 1962 Watsons Rd was sold to Swift Properties (Elaine soon married the owner's son, Colin Swift) and Wilf and Vera moved to Upwey. There she continued her community involvement, even more vigorously. They also bought a caravan and travelled most of this country. When Elaine moved to the Gold Coast they would travel there each winter to escape the cold.

Extended family was important throughout her life, with cousins and second cousins, etc always welcomed - tea and biscuits and cakes were provided in endless quantities. Vera was as welcoming as anyone could be; always interested in what you were doing, hospitable to the "nth" degree and loving and respectful with every bone in her body.

The Arnott family was large and very united: they worked hard, called on each other frequently, drank moderately and were fit and thin with few exceptions. Until recently she and three cousins would go out to lunch together several times each year. Another was like a much-loved brother to her.

In 1994 Wilf and Vera moved into a village, their lives continuing much the same but for caravanning. Then on 12 Jan 2000 Wilf passed away and Vera was on her own. When her parked car was written off, she wrote, "Drivers licence at age 20, lost car at age 90. Drove 70 years, no fines, no accidents, one breath test." Her condition began to deteriorate a couple of months ago and after a time in hospital she moved to the Nursing Home where she passed away.

There are many stories that could be told, like about the snake under the kitchen sink or how swagmen would call at the house, knowing she would give them a cup of tea; or about the Rev Finger, the parish Minister, who rode his bike around the parish, resting on the Miners Couch in the kitchen.

Son Jim says of her - "She had many attributes. She had a remarkable memory, was an avid reader, enjoyed and wrote poetry, was an expert at crossword puzzles, was a listener, never talked about herself. She was a problem solver, interested in people, a gentle, wise, loved and lovable lady but most of all she was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. We will sadly miss her."

Excerpted from Eulogies by Jim Viggers and Neville Norman.

CALENDAR Summer 2009

All these meetings are to be held at our rooms

Thursday 22nd October at 8pm (Today)
Dr Fiona Hill on the Essex Heights Estate

Thursday 26th November at 8 pm
Our Christmas breakup - please wear something Christmassy and bring a Christmas supper.

Summer Closure

Our Wednesday research facility will be closed from 9th December till 20th January 2010
The next newsletter will be delivered during February. The deadline for contributions is 5th Feb.

Thursday 25th February 2010 at 8pm
Warwick Woods from the Australian Vintage Radio Society

Our next few meetings will be Thursday 25/3, 22/4, Sunday 23/5

Waverley Historical Society Inc
PO Box 2322
Mount Waverley, 3149



One of many photos taken at the
Birthday Get together.
More available for perusal at our
rooms.

MANY THANKS TO CON-
TRIBUTORS
Jeff Turnbull, Judy Borg, Philip
Johnstone, Irene Marriott,
Norma Schultz

