



Waverley Historical Society *Inc* Newsletter

October 2010

Issue No 193

WAVERLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established in 1970
Incorporated in Victoria
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\$20 per household

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 : reminders of Waverley's rural days



In 1854 John Ingram, who had been gardener at a property called Bellfield in Ayrshire, Scotland, bought 30 acres of land including the site of this house. The first permanent dwelling was a two-roomed brick building, still standing and in use as the demonstration kitchen. Later his son William further developed the property, establishing famed orchards. (William served as Shire councillor for six years and worked to change the name of Black Flat into Glen Waverley.) After William died, Michael Lawless bought the sought-after property. In 1927 he added a brick frontage including the present verandah, which changed the old Dandenongs-facing frontage into the rear. Waverley council acquired it in 1979 to create Mount St. Neighbourhood House.

EDITORIAL

As new editor, I would like to tell you of my early memories of Waverley, which are few but very vivid. I grew up in Gardiner, close to the Clarke St. Oval and Gardiner's Creek. My brother was 3 years older, but we were close companions and spent most of my early years down the creek building cubbies and catching yabbies. [Once we caught 47 and kept them in a little pool in the clay rocks... until home time – when we put them all back in the creek.] Our most exciting time was November 5, Bonfire Night.

We also ran a club called the Golden Swallow Gang. Our mother, who wanted nothing for us but to play all day, knew nothing of its activities. The most exciting ones were our "Operations", where we gathered one or two members and took a train or tram. Quite the best was when we took a train from Gardiner Station to the "country". My brother had been on a scouting trip to Glen Waverley, but on the way I argued that Mt. Waverley must be more exciting because it was a mountain! So we disembarked and crossed the line and looked. There was a great asphalt square and far away, facing towards us, a red brick house with a neat red brick fence. And closer on the right, was a cream brick one, I think, and very little else to my memory. Civilization! Aagh! I was shocked, apologized to the Gang, and we caught the next train to Glen Waverley – which took some time, since the little red box train had to return to East Malvern and back again.

Disembarked at Glen Waverley, we hiked along a road and past paddocks and then, tired but triumphant, up a hill through bushland to a dam, where we boiled our billy. I guess it must have been the later Police Academy hill.

My other strong memory of Waverley is of the occasional Sunday drive out High Street Rd. to Dandenong Creek in my father's Ford V8. I clearly remember the old "canoe tree" on the right, just past Springvale Rd. – and that with the coming of "civilization" in the form of McDonalds, was moved in part to Valley Reserve. **Judy Borg**

The New Committee

The President, Ed Hore, and all other Office bearers have been re-elected, except Jeff Turnbull, who wished to step down after two years of arranging our speakers. Thanks, Jeff! In addition we have four new Committee members, three of whom have special office.

Your Committee 2010-11

Ed Hore	President, Public Officer
Norma Schultz	Secretary, Archivist, AEHS
Philip Johnstone	VP, Equipment Officer
MarJo Angelico	VP, Research Officer
Bev Anderson	Treasurer
Jean Walkerden	Membership, AEHS delegate
Beverley Delaney	Events
Geoff Brown	Program Coordinator
Ray Price	Oral histories, Council liaison
Judy Borg	Editor, Ass't Curator
Margaret Boyes	Safety Officer
Chris Norton	Photographer
Ray Price	Oral histories, Council liaison
Diane Ward	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.

Anne Wardell	Librarian
Irene Marriott	Care and Concern
Beryl Brooks, Lauris Kaye, Bev Hutchinson	Hospitality
John Angelico	Auditor
(vacant)	Database input

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 WHS Events

October 24th Meeting

Geoff Brown, our new Events Coordinator, has also arranged an interesting speaker for our October 24 meeting at St. Philips. David Kemp will speak on the eye catching Syndal Baptist Church and complex at the corner of High Street Rd. and Blackburn Rd. For those waiting at the traffic lights, the focus seems to be on the attractive restaurant at first floor level!

November 25th Christmas Meeting

After a most successful party last year at 100 year old "Hazelwood", it was decided to arrange our Christmas gathering this year at another historic house: the Mount St. Neighbourhood House in Glen Waverley, see p.1, that is 154 years old. Meet at 4.30 pm; please bring a festive plate. Melway: 71 D2

Summer Closure

Our Wednesday work time will be in recess from December 8 until January 26, but enquiries can still be directed to MarJo Angelico, whs@kepl.com.au

Open Day 2011

Australia Day, Jan.26, will again be Open Day at WHS.

Thursday 24th February 2011

Our first night meeting for 2011 will be held in a venue yet to be decided. Let us hope it will be in our newly furnished rooms!

WHS Speakers

DAN PRIOR – who spoke at the September Meeting at Alvie Hall is a lawyer by profession and had an interest in researching the exclusively Aussie game of Two-up. He wrote a thesis on the game for the Honours year of his law degree. He was particularly interested in researching the inner suburbs of Melbourne where the game has been played (illegally) in pubs and small

alleys. He has also found evidence of the game being played over time, out in Melbourne's suburbs.

40th Birthday Celebrations

Our celebration this year - organized by Beverley Delaney, is again at St.Philip's. On Sunday, 3rd October, 2.30pm, it is sure to be a great success. The tables will be decorated with colourful runners and flowers, while ladies are encouraged to wear pearls for the special 40th occasion, and men blue ties. WHS's exciting new publication "**Then and Now**" will be launched by Anna Burke M.P., no doubt to great acclaim.

Update on Room Refurbishment

As most members do not regularly attend our General Meetings or visit the Society's rooms you would not be aware of the current state of our rooms and the need for us to have moved off-site for a few months. Acting on the suggestion of one of our members, we have therefore included this update in the Newsletter.



The refurbishment includes the construction of a secure workspace (to house the Society's electronic equipment), upgrade of the existing and the construction of a second store-room (both of which will be available to the Society), construction of storage cabinets and display cabinets on the east and west walls of the main room, along with repairs and improvements to the windows, floors and electrical wiring. The

parquetry floor in the main room also needed to be repaired (again) following water damage, not caused by us, to it for the second time in eighteen months. A passenger lift is also being constructed to allow easier access to the rooms.

Although the Council appointed Project Manager had us back in the rooms by the end of last month, delays and variations (which are not unusual for these types of projects) mean that it will be still some time before the rooms will be available again. It would be unrealistic and unreasonable to expect that the Monash Council would expend significant sums on the improvements to the rooms if they were to remain solely for the use of a small, but important, society within part of the municipality. We will therefore be required to share the rooms with the Mount Waverley Library team who will utilise the room for their staff training, book readings etc. but only to the extent that their programmes fit within the Society's timetable, which will continue to have priority. It should be noted that, in theory if not in practice recently, the need to share the rooms with the Library is not a change from the present situation.



To enable the refurbishment and improvement works to be undertaken, professional removalists (specialists in handling precious and fragile items) were engaged by Council to pack and securely store our collections off-site.

Unfortunately, the professionals were of the view that three of our glass cabinets were not in a state that enabled safe removal and they were therefore moved

to what was considered to be a "safe" place on the first floor. But the Council's Occupational Health & Safety Officer decided the cabinets were unsafe because they had too much lateral movement, and could not remain on the floor. With our own glaziers advising the cabinets could not be re-built if all of the glass was removed at the one time, the cabinets were removed as part of the building debris. Negotiations with the Council regarding replacement cabinets will resume when the project is nearer to completion.

Our aim, at this stage, is to have all of the collection returned to the rooms prior to the end of the year and for everything to be properly and safely stored in the new accommodation by Australia Day next year, when we hope to be in a position to hold what has now become a traditional "Open House" for members and the public.

Ed Hore, President.

Pioneering Spirit

Our W.H.S member, Lorraine Marshall, writes:

Jane Marshall died in June 1896 and was buried at Oakleigh Cemetery. Jane, her husband Joseph and their family moved from Jasper Road Bentleigh to Mulgrave around 1869. They were farmers, growing fruit and vegetables.

Jane's obituary, published in the Oakleigh and Caulfield Times 6 June 1896, said:

"The death of the pioneers of this district is being added to as the years roll by and on Tuesday last was increased by the entry of the name of Mrs Jane Marshall.

The deceased lady who was 72 years of age at the time of her death had seen many changes and vicissitudes on the district where she spent so many years and reared a numerous family of four sons and four daughters who still survive her, together with a large number of children, grandchildren and great grand children scattered about between Black Flat and Prahran.

"Her daughters - Mrs Wall (Black Flat), Mrs Fisher (Ferntree Gully Road), Mrs Colwell (Clayton) and Mrs Scholefield (Gully Road); and Councillor J Marshall, who we all know, with three other brothers, live to bear in kindly and affectionate memory the cheery and thoughtful mother who has departed this life.

"Mrs Marshall was a colonist of 52 years standing, 30 years of which were passed in Mulgrave, previous to which she resided in East Brighton. Always charitable in her daily actions and ready to give a helping hand to all, of warm motherly instincts and self-forgetful disposition, she lived the true life of godliness, an experience which flows from following in the footsteps of the Saviour. She was of sterling total-abstinence principles and so imbued her family with them that they remained true to the cause.

"Her end came rather suddenly, though not wholly unexpected and she now rests from her labours and her works follow her.

Her remains were interred in the Oakleigh Cemetery on Thursday afternoon when a large number of relatives and friends assembled to pay their last respects to the deceased lady. The Rev T H Rust, MA, officiated at a brief service in the church and at the grave.

The bereaved family, which is one of the oldest and best respected in Oakleigh, were the recipients of many letters of condolences and sympathy."

Did You Know?

In Ashwood can be found the following streets:

- Eildon Rd
- Kiewa St
- Hume Crt
- Maroondah Rd
- Rocklands Rd
- Sylvan Crs

These are all Victorian reservoirs and were named at the instigation of Sir Ronald East who was the Chairman of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Note

the subtle variation in the spelling of Sylvan compared with the suburb and reservoir name of Silvan.

Sir Ronald East CBE was a WW1 fighter pilot who flew with the inaugural Australian Royal Flying Corps in France. He was a Civil Engineer and pioneer of the SR&WSC. He spoke at the WHS on many occasions.

And continuing a sylvan theme:

Members of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve and other volunteers made local history in Waverley by planting 5,000 native plants: trees, shrubs and grasses, in one morning, May 30. The plants were provided by a Melbourne Water Grant [continuing the work and vision of Sir Ronald East]. Haste was necessary because of the changing weather patterns, while the record number of plantings by Rangers and helpers was due to the ravages of the four year drought. Now, after late winter rains, Damper Creek is lush and green – and gold with many surviving wattles – and well worth a visit!

Coming Events

Photographic Display Oct-Dec.

A display of photographs and memorabilia of servicemen of the Oakleigh district who served in the **Great War 1914-1918** is on show at the **Monash Federation Centre**, 3 Atherton Rd. Oakleigh. **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-5pm.** Biographies have been compiled by the Military History Society of Australia.

Waverley Arts Society: 40th Annual Art Exhibition and Sale. 200 artworks, together with Pottery, Sculpture, Textile and Decorative Arts. Glen Waverley Secondary College. Oct. 1, 7.30pm-9.30; Oct.2, 9am- 5pm; Oct.3 10am-4pm.

And what you've been waiting for:

Oakleigh City Band Centenary Concert!

100 Years of brass band music. **Oct. 10, 2pm. Oakleigh Hall**, 142-144 Drummond St. Oakleigh. 9807 9624

Web home.vicnet.net.au/~oakbrass

As well:

ACTIVATION! : Ashwood Family Fun

Day. Sunday, October 10. 11am- 3pm. Batesford Reserve, Power Avenue. Exhibits and stalls: Fun for Everybody! And to celebrate the Commonwealth Games a "Taste of Delhi" Zone.

Gemcraft and Mineral Exhibition

Oct 18-19, 10-5pm. Brandon Park Community Centre, 645 Ferntree Gully Road.

Alvie Hall: chequered history

Alvie Hall, on the corner of Alvie and High Street Rds., was first a Service Station, though independent: not allied to Mobil or Shell. There were two petrol pumps, with white blank circles above that looked like full moons, I remember, driving home at night in the early 'sixties.. Also unusual was the absence of a hoist. Cars were driven inside and onto a ramp, while the mechanic made use of the steep slope beneath to lie full length underneath.

Matthew Philip, Gretchen Philip's son, who lived on High Street Rd. nearby [opposite St.Stephens], said the steep slopes down to Damper Creek on either side behind the building were used as an unofficial rubbish dump in the 'fifties - an attraction for local children – and he often paused in his play, to watch the mechanic at work.

A letter from WHS to the City of Monash Council brought a reply from Richard Whitting, the Municipal Building Surveyor: viz. "An addition to the service station was approved on 1 April 1955 at a cost of 2,500 pounds to the owner/builders Donald and Norma Bowd of Murrumbeena". I recall Matthew Philip saying the owner tried to sell his father a roadster about this time. Mr. Whitting continues "From the inspection records it would appear that trenches for footings were dug and concrete poured between 29 April 1955 and & June 1956 until the project was abandoned in September 1956". He continues "Apparently E A Grimshaw or

nominee Kent Street Properties Ltd acquired the property in January 1970".

Then began a new life: "A building permit was issued on 18 January 1971 to Kent Street Properties Ltd for a Gospel Hall, which included a porch and entry/toilet addition to the existing brick walls of the original sales office to the service station. [Clearly this was built on the foundations already in place.] The cost of construction was \$11,000 and the Builder was P G Bryant & Son of Canterbury with the project completed on 9 August 1971." But despite the attractive new additions, the building was up for sale in a bare 2 years. [Was it too close to traffic noise? Or too small for a viable congregation?]

Mr. Whitting concludes "Apparently N R Reid or nominee acquired the property in October 1973, however I am unable to ascertain when the property was acquired by the City of Monash without undertaking a title search.

Alvie Hall is now popular as a regular meeting place for all kinds of groups within the City of Monash.

VALE Leila Thorpe

This edition must go to press just before Leila's funeral at Holy Family Church on Thursday, September 16. I hadn't known her for long, but was always impressed by the general delight when the little lady who had kept a hardware store at the Leeds Rd. shops, but more recently moved to Hallam, made an entry with her son Gary. They came to several meetings in recent years and to last year's 39th Birthday Party at St. Philip's. This year she will be missed by many.

MarJo remembers : "Having lived in the area so long, she knew Waverley's history inside out. She had been active in many organisations, and was able to quietly contribute gems of information often just when they were needed. She kept several scrapbooks of news cuttings, all in different categories, and remembered how things had happened reliably. Her help in historical matters was always valuable.

However she will ever be remembered as a "people person" more than a book person. Caring was what she did best and most. She was supper hostess for decades, and also did the weekly dusting and cleaning, as well as big super-cleans each summer, year after year. Through all this constant work, her approach was always, what can I do for others? Who has needs? How can I help?

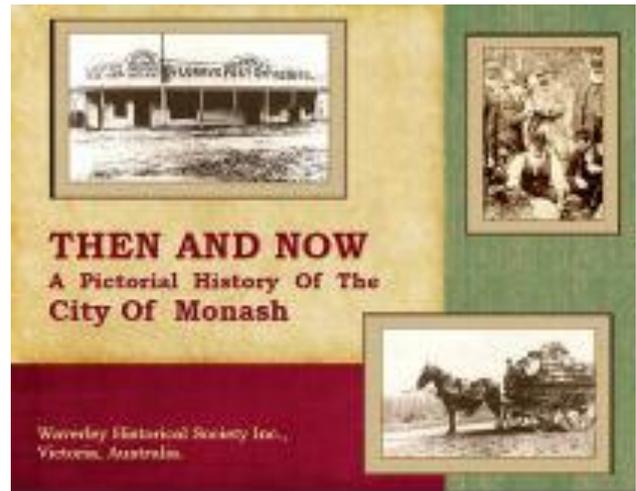
Leila was always kind. I never heard a mean word from her about anyone. She remembered birthdays and often had people over for tea parties and dinners. She was my children's honorary grandmother, who saved interesting bits and pieces for them and loved them always. We will miss her so much. Vale Leila.

Publication: Then and Now

Following the amazing popularity of our "Then and Now" column in the Waverley Leader, Waverley Historical Society has decided to publish a coffee table book by the same name. This book features 60 of our wonderful WHS photographs from years gone by (only some of which have been in the paper), accompanied by the same scene as it appears today, and a brief commentary. Some are new additions to our collection, or rare, and you will never have seen them before.

This book is really a huge "thank you" to previous WHS members, who not only collected photos from much earlier times, but also had the foresight to take photographs of people, signs, buildings, landscapes and streetscapes as they were at that time. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, these images are a huge and priceless part of our great collection.

Despite being full colour and covering all parts of Waverley, this beautiful book, which was launched at our Fortieth Birthday, sells for just \$20, and would make a perfect Christmas gift.



Tracing Family Members

In her post as Principal Research Officer, MarJo receives many requests for help in tracing family members. Here is an example of one she received recently. Perhaps it will receive a response – note the date: Oct. **2011**, not too late to join the big Family Party!

Reunion of Descendents of Thomas Davis and Harriet Tyler

Thomas Davis (alias Thomas Davy, Thomas Hoadbury etc) arrived in New South Wales on board the Coromandel as a life sentence convict. He married a Harriet Tyler, and their son Thomas Davis (b1814) married Elizabeth Leadbeater and had a large family.

The reunion will be held on the weekend of 1st October 2011 on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. There will be a small cost to cover expenses. If you have any questions or would like to know more about any part of the family, please we would love to hear from you.

Keith & Ros Lumb

Phone: 07 54997840 Mobile : Ros: 0408694001

Keith: 0408694744

Email: davis_reunion@bigpond.com

CALENDAR Summer 2010 - 2011

October 24 – 2 pm: At St. Philips - David Kemp to speak

November 28: At Glen Waverley Neighbourhood House: Christmas Meeting

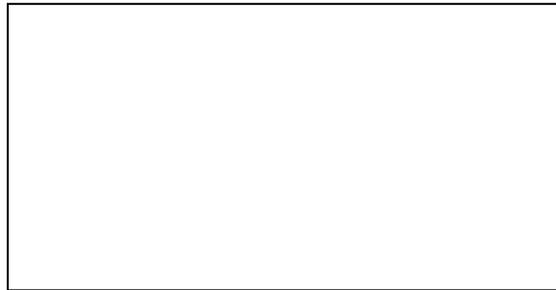
December 8: Summer Closing

January 26 (Australia Day) 10 am -2.30 pm: Open Day (venue permitting)

February 24 - 8pm: First Night Meeting

Waverley Historical Society Inc

PO BOX 2322, Mount Waverley, 3149



Season's Greetings to all!

The next newsletter is due to reach your mailbox in mid-February. The deadline for contributions is **10th Feb 2011**.