

Monumental Machinery in Monash City

Around Monash there are a number of unusual monuments. Though we have very few statues as such, we do have a few machines mounted outdoors for all to see and learn from.

Firstly, there is this old printer outside what used to be John Sands' huge print works in Clayton Rd. The plaque reads, "The 'Craftsman' Platen manufactured by Chandler and Price in 1911 for half-tone and fine work. This was one of the original letterpress printing machines which helped establish this member company of one of Australia's major printing groups, Valentine Sands." It's over a century old, and solid as a rock, not showing signs of deterioration at all.



John Angelico 2014

Then there is the large set of machines at Brickmakers Park in Stamford Rd. An impressive brick press and a grinding pan are displayed, along with little rail carts for transporting finished bricks around to the sales point, though not actually in the processing sequence. As well as being a remarkable piece of public-space artwork, this preserved machine reminds park users about earlier land use. It is also one of the only reminders of a large early local industry.



John Angelico 2014

And lastly this very interesting machine is on a thick tall concrete pillar in the centre of a pair of office buildings on the corner of Ricketts and Forster Rds. There is no explanation or plaque attached – maybe it is an artwork rather than a monument? But why no title or artist's name?



John Angelico 2014

Can you think of any other such monuments?

Do you know?

The origin of the name Colebrook Ave, Mt Waverley? On the original plan of subdivision it was shown as the north end of McLaren Street. With the establishment of the Bayview Primary School in 1956 (opened in April 1956) McLaren Street was cut leaving the immediately north section to be named Olympian Ave. (consistent with 1956 Olympic Games held in Melbourne) and further north the name Colebrook Ave. Colebrook is not that common. Was there some connection with the Colebrook in Tasmania?



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Journal of the Waverley Historical Society October 2014



John Angelico 2014

HARRISON HOUSE

In 1852 Thomas Lavidge and Edward Harrison and their families arrived in Australia and settled in Highbury Rd, Burwood. Lavidge was able to buy a lot of land, but Harrison struggled, especially after he lost his wife and four of his five children to typhoid fever. Edward Harrison's one surviving son James married Thomas Lavidge's daughter Eliza and they raised a large family nearby, while dairying and orcharding. In 1910, two of their children, John and Walter, bought this house, built in 1895 by A C Schotsburg, a gardener. Here they established an apricot and pear orchard. This house is a rare survivor from the 19th century, and provides insight into the close-knit rural communities that developed at that time.

Can you add to our knowledge of this house? Please share your memories with us..

Coming Events

Wed Oct 29, Open Day (Monash Seniors and RHSV History Week). (12 noon-4 pm)

Wed Nov 26, Christmas Meeting (2 pm-4 pm)

2015

Mon Jan 26 Australia Day—Special Opening and Display (11 am-3 pm)

Wed Feb 25 First General Meeting for the year

MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 6

Please note that General Meetings are now held every two months and are afternoon meetings starting at 2.00 pm. Special activities will be held in most alternate months. We are located above the Mt Waverley Library 41 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley.

Office Bearers and Committee Members 2014/15

Our AGM on the 27th August spelled a few changes in the committee, and also in the constitution of the Society. Waverley Historical Society has now adopted the Model Rules Incorporated Bodies set out by Consumer Affairs.

Executive

President : MarJo Angelico Vice President : Philip Johnstone
Honorary Secretary : Norma Schultz Honorary Treasurer : Vacant
Membership Secretary : Jean Walkerden

Committee

Margaret Boyes Beverley Delaney Jane Turton
Ray Price Chris Norton Gayle Nicholas

Delegated Appointments

Archivist and Curator : Norma Schultz
Care and Concern Officer : Jean Walkerden
City of Monash Council Liaison Officer : Ray Price
Curator : Beverley Delaney
Association of Eastern Historical Societies Delegates : Norma Schultz , Jean Walkerden
Equipment Officer : Philip Johnstone
Function and Events Coordinator : Beverley Delaney
Internet Webmaster : Philip Johnstone
Newsletter Editor : EdCom (Editorial Committee)
Publicity and Education Officer : Ray Price
Representative - Monash Reconciliation Group Norma Schultz
Research Officers : MarJo Angelico Clive Haddock
Safety and Risk Management Officer : Vacant
Speaker Programming Officer : Margaret Boyes
Textiles Curator : Vacant
Videographer and Photographer : Chris Norton

The Auditor has reviewed the Financial Accounts of the Society and a copy of the Financial Report is available from the Secretary.

Welcome to New Members

Sandra Hymas
Philip Hider

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. When the library entrance door is locked at 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 2014/15 are every second month.

Vale Pat Burchell OAM

24.3.1936 — 21.8.2014

Members of the Society were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Pat last month. In all the years we have known them, Laurie and Pat Burchell have been contributors *par excellence*. Pat, being the amazing person she was, took little glory for herself, but the more we got to know her, the more we learnt of her unrelenting giving to all and sundry.

Of course we know her as the wife of Laurie. Though married for over 50 years, no-one ever heard a cross word between them. Tell me that's not a feat in itself! We saw how calmly and efficiently she helped Laurie in everything he wanted to do, like indexing, producing material for the newsletter (and indeed, producing the newsletter itself for a time) and collating the Sands and McDougall entries for our area.

Laurie and Pat met at Fawkner High School where they were both teachers – Laurie teaching art and woodwork, and Pat music. Unfortunately the Education Department at that time saw marriage as a sin punishable by sacking, so Pat had to leave her beloved teaching, but she found plenty of other things to pour her love and skill into.

For one thing, Laurie and Pat have four children and seven grandchildren, some of whom we have met lately, and they seem to be infused with Pat's same quiet caring and achieving mentality. As well as being an admirable support for Laurie in all the varied work and projects he completed over the years, Pat could (if she had ever wanted to!) boast a number of outstanding achievements herself.

She and Laurie set up and ran the first Bicycle Users Group in Melbourne. She voluntarily taught music at her children's primary school, even when she had toddlers to look after. She joined Concern for Coburg, which aimed to improve social services in that area, and from there, with others, established the local Citizens' Advice Bureau, which she co-ordinated – a demanding unpaid position. This was just the beginning of the immense number and variety of her community service roles.

The following list does not in any way do justice to her legacy – established Keep Coburg Beautiful;

won Tidy Towns award; won inaugural Gordon Cooper Award; was secretary of Alzheimers Disease group; lectured nurses on that disease; wrote, typed and edited newsletters like parish newspaper *Fidelis* for many years; was a volunteer worker and committee member at Ilma Lever Gardens for disabled motorists; was very involved in Coburg Interchurch Council; played piano for church, hospitals, nursing homes and the dementia group; cared for her own and Laurie's mothers for many years; was secretary of Australian Church Women; tirelessly lobbied Council about the interests of her many volunteer

organisations; learnt Arabic, Indonesian and Italian to better be able to communicate with in-laws and parishioners; travelled across town to look after grandchildren so their parents could work or attend functions.

She was also involved in, and often the driving force behind – Coburg Community Workers' Group, Adult Literacy Scheme, Tax Help, No-interest Loans Program, Christmas Concert for the

aged and disabled, sunrise Easter service at Coburg Lake, Ethics committee at Sacred Heart Hospital, and Dorothy Impey Home. For all these efforts she was awarded the Order of Australia medal in 1991.

In all of this, her children and grandchildren never felt they were second priority. Daughter Maureen says, "Her role as carer was such a strong part of how she defined herself." Despite her own lung condition that had caused her many problems over the years, and that led her to take up cycling, she "was always strong, and never let it get in the way of her active life and dedication to the causes she held dear."

How privileged are we at WHS to have known and been blessed by this quiet dynamo! Laurie and their children are ever brave, facing life without her, but they must miss her so much. Our sincere sympathy to all of them.



From our Files - William Stevenson

We have some marvellous pieces in our archives. Some are hand-written and not always easy to decipher, but when we get an example like the one below, well worth the effort. At least, we think so. Judge for yourself...

To Waverley Historical Society, from Blairgowrie, 3942, VIC., March 3, 1986

Dear Mrs Marriott,

After a few very frustrating days in Melbourne, it was indeed a pleasant experience to speak with you last Tuesday re my great grandfather, William Stevenson.

I felt there may be others trying to trace his life, as there is a small file on him at the Latrobe Library. With the passing of years my branch of the family has lost contact with other descendants of his, and I will be most interested to hear of them.

*The whole exercise has been made more difficult for me as I'm an only child of an only child, and therefore I have no aunts, uncles or cousins. I was told very little about my great grandfather by my mother or my grandmother who was the eldest child of his second marriage, and I strongly suspect the reason being the puritanical atmosphere which pervaded our home during my childhood years. My grandmother definitely did not approve of his ways and all I ever knew was that as a child she had lived at Waverley and that she used to watch Aboriginal corroborees from her bedroom window – she was born in 1856.**

My mother told me later there had been interests in Toorak Road and St Kilda Road but I was not told what they were. As my own children and grandchildren wanted to know more about their forebears I decided to take on the task of finding out, and gradually the generations are starting to come to life.

As I look at it now from the distance of century, I realise William Stevenson must have been quite a man. To out-live his wives and leave behind nine out of eleven children is no mean feat in anyone's language. I'm sure your information will be a great help to give me further insight into his life and I thank you for your interest.

I enclose a cheque to cover any cost and if the amount of ten dollars insufficient please let me know and I will gladly send more.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy M. GODDARD.

(Mrs S. G. GODDARD)

Thanks to Clive Haddock for transcribing this letter, and also supplying us with the following background information:

The writer was Nancy Maude Fraser, only child of William Fraser and Maud Pickett. Maud Pickett was the only child of Charles Pickett and Annis Stevenson.

William Stevenson was a Waverley pioneer who arrived in the district in the early 1860s, and farmed about 19 acres on part of Crown Portion 61, parish of Mulgrave. The same parcel of land later became the home of the Tait family of Mt. Waverley. Stevenson was probably most well-known in the Waverley district as the maker of bricks for St. Stephen's Church on High Street Road and the one Stephensons Road was named after, despite the variance in spelling.

Editor's note – Clive has also made a file in Trove, in case you would like to know more about this little-known part of our history. See <http://trove.nla.gov.au/list?id=62649>

Coming Events

Wed 29th October - OPEN DAY for Monash Seniors Festival and RHS History Week. 12 noon – 4 pm at the rooms.

Wed 26th November, 2 – 4 pm at the rooms. Our CHRISTMAS get together & end-of-year function for members, featuring the history of various Christmas motifs – holly, stars, candles, presents, trees – why do we do it? Also please wear something *Christmassy* and bring some festive afternoon tea.

There will be no meeting in December. A special event will be held on Australia Day, Monday 26th January 2015: an OPEN DAY at the rooms, from 11 am – 3 pm.

The first general meeting for 2015 will be held at 2pm in the rooms on Wednesday 25th February. Please make a note in your new diary. (Tip – write in on the last page of your 2014 calendar/diary ready to transfer as soon as you get the 2015 one.)

Margaret Boyes

Can you help?

We are still looking for old pictures of **Valley Reserve**, and of **Pinewood cinema** and restaurant. If you can help, please email the Society at whs@kepl.com.au, or bring your photos in on any Wednesday afternoon between 1 and 5pm.

WHS Committee News

Our Committee has undergone some changes. We regretfully said goodbye and thanks to our President Ed Hore, and to members Judy Borg, Laurie and Pat Burchell. We welcomed Jane Turton and Gayle Nicholas to the Committee.

Ed Hore has been a wonderful President, picking up all the most difficult tasks that no-one else relished, or had expertise in, like grant applications, licence agreements, and other legalities. As well, he supplied a strong lead in many necessary areas, like our manual, disaster preparedness, more formal reporting of various committee roles, and much more. Despite living a distance from our rooms, Ed has been present and officiated at all major functions, maintained contact with Monash Council Officers about our rental agreement, and kept up with all that was happening.

We will miss his efficient and commanding presence at meetings, but realise he has had to resign for health and family reasons. Our best wishes go to him and his family, and we hope we will still see him from time to time.

Judy Borg has also contributed to the Society in many ways, not least of which was Newsletter Editor from 2009 to 2011. We will always remember the way she made open days “work” by promoting them downstairs to whoever was using the library. She must have been convincing, because most ventured up the stairs and stayed on, intrigued by our displays, which might otherwise have gone unviewed. Judy also has had to cut back on activities for health reasons and we wish her well.

Laurie and Pat Burchell have been amazing contributors to the Society even before they were on committee, and even more afterwards. Not only have they provided us with wonderful resources such as the directory compilation, books Laurie has authored, and personal expertise, they have also worked extensively on the newsletter and nearly every week worked on local paper indexing. Sadly, we lost Pat in August. *See elsewhere in this newsletter.*

Welcome to our new committee members:

Jane Turton has spent most of her life living within City of Monash/Waverley. She is married to George Turton whose parents Phyllis and Gerry also belonged to WHS. Names connected with Turton include Cornell, Damon, Cotter and a host of others. She is currently researching Jordanville South Primary and hopes to publish the information. Jane works 4 days a week as a Care Manager within community Aged Care, and is also completing the Certificate of Genealogical Research through Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney. She is often described as being “obsessed” with genealogy!

Gayle Nicholas has lived with her husband in Glen Waverley for nearly 30 years. The study of her own family history led to an interest in community history and the area where she raised her family. She is keen to learn more about writing history and this year she joined the GSV Writers' Group. Look out for her practice pieces in our newsletter!

Recently the reception centre on High Street Rd, Ashwood, was demolished and the land cleared. The building had been empty for about four years. It had most recently been called *The Ashwood International*, and earlier, *Meteora*. Before that it held the name *Rowallan Receptions* for many years. It was named after Allan Row(e).

We have this one photo of it as *Rowallan*, and would like some more, particularly of the interior, or other parts of the grounds. Did you have or attend a wedding or other reception there? Would you have photographs? Also, can you remember when it opened?



Waverley's Concrete Roads

A Monument to a Lost Dream Part 2

Geoff Brown

Part 1 outlined the grand plan of the Glen Alvie Estate, the methods used to construct the concrete roads and how the 1930s depression and WWII limited road construction and stifled land sales.

Nearly 20 years after the concrete roads were built and then left unused in farmland, housing construction began in earnest on the Glen Alvie Estate. As in other new Melbourne suburbs, most homes in the area were accessed via unsealed, often muddy roads – except for the lucky few on Waverley's concrete roads. It was the mid 1950s before sealed roads reached neighbouring streets and the mid 1960s before new residential subdivisions around Melbourne were provided with sealed roads before occupancy. This time, however, they were nearly all bitumen roads, not concrete.

Recent discussions with Monash City engineering staff suggest the impetus to provide sealed roads in new subdivisions in the 1960s was twofold: the 1958 Local Government Act which gave local municipalities the authority to mandate such roads; and market forces which led some developers, such as A. V. Jennings, to provide sealed roads as a point of difference to attract buyers.

Changing Road Materials

Road construction methods over the years have changed to cater for the vehicles of the day. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, roads were constructed for use by metal shod horses pulling wagons with steel rimmed wheels. Road surface needed to be pliable to allow horses' hooves to grip the roadway and to minimize wear on their metal shoes and the wagons' metal tyres. Some road construction methods of the time used concrete as a foundation but covered this with less hardwearing materials such as wood blocks, bitumen and rock asphalt.

By the 1920s, the newly developed motor vehicle with its rubber tyres was quickly replacing the horse and cart, so road construction materials needed to cater for this. Newspapers of the day¹ were reporting that concrete-only roads in the USA, UK, NZ and some Australian cities were demonstrating dramatically reduced road maintenance costs. Representatives of several Melbourne road authorities visited these cities and returned to promote concrete-only roads and the phasing out of horse drawn vehicles. Hard wearing concrete looked like the low maintenance, long life road

surface for the modern world. Its initial higher construction cost was projected to save money on maintenance costs in the longer term.

However, as noted in Part 1, the onset of the 1930s depression brought strong criticism of the extravagance of concrete-only roads, and their construction virtually ceased in Melbourne. With a few exceptions, nearly all new post-WWII roads around Melbourne were made of bitumen, not concrete. Monash City Manager of Engineering, James Paterson, suggests that this preference for bitumen roads was driven by two factors: Melbourne has a plentiful supply of bluestone/blue metal used to form the road base; and soil surfaces are quite stable so that the flexible bitumen pavement does not deteriorate quickly. In contrast, the more expensive concrete road pavement is more common in parts of Sydney, NSW and other locations where bluestone is not plentiful and/or soil surfaces are less stable.

Still In Use

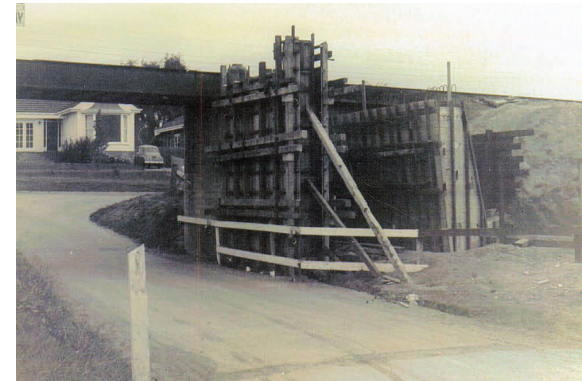
More than 80 years old, Waverley's concrete roads have proven their durability, although they bear many scars. The extensive cracking has been repaired in different ways, sometimes with bitumen, sometimes with concrete and numerous cracks still await repair. In addition, the original shallow concrete curbing was replaced in 1990-91 with rollover (curved) curbing rarely seen in other streets of Waverley and Monash. This choice was made to minimize the need to increase the height of nature strips to ensure water run off².

Although the concrete pavement may appear to be set out in a disjointed manner, most of what was built is still in place and visible, with one notable exception. A 200 metre section of Windsor Ave (originally named Railway Pde South) between Beverley Grove and Pall Mall and a 70 metre section at the southern end of Alvie Rd under the railway bridge were originally paved with concrete. Aerial photos and the accounts of long term residents record that in the early to mid-1960s, parts of these two sections were excavated and the entire roadway (including some of the remaining concrete) converted to a bitumen road surface.

The reasons for the above works included: the installation of the sewerage system; the lengthening of the railway bridge; works to prevent flood-

ing and degradation of the roadway beneath the bridge; and the need to lower Alvie Rd immediately north of the bridge where the original concrete met a bitumen surface.

The accompanying photos of Alvie Rd in the early 1960s show the works to lengthen the railway bridge and the location where the concrete road joined the early bitumen surface (between the fire appliances).



Chris Norton c. 1963

The concrete pavement has also been covered in a few other locations where the bitumen and concrete meet and bitumen covers the concrete for a few metres. The most notable of these is at the corner of Windsor Ave and Pall Mall, where traffic islands were installed in 1975 and a bitumen surface applied³.

The Road Ahead



Chris Norton c. 1966

A short walk or drive along these roads will demonstrate the noise level that the concrete's rough hard surface generates. Speaking with residents whose homes are built adjacent to the concrete roads (this writer is one of them) elicits a variety of suggestions for their future. Some residents think the rough surface and road noise slow traffic to a safer speed; others find the noise annoying and desire bitumen, especially if their home is situated where the bitumen surface meets the concrete pavement; still

others value the heritage nature of the roads and wish to keep them with all their imperfections.



Worn bitumen reveals original concrete Pall Mall & Windsor Ave

Discussions with Monash City Engineering staff suggest that a decision on the future of these concrete roads will be made in the next two to three years and exploratory drilling was undertaken in 2014 to assist in this planning.

Other municipalities with similar heritage roads have adopted differing methods, sometimes using new concrete to replace deteriorated sections, and sometimes replacing the entire roadway with new concrete. Monash may employ one of these approaches. Whatever decision is made, it looks like these early concrete roads will live on in some form for decades to come as a monument to a lost dream.



Different methods of road repair in Sherwood Rd

Acknowledgements

My thanks to the following for their assistance:

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Laurie Burchell

Clive Haddock

Chris Norton

James Paterson, Monash City Engineering Office

Various long term local residents

Sources

1. *The Argus*, 10/3/1924, page 8; 21/3/1924, page 11

2. *City of Waverley* file 57/34/11

3. *Monash City Engineering Staff*