

## Historical Queries received by the WHS

MarJo Angelico

Each month brings more queries to the WHS. Our Web pages have provision to submit questions to the Research Officer (who just happens to be our President, MarJo Angelico.) Typically, a month results in about 30 queries or one per day. These are mostly local - within Victoria, others are from interstate while there are a few from overseas. Some of these are simple and easy to understand and can be quickly answered without need to refer to our records. Others can be far more complex requiring careful checking of names, locations and dates quoted. Using internet search engines such as Google would appear to precipitate such queries.

For example, Googling names of places or families sometimes results in a reference to Waverley, Monash City or some of the other locations that appear on our internet Welcome page. To the overseas resident, this may be the tenuous link to their family. Sometimes the WHS has been able to provide some missing information or add to the patchwork of the family history. There are times when two descendants of the same pioneering family (but unknown to the other) are seeking information on their ancestors from the WHS at the same time. The WHS has been able to alert the two parties and make the introductions! Indeed, this brings much satisfaction to our Research Officer.

Here follows an extract of a somewhat poignant letter from Diane Martin Nelson requesting information on a person known during WWII. We can speculate that the Street name "Pipin" quoted in the letter had resulted from a Google search that found a Pippin Avenue in Glen Waverley, hence our receiving the letter.

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*I am writing to you to ask for assistance in a matter very dear to my heart.*

*My father, Leonard B. Martin, was in the first marine division at Guadalcanal during World War II. He was then sent to a suburb of Melbourne, Australia for 9 months where he met a woman and she became pregnant. This woman may have been named Faye Wall. He may have stayed at her home with her parents as he later provided an address of 12 Pipin Avenue in Australia. He was deployed to the Solomon Islands in 1943 and was severely wounded in January of 1944. He was injured and lay for 5 days in a pile of dead bodies before being discovered. The woman had written a letter to my father telling him of the pregnancy. As*

*he was presumed dead, his friends opened his mail and learned of his child. These friends wrote back to the woman and informed her that my father had been killed. My father recuperated and was sent back to the United States in the Spring of 1944. Shortly thereafter he married a woman that he had grown up with from a small town in Berea, Kentucky. The Australian woman had the address of my grandparents and wrote them a letter which included pictures of my father's newborn son. Up until that point my father was unaware that he had fathered a son. My father sent money through my grandparents to the woman in order to support his son. I suspect she was never informed my father was still alive and the support appeared to be coming from my grandparents.*

*My mother was not able to have other children, and unfortunately all pictures and records of my half-brother were destroyed, but now my relatives and I are very eager to find out what happened to him. He may soon be my only living relative.*

The letter continues on in a similar vein seeking assistance to track down the woman and the writer's brother. If anyone can help, please contact the Society

Alas it would seem that Pippin Avenue, Glen Waverley is not the street in question as it was only created in the early 1960's with the subdivision of the Peck family orchard property which occupied the northeast corner of High Street Rd and Blackburn Rd. Hence the origin of the names Pippin (*an apple*) and the adjacent Packham (*a pear*) Cr, Cherry St, and Orchard St. which were created out of the property.

A check of "Pippin" street names in the SE suburbs throws up another Pippin Avenue in Burwood East barely one half mile north! This also would not be the street as it too was an orchard during WWII and not subdivided until some years later. Other Pippins are listed in later street directories but would not be relevant.

Here are another two overseas queries :

A British researcher was trying to find out what an Australian *Violet Crumble* was like, and found us because of mentions of the Hoadley company's connection with Tally-Ho Boys' village.

More recently we had another enquiry from the UK where a British film-maker wanted to know whether "our" Oakleigh Cr. Reg Harris was the same person as the UK World Champion Cyclist Reg Harris. Unfortunately, he wasn't!



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**SUBSCRIPTION**

\$25 per household

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John Angelico 2015

## THE HOUSE

This weatherboard *California* style house is located on Highbury Rd. It is estimated that a market-gardener's home has stood on this allotment since the mid 1930s, and is clearly visible in a c1945 aerial photo of the district. The first known market-garden on this site occupied about 14 acres and was purchased by Richmond gardener, Luigi Sfirro in late 1932 (Title reg. 08.11.1932). Sfirro sold that parcel of land to market-gardener, William J. C. Wise in 1934 (Title reg. 12.10.1934) and it could be assumed that W.J.C. Wise established a home there before moving his place of residence further east to the

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## Coming Events

**Wed 25 Nov 2015** - Afternoon Christmas meeting in the WHS rooms.

**Tue 26 Jan 2016** - No formal meeting but an Open Day (Australia Day)

**Thu 25 Feb 2016** - Evening meeting with Guest Speaker: David Godfrey - Melway Publishing. **MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 6**

Please note that General Meetings are now held every two months and are usually 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 Cres., Mt Waverley.



## WHS Annual General Meeting

Sunday 23 Aug 2015

Our 2015 AGM was held at an afternoon meeting. President MarJo Angelico spoke on some achievements of the Society over the last 12 months, including the number and range of queries received from within Australia and around the world (*see P 8*). Also, we have provided displays at both the Mt Waverley and Glen Waverley libraries plus St Stephens Church to celebrate the 150th anniversary.

Elections were conducted by Life Member Laurie Ryan who thanked the 2014/15 Committee for their contribution and the following positions were filled:

President	MarJo Angelico
Vice President	Philip Johnstone
Secretary	Norma Schultz
Treasurer	Jane Turton
Committee	Margaret Boyes
	Jean Walkerden
	Gayle Nicholas
	Sandra Hymas
	Jane Adams
	Chris Norton

We thank outgoing committee member Beverly Delaney and welcome Jane Adams.

The meeting was quickly closed and the group moved to afternoon tea and a good yarn.

Continued from P 1.

adjoining acreage on the Tally Ho corner in 1939.

The Sands & McDougall directory offers perhaps the identity of the first known tenant on the property as John R. Lloyd. Regardless of lack of exact detail on the history, this weatherboard house stands today as a window and reminder to the pre-suburban development in that corner of Mt. Waverley.

(Source: Title deed vol.5815, fol.896)

*Clive Haddock*

### WHERE IS THE WHS?

Our rooms, which are located above the Mt Waverley library in Miller Crescent, are open each Wed (except over the Christmas break), from 1pm to 5pm, or by appointment, for individual research and working discussion groups. If the main library entrance door is locked during meetings, use the doorbell at the far left to gain entry. Members are asked to bring a plate of afternoon tea to general meetings which for 2015/16 are every second month.

## Our 45th Birthday

To celebrate our forty-five years of history, we viewed some less-often exposed images of ourselves through the years. There have been fourteen presidents, of whom four served for more than four years – Laurie Ryan, Irene Marriott, Jim Tuhan and Ed Hore. One, Sid Brown, died “in harness,” and had an annual lecture named in his honour. The lectures have been presented by such celebrities as Weary Dunlop, Geoffrey Blainey, and Patsy Adam-Smith.

Newsletters came out almost immediately, but it was not until the 43<sup>rd</sup>, ten years later, before the first illustration (a masthead) appeared. Photographs were not able to be reproduced until 1985. Our 200<sup>th</sup> newsletter was the first to show some colour!

A number of meeting places has been used before we were allocated our current rooms included St Stephens, Syndal Hall, Notting Hill school, the Civic Centre, Alvie Hall, Holy Family hall, Mount Waverley Community Centre, and of course, the library. In our search for a home of our own, we have been offered Joseph Jell's house, Closter house, and the Black Flat school, all of which offers were later withdrawn. We moved into our current rooms in 1980. We saw views of the room before it was “ours” and after we had established our occupation! These rooms were refurbished a few years ago and soon after suffered from storm water ingress which required the parquet flooring in the rooms to be replaced. Both of these events caused us to temporarily relocate our meetings.

From the start, a few activities have featured – bus trips and other outings, displays in various places, visits to and from other historical societies, celebrating anniversaries, photographing plaques, maps and old photographs, sharing colonial games with groups, and organising steam train rides.

We also have been privileged throughout the years to have some remarkable volunteers – and that still continues, and makes Waverley Historical Society what it is today.

*MarJo Angelico*

### Welcome to New Members

*Maree Gathercole, Jeff Turnbull (re-joining)*

## After 62 Years the Pupil and his Teacher meet again.

It was fortuitous that, during a WHS meeting in 2014, long time member Kath Price mentioned her family connections with Charlton in Northern Victoria. It so happened that member Laurie Burchell also had a close connection with Charlton. In the first two years of his teaching career he was the woodwork (sloyd) and art teacher at Charlton HES and Sea Lake school, some 70 miles away. He spent half his time at Charlton Higher Elementary School (which went up to 4th form /10 grade), where he taught woodwork and half of the week at Sea Lake which had very few facilities and he could only teach art and drawing. Following a visit to Charlton in November 2014 Laurie met a former pupil John O'Brien. Back in 1950 Laurie was about 22 and John was 12. Here is a picture of their meeting with Laurie's follow up let-

Laurie Burchell 2014



*Dear John O'Brien*

*Well I never believed we would ever do it: meet again after nearly 62 years! Yes it was 1950 and your woodwork class for the first time at the Higher Elementary School Charlton and I was in my first year of full-time teaching.*

*And here we are once more in Charlton, but this occasion it's 30 November 2014 in the new hospital reviewing two toys I had made to show other classes.*

*I did also enjoy seeing the many photos of toy tractors you too had made. And it had all happened because Kath Price chanced to mention my name to you!*

*I don't think either of us are finished yet, so watch this space!*

*Regards Laurie*

Unfortunately John O'Brien passed away in March 2015 and Laurie sent a letter of condolence to his son.

*Dear Danny,*

*After being away for two weeks, I returned home and checked my answering service. I was shocked to learn from you of the death of your father on 6th March.*

*It was a very great pleasure to be re-acquainted with John, my former pupil, after 62 years. I was fortunate to visit him at Charlton hospital with my daughter last December. He clearly remembered his classmates of 1950 and a plant label, the first woodwork item that he made in my class, in my first year of teaching.*

*He proudly showed me photos of his toy tractors. I was looking forward to supplying him with the necessary materials and plans for reproduction of several of the toys that I'd made during my years of teaching woodwork.*

*Regards Laurie*

### The WHS Picture Collection

There are many images in the WHS files. Some are identifiable and clearly labelled while others sometimes pose a mystery. Here are some that suggest a humorous caption, such as:

*"With one more pull, the tree was out ....."*

*Hide and seek I can see you .....*

(Actually these willow trees in Gallaghers Rd were being poisoned prior to removal in 1982) ....



*"Even the cows are looking for the tails of Bo Peep's sheep ....."*

*"Cows waiting to go home ....."*

(Actually the cattle are grazing on what is now Wadham Parade, Mt Waverley)

*Jane Adams*





## WHS 'Working Bee'

The Waverley Historical Society collects, researches and preserves information and items of historical interest relating to the Waverley area. There is quite a lot of work involved in doing this.

In August we held our first 'Working Bee' at the rooms. Assisted by MarJo Angelico, twelve members enthusiastically started sorting out the vertical files. There are many jobs like this to be done. Don't wait until the next 'Working Bee' – members are invited to call in on any Wednesday afternoon and lend a hand.

Margaret Boyes



Margaret Boyes

## Coming Events

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2 - 4 pm** at the rooms Celebrate Christmas at our last meeting for the year. Please wear something 'Christmassy' and bring some festive afternoon tea.

There will be no meeting in December. On **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016** (the public holiday for Australia Day) we will open the rooms for our traditional OPEN DAY from 12 noon to 4 pm.

*(The last day the rooms will be open for research is Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015. We will reopen early in February 2016.)*

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 7.30 pm** The year will start with a special meeting held in the evening – we hope members who cannot attend day time meetings will be able to join us. Our guest speaker will be David Godfrey, the Production Manager and Director of Melway Publishing. In May 2016 the Melway will be 50 years old – David's father published the first edition in his garage in Mount Waverley. Don't miss this meeting! Please bring a plate for supper.

Margaret Boyes

## Did You Know ?

Street Names are often proposed by the land-owners or developers and usually have some logical basis - whether connected with the family names of the original owners, geographical features, notable figures in the community or in Government, or an interpretation of local Aboriginal meanings. The City of Monash has all examples.

Ideally, the choice of name should be approved by an authority to ensure that it is appropriate and is not likely to be confused with a nearby street in the city or an adjacent city. Thus name changes can occur between the developer's estate plan and now.

Here are some name changes noted from the WHS files of subdivision plans.

<b>Now</b>	<b>Was</b>
McLochlan St.	Closter St.

McLochlan after City Councillor Len McLochlan to avoid confusion with the Closter Avenue 1 mile to the west in what is now known as Ashwood.

Aldrin Drv.	Nillecran Drv. then Bambra Drv.
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Aldrin was in recognition of the astronaut Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin, the second person to walk on the moon on 21 July 1969. The origin of Nillecran and the reason for the change to Bambra is not known. Is Nillecran a contraction of 2 names, can you help?

Kalmia Ave.	Glendale Ave.
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Kalmia Ave was part of the Glendale Estate subdivided by the Sunhill Corporation in the 1960s. The origin of Kalmia is probably another shrub in the group of tree names: Palm, Flame, Fir, Birch and Oak, as part of the subdivision.

View Mount Rd.	Moore Rd.
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Part of the Moore family property which fronted Ferntree Gully Rd. View Mount Rd was later extended under power lines linking Waverley Rd through to Ferntree Gully Rd.

Wilson Rd.	Acacia Lane then Swallow Lane
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Four Wilson brothers (Alexander, Robert, Frank and William) settled in the area in the 1860s. There is a connection with the founder of Wilson Transformers, located nearby on Springvale Rd. Acacia possibly derived from the Acacia Wattle trees in the area.

Surrey Rd.	Essex Rd.
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On some early plans (and Morgans Street Directories) Essex Rd is shown as L shaped. Later Essex Rd was continued east and the North South section was renamed Surrey Rd, another English County name.

**In light of continuing increases in costs, particularly postage, your committee after much deliberation, has set annual subscriptions at \$25 commencing 1 July 2015.**

## Historic Walk Report

After two unpleasant days of heat and strong winds, we were nervous about the planned walk for 7<sup>th</sup> October, but, true to the forecast, the weather was perfect. We set out with 20 walkers (and even returned with the same number!) and explored the secrets of Mount Waverley central – Glen Alvie, Mt Waverley Primary, Waimarie, and Miller Crescent. This was a repeat of one we have done previously, with one addition - the new Rotary Anzac memorial. Can you identify where this photo was taken?



Jason Brack 2015

## New Anzac Memorial

Quietly and without fanfare, a new and informative Anzac memorial has been erected in Mount Waverley. Many have not even noticed its arrival, even though it is on a main road and under everyone's noses. Yet it is significant: Mt Waverley does not have another, and it is different to Monash's other memorials. It does not just list names but tells the Anzac story – very appropriate in this centenary of the Anzac landing.



Jason Brack 2015

ANZAC memorial archways  
Mount Waverley.

It is on Stephensons Road, on the east side of the Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Pde, just two doors from our rooms. Please take the time to walk over and read it some time.

MarJo Angelico

## A Visit to Rippon Lea

On 23 September some 8 of our members visited the National Trust property, *Rippon Lea*, to see the 'Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries' Costume Exhibition which featured never before seen costumes for Series 3 of the popular ABC TV program. We travelled by a most convenient scheduled bus (which stops outside the WHS rooms) and took us to within a few minutes walk of the mansion entrance. This exciting exhibition was displayed throughout the *Rippon Lea* building. The clothing was displayed in a number of rooms giving us an opportunity to take in the room decorations and spend some 1 1/2 hours being fascinated by garments showing the skills of the award winning designer. We also enjoyed talking to members of the National Trust who told us more about the house.

*Rippon Lea* mansion was designed by architects Reed & Barnes in 1868 in the Lombardic Romanesque style. Extended in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the interior was redecorated and a large entrance and two conservatories were added. It was one of the first buildings in Melbourne to have electricity installed. The mansion was modernised in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and incorporated the latest interior fashions in the 'Hollywood' style.

After lunch in the old stables in the grounds of *Rippon Lea*, we had a lovely walk in the delightful garden in Spring sunshine with blossom trees in full bloom. The garden layout has an irregular design and bridges over the lake. This type of garden is known as the 'picturesque' style and viewers are invited to see the garden vistas as a picture. We caught 4pm bus back to Mt Waverley. Final verdict – a most interesting and enjoyable excursion. We hope next time we have an excursion more members will join us.

Margaret Boyes

## WANTED

A good home for the late Pat Burchell's sheet music collection.

Comprises about 100 folios - from Bach to the Stage & Screen Shows of the 1950s.

A storage cabinet for these items is also available.

Contact the Waverley Historical Society



## WHS Member Stories

Last year we had a meeting where YOU were the speakers. We asked members to write some memories of old Waverley. Would you like to read some of the contributions?

### Bev and Neil Hutchinson

We bought our block in Lee Avenue in 1953. It was one of three owned by Miss Lee, daughter of Mr Lee who had owned the whole street. Mr Lee used to come out every Sunday in his Rolls Royce to inspect the developments. He was always dressed in a dark suit and wore a bowler hat. Our block was originally a part of a pear and apple orchard. We built in 1955, moving in December of that year. Before that, we travelled from Glenhuntly by bus and train, bringing tools with us to clear the blackberries on the block.



Blackburn Rd Syndal looking South about 1957

Back then there were very few shops in Syndal – a milk bar, butcher, greengrocers (Black's), Syndal Timber Co and the dairy in Blackburn Road which was then called May Road. Syndal State School was built just after we moved in December 1955. The milk was delivered, as was the bread. There was also a travelling library. Kindergarten was held at the Public Hall, as was the Presbyterian Church before a church was built in Larch Crescent. Lee Ave was one of the few made roads in the area. Gutters and footpaths were constructed later.

### Beryl Brooks

My husband Ron and I moved into Lee Avenue in 1953 and the end of our street was not usable. We had to go across to the opposite house and then up his drive to get into High Street Road. Eventually the road was opened. Our land had been all orchards with a figgery on one corner. We got the first toilet to replace the one Ron had built. Mr Lee used to visit the street every Sunday in his old lovely Rolls Royce. I was lucky to get a single phone line as many others were shared (duplex) lines. The

soil was good so our own garden soon developed very nicely.



Blackburn Rd - High Street Rd intersection looking south about the mid 1980s. Nearly all shop sites are filled on the East side with redevelopment on the SE corner. Lee Avenue is just out of the picture to the right. Note: the pipeline track from Mitcham Reservoir to Notting Hill reservoirs (adjacent to Bunnings Store in FTG Rd) at upper left and the route of a tributary to Scotchmans Creek at middle right. The railway bridge is just about the lowest part of this area and prone to flooding.



This view of Blackburn Rd looking South during a storm in 1967 illustrates this low point.

More for another issue! If YOU would like to add your memories of living in the Waverley district, short or long, new or old, please do! Some pictures of the area will add to the interest of your story.

Jean Walkerden's story on p.5 opposite ==>

## July Meeting

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of St Stephens Church Mt Waverley the WHS held its July Meeting in the original church building.



Viewing the display in the old church

Some 22 members and visitors attended and it

### Another member's story - Jean Walkerden

Alma Muller (nee Damon) and I used to ride our bikes on Waverley Road on a Sunday afternoon and one Sunday Alma's brother was with us and he said, "Get off the road there is a car coming".

When walking home from Mt Waverley Primary School, (State School as it used to be called) I used to kick my school case along the road and Mum used to wonder why I always wanted a new case as the bottom was always worn out. The image to the right shows the approximate region of Waverley Rd along which Jean walked to and from School.



Cows waiting to be milked in Waverley Rd, Mt Waverley. Front page of the Argus Camera Supplement, 3 December 1932

### Historic Toilet for Mt Waverley

Well not really historic, the new automatic public toilet facility in Hamilton Place Shopping Centre features images of old Mt Waverley on its sides. This unisex toilet is the second public installation in the centre. Back in the 1970s, a service station occupied what is



now the IGA store site and a toilet was located near the bus stop. With the building of the IGA store and rearrangement of the carpark layout that toilet was removed. This new toilet, opened in September 2015. On the North side is a view of Mt Waverley State School (in Park Lane) about 1924. The South side shows Tait's store in Stephenson's Rd (100m away) in the 1930s.