

Schramm's Cottage & Museum

Sun 23th Oct 2pm

Rieschiecks Reserve,

62-78 Victoria Street, Doncaster East

Schramm's Cottage dates from c.1875. It was built for Max von Schramm, a German immigrant, for use as a house and a Lutheran (denominational) school.

The cottage was originally located in Doncaster Road, near the present Council offices, and was moved to this site following the decision to widen Doncaster Rd. \$5 entry fee on the day.



Bookings essential by 12 October

via our Email

waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

The History of Motoring

26th February 2023

At the WHS Rooms above MW Library

Gary Stocking will talk to us on the History of Motoring. He is the Publicity Officer of the Dandenong Valley Historic Car Club.



Bookings essential by 18 February

via our Email

waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Playing Cards

Sunday 27th Nov 2pm

At the WHS Rooms above MW library

Ray Nilsson and Hilary Oates will talk on the Melbourne Playing Card Club and card collecting both in Australia and now links with overseas groups. They will also bring display material for members to peruse if they so desire. They would be happy to view cards/albums if members would like to have anything identified.



Bookings essential by 18 November

via our Email

waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Historic Walk Pinewood

26th March 2023

A new walk around a well-known area, but what hints of the past are still visible to the observant eye? This part of Waverley held orchards, dairy farms and grazing land, a town common and a permanent water reserve. There are also newer features of note. Explore the familiar paths with a historical mindset to further your understanding of Waverley's history.



Bookings essential by 18 March

via our Email

waverleyhsvic@gmail.com



Established 1970

Incorporated in Victoria
Reg. No. A 0006377 A

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Annual subscriptions 2022/23 are
due on 1 July 22. \$25 per household

HISTORY HERE 241

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Wirreanda - the Historic Crest House

Situated in a very tree lined street there was a house which had attached to its front brick wall, what appeared to be a circular shield of some kind. The street and housing estate was created by subdividing the Tait Family property, when it was sold in 1958. Based upon the 1962 date of the house photograph, it would be appropriate to assume that Leslie M. Perrott (Junior) was an original lot owner in this new housing estate. According to various real estate websites, this house was not sold until June 1985, when presumably the Perrott Family moved to a new abode. Leslie M. Perrott (Junior) lived on until 2001. Thankfully both the house and the decorative historic Melbourne Coat of Arms still exist.

Coming Events

Next Event

A visit to Schramm's Cottage &
Museum to our north.
Sun 23th Oct 2pm

See page 8 for the events that we have
planned.

The WHS is out of hibernation. We are open each Wed afternoon 1 to 4.30pm.

Events on page 8: Unless otherwise stated, General Meetings are held at 2pm on the fourth Sunday in our rooms above Mt Waverley Library (Lift Available) 41 Miller Cres., Mt Waverley.

For outings please carefully note time and location details.

Our WHS operations and meetings are now returning to the new normal with monthly meetings, historical walks and weekly work sessions. We are initiating a new event on every third week of the month where we promote the resources and work of the Society as an Open Day with some of the research resources on display.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 28th August at the WHS Rooms above MW Library. We also celebrated our 52nd birthday. President MarJo Angelico reported on the Society's operations for the year 2021/22.

Committee Appointments

Following elections, the Committee for 2022/23 became:

President: MarJo Angelico

V President: Philip Johnstone

Secretary: Kerrie Flynn

Treasurer: Sueie McGrath

Committee Members:

Norma Schultz, Edward Hore, Sandra Hymas, Virginia Barnett, Chris Norton, Ralph Bartlett, Carina Leitch, Chetana Dharmareddy.

Changing Landscape

Following the AGM, Chris Norton, our photographer, showed a series of images illustrating our changing streetscape environment with selected views during house construction.

The 52nd Birthday was celebrated with Afternoon Tea.



The walking group of Sunday 25 Sep. 2022 in the remembrance walk Mt Waverley

Mt Waverley Historical Walk

What nicer way for twenty people to spend a warm Sunday afternoon than participating in a historical walk in Mt Waverley? The walk, run by MarJo, on the 25th September, took us over familiar ground but even though we did the same walk four years ago, there were variations and points of interest that we might not have heard about before.

The starting point behind the Mt Waverley Library enabled us to view the severe but appealing design of the library itself and to be reminded that it was the first library built in the City of Waverley. The library was built by local builder, George Dore, in 1969. So often we enter these places and don't look further than the front doors.

Behind the library is Wadham House, which started out as a private home and then became a veterinary centre, same eventually re-located to the corner of Waverley Rd and Heany Street. Wadham House now provides a meeting-place for thirty-odd groups and societies.

The walkers then proceeded west, along Miller Crescent, under the railway line, built in 1929. Then we peregrinated through parts of the old Glen Alvie Estate, dating back to the 1920's. This was deemed the place to live and enjoy the benefits of country atmosphere yet was right on the train line to the city. The estate provided the utmost in prestigious living, sport and leisure.

Then the Depression caused a temporary halt to progressive development. The famous concrete roads were constructed in the Sunderland Method, an Australian innovation. They were durable, but have now been replaced. Information on these roads is planned to be displayed on a notice-board in Sherwood Road Reserve. (These roads are well-described in WHS' 'HH' issues 208, 209 and 218). Part of the *Glen Alvie Estate's* ideals was to provide easily accessible parklands for the residents; we saw one such park off Winbourne Road, which had acquired new playground equipment since our last visit.

The old Mt Waverley Primary School, in Park Lane, was our next stop, via Toirram Road. Several acres were gifted to the council by the land-owning Peggie family in the early 1900's. The old original weatherboard building remains, flanked by many other buildings coping with the increased enrolments over the years. Nothing remains of the narrow School Lane from Waverley Road to the school door. Nostalgic recollections of two members, Chris and Ralph, who grew up in the area, added colour to the walk.

Continued on p.7

The Betterment Tax *(continued from HH240)*

The Betterment Tax was not unique to the construction of Victorian railways. It was applied in NSW (and the USA). It was levied on those landowners near to the railway line. The government claimed that it would be these landowners who would share in the prosperity generated by the railway's operations in the district. This was similar to the tax applied elsewhere, eg. the Somerton, Sandringham and Kew lines. It was inevitable that it was in-equitable. Some residents had a rare need for personal rail transport and others had no need for goods transport as they got their provisions from Oakleigh town and its railway station. The outcome of the auction of seized goods from the defaulters is well described using some extracts here from:

The Argus 6th December 1932 CROWD ATTACKS BIDDER Goods Returned to Owners

Motor cars, cycles, horses and carts and even perambulators lined the streets outside the Murrumbeena police station when goods which had been seized under distress warrants by the Glen Waverley and Darling Railway Trust were offered by auction in the police yard. A crowd of over 300 attended, many of whom were members of the East Malvern Ratepayers Association. Most had expressed a determination not to allow anyone to bid for the goods except those who had been appointed to do so.

....

By appointing bidders members of the Association hoped to buy the goods at ridiculously low prices and return them to the persons from whom they had been seized. In this they were successful. Only one "unauthorised" person bid for goods but instead of receiving goods he received a stunning blow on the jaw and kick the shins and the police had to protect him from further violence. The articles were sold for prices ranging from 1/- to 7/6. A piano went to the highest bidder for 2/6!

This auction was carried out by First Constable J. Kelly, who pluckily faced the crowd and called for the bidding. When the auction was completed someone called for "three cheers for the auctioneer." These were readily given and the crowd streamed out on to the roadway ... A motor lorry was then driven into the yard and later emerged laden with the goods that had been bought. A group of about 40 cars then set out in procession through Carnegie, along Dandenong Road to the Caulfield railway station and then to East Malvern where the goods were returned to their rightful owners.

Continued from p.2

Stepping into Sherwood Road, where the street is divided by a large park encircled by stately old palms, we also visited the two western park spaces situated between the houses. These little natural havens provide retreats for birds of the area. At the other end of the Sherwood Plantation lies the kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health Centre; this site was originally occupied by the Youth Centre, which was transported to the rear of the existing Youth Centre next to the Library, and is now home to the Monash Meals-on-Wheels Service.

The walkers were starting to straggle at this point. We were walking along Stephenson's Road and, from the eastern side could see what remains of the first hardware shop in the area, the only remaining double-storeyed building on the western side.

Further along, in the car-park near the entrance to The Highway, we stood on the spot where the very first general store was built and owned by the Taits of Waimarie Drive; this was the centre-point of the area before any other shops were built. The stables belonging to the old homestead, *Waimarie*, are still in existence, almost hidden by a high brick fence, but the original house has gone.

Final stop not far away. This was the Commemoration Walkway in the parkland on the corner of Miller Crescent and Stephenson's Road. The Walkway recognises some of the battle-fields in which Australian and New Zealand forces were involved in the First World War. What is now a most attractive garden, this area was once occupied by the old brick home of the Closter family; the home was finally demolished in 1978, despite much campaigning to retain it as a sturdy relic of a once flourishing farming area, which defined the suburb at the time. Not really all that long ago.

Before departing, MarJo described the railway station in its early days – it was the first premium station and particularly well-known for its picturesque plantings and rows of lemon trees running alongside the platforms. A very appreciative group thanked MarJo for yet another enjoyable walk. Even folk who can't quite manage the distance are welcome to attend these walks; a car ride between stops can be arranged.

Virginia Barnett

Continued from p.3 Towers, Nauru House, the former Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works building in Spencer St, Museum (now Melbourne Central), Underground Train Station, Rialto Towers, Telstra Corporate Centre in Exhibition Street, and the Crown Casino and Hotel complex in Southbank.

Held in the State Library Victoria, there is a 1962 photograph by Peter Willie, of the house at Mount Waverley, showing another (albeit painted white) cast-iron Melbourne Coat of Arms attached to the front of house. According to the source information associated with this photo, the owner is listed as, "L. M. Perrott". It would not be too much to assume that this person is Leslie M. Perrott (Junior). It would have been possible, during the demolition process of the Eastern Markets, for one of these cast-iron Melbourne coat of arms Eastern Market decorative elements – Melbourne City Crest c.1879, to be recovered by him and then attached to the front of his own then newly built self-designed house.

One of the first actions of the newly established Melbourne Town Council, in 1842, was to approve its seal and coat of arms. The design of the coat of arms reflects much about early Melbourne. The sheep, bull and whale represent the colony's chief exports in 1842 – wool, tallow (animal fat) and whale oil and the ship, depicts the settlement's means of European settlement and communication with the outside world.



Image <https://citycollection.melbourne.vic.gov.au/eastern-market-decorative-element/>



Photo: Peter Willie – 1962, held at State Library

Did you know?

When old farms and market gardens in Waverley were subdivided into suburban allotments, often the resultant suburban streets were placed where the homesteads' driveways had been.

The reason for this is that the drive had been designed to be reliable in all sorts of weather. They had already been built up against flooding and bogging conditions, gravelled against dustiness and provided with drainage to prevent washouts. They had stood the test of time. Why scrape that all away and recreate it somewhere else? The subdividers took full advantage of the work already done and the heavy machinery that entered the land to put in infrastructure and build homes were more likely to be able to do so efficiently.

Some examples of this include:

Anthony Drive This was the entrance to the Goff farm house from Waverley Road.



Monash Maps 1951



The Goff house looking south up the driveway, circa 1950

WHS Collection

Wirreanda with Historic Crest

Ralph G C Bartlett

As a teenager, during the late 1970's to early 1980's, delivering after school the then evening *The Herald* and also, once a week, the then *Waverley Gazette* newspapers, around some of the streets of Mount Waverley, there was one house that I always noticed.



Ralph delivering *The Herald* newspaper

While I do not remember at the time knocking on the door, to ask the owners about this Crest, which initially was difficult to identify as it was all painted white, I did eventually find out what the design details are and who it represents. The Crest represented the Town / City of Melbourne. Why ?



Mt. Waverley House & Historic Crest Jan 2013. *Wirreanda* is an Aboriginal word that means; "Place where wallabies live under tall trees".



The years and decades passed, and despite living the vast majority of my life here in the Mount Waverley area, this house kind of faded from my "front of brain" consciousness, until compiling the final parts of research for my recently published two part Mulgrave-

Oakleigh-Waverley- Monash article, "Signs of the Times" – HH #238 & 239. I went back to this house and photographed for myself a close-up of this Crest. Fortunately, both the house (Real Estate photos shown) and the Crest (my photo) were still in situ.

It turns out that this one of the few surviving Town/City of Melbourne Crests that were installed to decorate the spandrels of the arcades and verandas of the redeveloped Eastern Market in 1879. Melbourne's Eastern Market site was bounded by Bourke, Little Collins and Exhibition (formerly Stephen) Streets. The market was founded in 1847, and existed until 1960, when it was demolished to make way for the Southern Cross Hotel.



Eastern Market – cnr. Exhibition & Bourke Streets Melbourne c.1900s (Photo: State Library Vic.)

As the operator of Melbourne's markets, the Council had its coat of arms incorporated into the spandrels of the arcades and verandas of the redeveloped market site in 1879. The Eastern Market was demolished in 1960 by Whelan the Wrecker, to make way for the Southern Cross Hotel, completed in 1963. This particular cast-iron coat of arms was collected by the staff of Whelan the Wrecker, during the demolition, and given to the Council.

How did this decorative Crest get onto a House in Mount Waverley ?

While initially designed by the American architectural firm, Welton-Beckett, the final phases of the Southern Cross Hotel's design work were completed by leading Melbourne architectural firm, Leslie M. Perrott & Associates, run by the founder's eldest son, Leslie M. Perrott (Junior).

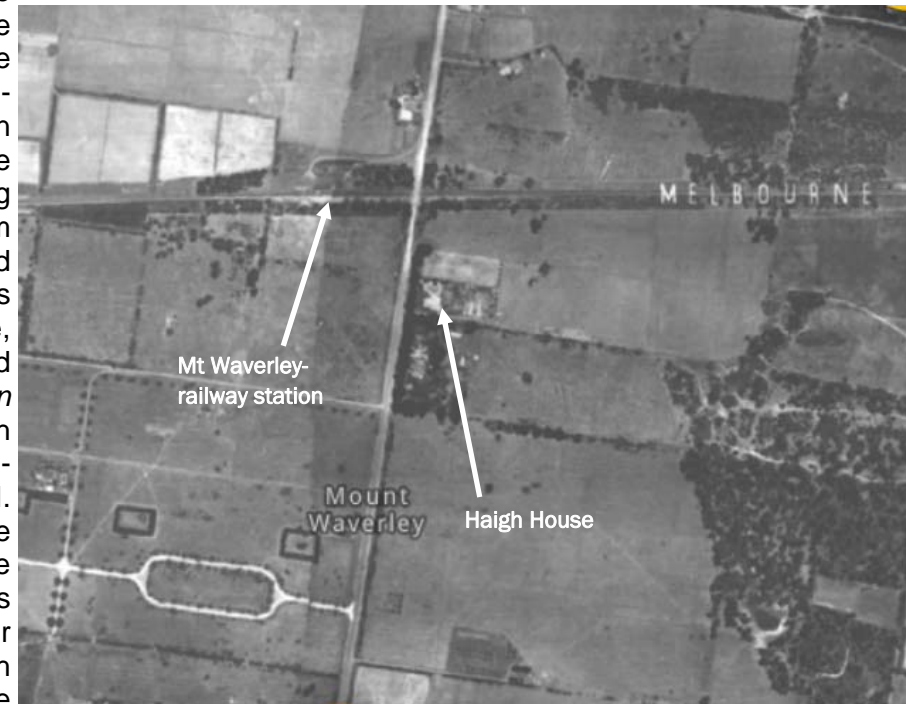
The father and son based firm worked on many of Melbourne's iconic buildings, both before and after WW II. During the 1970s and 80s they worked on such buildings as; the Collins (Street) Place *Continued p.6*

The Memories of Mt Waverley

Muriel Perry nee Haigh

During 1946 my father, Ben Haigh, purchased a house on 10 acres of land on the east side of Stephenson's Rd, Mt Waverley, right against the railway line. He had passed this idea past a friend, an estate agent, who shook his head and answered "No, Ben no". However, Dad went ahead with the purchase – I think he paid 3000 pounds for it.

Mt Waverley at the time consisted of 'our' house, which my parents named *Highfield*, and the house of our neighbours, who were two elderly sisters who ran the PO/store in a shed at the front of their property. Further south towards Waverley Rd were two or three houses on the east side of the road with paddocks between them. On the west side, coming back north from Waverley Rd there was perhaps another house, paddocks and then the *Glen Alvie Estate* which had been subdivided pre WW II. Beautifully done with concrete roads and gutters and areas left for parks planted with trees. There were



maybe just 2 or 3 houses built by 1946. Then there were more vacant paddocks up to the "line" and station. The paddocks seemed to run just a few cows, though there were the Marriot's market gardens on Waverley Rd. Across the line to the north were another 2 or 3 houses and perhaps a school. Off further north in High Street Rd were orchards, some of which belonged to the Lechte family. The general appearance was very laid back and quiet, almost drab. I know we had just been through 5 or 6 years of war.

We had often gone past the Waverley Rd end of Stephenson's Rd¹ as Mum and Dad had been members of the Glen Waverley Golf Club² for some years. If both were playing on a weekend, we children would be left to amuse ourselves along the creek. It was just a trickle. In spring we could pick handfuls of wild flowers. I remember the "early nancies" as we called them. I hope we did them no harm.

At the end of 1946 or early 1947 my family – ie. parents Ben and Muriel and sisters Betty, Joan, Anne and myself (another Muriel) moved in. I was 16. The house was probably built in the 1930s, and had four bedrooms, lounge, dining room, bathroom, breakfast room, kitchen and the toilet, which was outside off a small veranda. There was also an elongated shed against the neighbor's fence consisting of one "cool room?" which could have been for a separator for a dairy farm. Next section was a workshop, next was the laundry and then a wood shed. Further back was a large shed, which we used as a garage, and further behind the house, but well back were two long chook sheds.

The garden was pretty much neglected but there were hydrangeas along the south side of the house and they were OK.

The closeness to the station suited us all, especially myself, as I was about to "further my education" at the Burnley Horticultural College, which I could easily reach from Heyington station.

My younger sisters and father went into the city each day.

We had come from a house that Dad had built in Chadstone Rd, which at the time was in Carnegie Nth. We seemed to be on the very edge of Melbourne with open paddocks opposite and about 4 houses. The road probably had about 8 or 9 houses in it when we left

While at Chadstone Rd, we had had three minute walk or a one minute run. The "train" was just one carriage - dog box style - where you could not walk up and down between carriages. I think it consisted of about 8 or 10 doors, half each for 1st and 2nd class, divided as were the normal trains. The station was not manned and tickets were purchased from the guard. Monthly tickets were purchased at East Malvern. The train just ran from East Malvern to Glen Waverley and back again. They ran

about every hour - you did not want to miss the train. In the morning about 6 or 7 people would get on. All the strays must have come from "over the line" as I rarely saw anyone walk in on our side. By the time I left, five years later, there were possibly 15 people waiting for each morning train.

At night if any of her children were expected back on a late train from East Malvern, our mother would put our front porch light on (it faced the line) as the train went down (officially up) to East Malvern to let drivers know that one of her children would be on the returning train. Whether the drivers ever connected the porch light with our return, I will never know. However they were always very helpful. As the station was not lit, it was a dark walk towards the light on Stephenson's Rd. To help us see our way, the drivers would drive slowly out of the station lighting our way with their driving light. When we got to the corner near the street, we would give a wave, they would give a toot and off they would go.

Life was a bit harder for Mum than at Chadstone Rd, as the butcher, the baker and the laundry men did not call. We had been used to these services.

I think milk was delivered in pint glass bottles and the paper and mail could be picked up at the store. We managed. I am not sure where Mum did the shopping but probably Oakleigh, as it was on her way to golf. Mum and Dad no longer belonged to the G.W.G.C. I think it was still there then, but not for long. (It moved from what is now the Stableford Ave area, further east to beside the Dandenong Creek³).

Mum got her first washing machine to help out - she had been used to a copper and troughs. Next came an ironing "machine" that she could sit to use. I cannot say it was her favourite ap-

pliance. It was OK for tea towels and pillowslips, but as for shirts a definite NO.

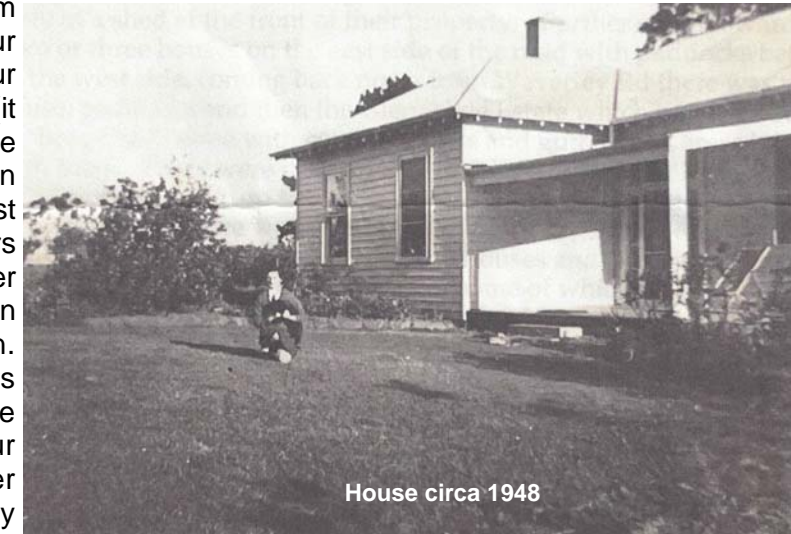
As the garden grew so did the size of the lawns, so Dad bought a motor mower - an Atco (I think it was called). It was the cylinder type and I was learning to drive one at Burnley. I think they preceded "Victas".

I got married (in 1952) in the Methodist church that we had attended, on High Street Rd, which then was fairly new. The wedding reception was held in a marquee on our front lawn. I then left Mt Waverley, but my parents were there for another 10 years. In that time they subdivided the acres, having to put in power, water and

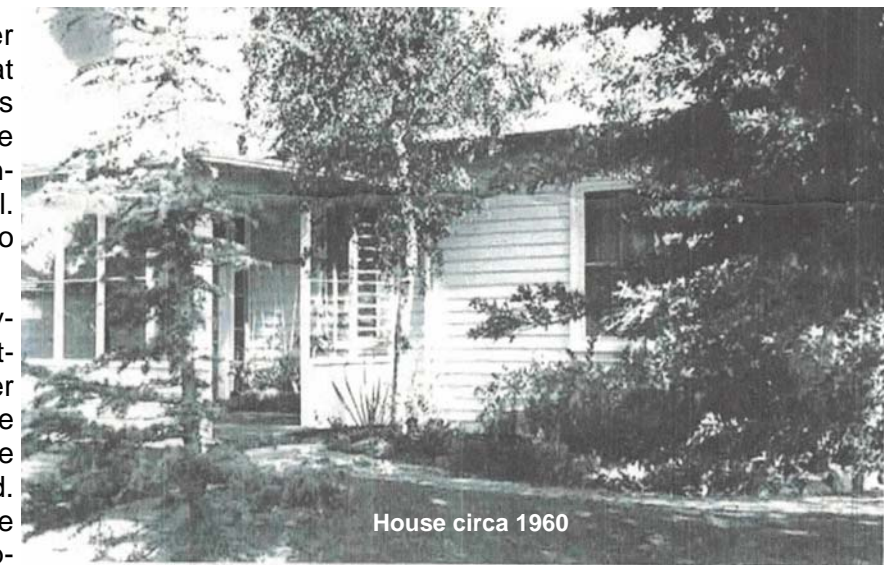
sealed roads. The roads were a fairly new requirement because the local councils could not keep up with the demand for sealed roads in new subdivisions that were being built post war. New homeowners were complaining about their boggy or dusty roads.

When Mum and Dad left, the house was sold to the Christian Scientists and the house was their church for some time. The house was demolished as the Christian Scientists' church grew. They still operate from there - 256 Stephenson's Rd, Mt Waverley.

May 2022



House circa 1948



House circa 1960

Notes

1. Stephenson's Rd made a T intersection with Waverley Rd. It did not go through to Clayton Rd until Amstel Golf Club was subdivided.
2. Waverley Golf Club Ed.
3. Waverley Golf Club moved to Rowville. The course next to Dandenong Creek is the Municipal course.