

2 pm Sunday 23rd February 2025

Motoring History
Modern Car Technology Advances
Jerry Ding



Ferntree Gully Rd Hillclimb trials.

Booking required by 18.2.25

via our Email
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

10am Sunday 23rd March 2025

Historical Walk
Essex Heights Area

Meeting Place and time will be advised to participants beforehand



Bring walking shoes, hat and water
Booking required by 18.3.25

via our Email
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com



HISTORY HERE 249

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Established 1970

Incorporated in Victoria
Reg. No. A 0006377 A
PATRON

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SUBSCRIPTION
\$25 per household

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City of Monash.

Contents

The House	1
AGM 2024 Report	2
From Shire to ... what?.....	2
Memories of Bonfire nights .	3
Land Titles	4
A Recent Acquisition	4
Pinewood 1971	5
From our Collection	6
Voyage to the New Country..	7
Coming Events	8

Annual subscriptions 2024/25 were due on 1 July 24. \$25 per household



1948 — The stable on the homestead property.

The House

This house is difficult to view behind its tall fence, but it was sold recently so some WHS members were able to see it inside and out. It was once the stables of the Tait family home in Stephenson's Rd. Readers may recall that they ran the first Post Office in Mt Waverley from 1904 onwards, first the mother and then various of her daughters.

Of course many changes have been made since the stable days, but one feature remains. The window over the front door was once the door that allowed hay bales and other feed to be stored in the loft, ready for gravity feeding the animals below.

The WHS is 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.

Coming Events

Next Event
Motoring History
Sun 23 Feb 2025

April 2025
No meeting at our rooms but,
ANZAC
Wreath Laying
at Glen Waverley Cenotaph
Near GW Library



WHS Members at the 2024 event

Details to be advised

2 pm Sunday 25th May 2025

London to a Brick Veneer
Bartlett's Designed House



by

Ralph Bartlett

At our rooms

Booking required by 20.5.25

via our Email
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com

Thank you to Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood District, for assistance with printing of this publication. If you require assistance with any State Government issues please contact Matt's office.

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STATE MEMBER FOR ASHWOOD



WHS Annual General Meeting

Sunday 25th August, 2024

On a somewhat cold Sunday we had our AGM. After the presentation of the President's and Financial reports were presented. It was noted that the Society is in a satisfactory financial position with continuing book sales and attendance at our general meetings. Our Wednesday open days continue with members updating our records while responding to visitor queries.

Elections were held and the following persons were elected.

President Ralph Bartlett

V President MarJo Angelico

V President Philip Johnstone

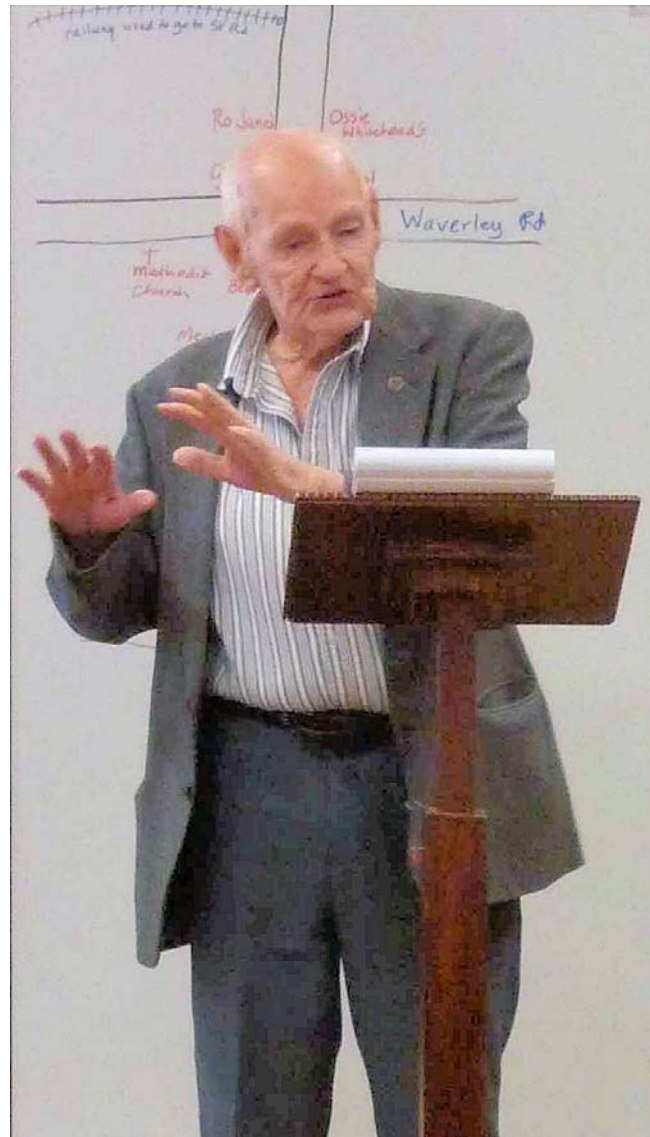
Secretary Kerrie Flynn

Treasurer John Angelico

Committee Norma Schultz, Virginia Barnett, Sandra Hymas, Chris Norton, Carina Leitch, Sueie McGrath.

Following the AGM we welcomed Les Bailey who entertained us with his memories of growing up in Glen Waverley over the period 1940 to 1990. We enjoyed his accounts of people and events which brought back many recollections to the audience of the once rural district. The stories have been encapsulated in a book with many photographs of buildings in the district of the period.

The WHS has copies of his book entitled *My Glen Waverley* for sale.



Les Bailey

From Shire to ...What?

Should the shire become a township? That was the bitterly debated question 120 years ago, as reported in *The Argus* on Sat 26.11.1904:

MUNICIPAL INTELLIGENCE - A SCENE IN MULGRAVE COUNCIL

Considerable excitement and personal recrimination was exhibited at the Mulgrave Shire Council on Thursday consequent on the proclamation of the township of Mulgrave, which includes Black Flat and surrounding neighbourhood. The president said it was not alone in a straightforward way, and moved that a letter, under the seal of the council, be sent the Governor in Council, asking him to revoke the proclamation, and a copy of the letter be sent to the Minister of Lands.

Councillor Cotter in seconding, said the matter had been dropped by the council, and that Councillor Jane had gone with an old petition with the seal of the council on, and used it as a lever to obtain the proclamation.

Councillor Lane, who had taken a leading part in obtaining the proclamation, said that the original petition was only used in defining the boundaries and the proclamation was urged at the request of the rate-payers. He protested against the president putting the motion, as it was extraordinary business and notice should be given.

Amidst a scene of wild excitement the president put the motion which was carried.

The Voyage to the New Country

The following are excerpts from a letter written home to the UK from the gold diggings in 1861. The letter was written by the grandfather of a WHS member who lived in Charles St Mt Waverley in 1971. The spelling and grammar have been left in the writer's own style but paragraph breaks have been added for readability.

"Tarnagulla",
NOVEMBR 24, 1861

My dear Mother,

It is with more than pleasure that I write to acquaint you not only of my safe arrival, but that I am as I hope you and all at home are in excellent health and spirit.

We started as you are aware from Liverpool on the 10th August and made a very good passage of it considering the winds being so slight and baffling we reached port on the 1st November making the passage in 80 days, but thank God we had not much illness on board except the usual sea saicknes.

Thursday it came very rough, the wind blew very strong and the waives was mountin high. By that time nearly all the parties on board was sick.

On Sunday the 18th we past Cape Clear it still remained very rough. I am sure if you could only see us this day you would laugh hartily the ship was rowling very much we were getting some bully soup for dinner that day as we were carrying it from the Galley about a dozen fell down with the rowling of the ship and lost all our soup, so we had to live without dinner this day. So in eight days we got clear of the Irish Channell and from this to the end of our voyage we had very favourable winds.

Sept 3rd we could reckon before us eighteen ships which had been in a calm some of them as much as three weeks which we passed by the afternoon. Some of them were very large ships.

Sept 14th we crossed the line at two o'clock in the morning we had a fine steady breeze to cross it, the afternoon of the same day we had lots of sport, with the sailors shaving all sailors that had not crossed the line before, they shaved fifteen sailors and one of the passengers.

Oct 3rd we had a great deal of snow and it was very cold the sea was so very rough that we had a very hard work to stop in bed this night and we could not sleep



with the ratling of the benches falling down and the tins and earthenware moving from one side to the other of the rooms.

31st - All passengers was on the look out for land which we sighted between seven and eight o'clock in the evening.

Nov 1st We entered Port Phillip heads about elean o'clock in the morning where the pilot came on board and Docter which praised the ship very much for its being so cleane where there was so many pas-sengers, we had a very fine breeze to go through the bay, we anchored about a couple of miles of Wil-liams Town at two o'clock.

We went on shore in the afternoon in a small boat to Sandridge and then by rail to Melbourne so here we are at our journeys end quite safe, placed in a good comfortable bording house after a pleasent voyage which I enjoyed very much. I can assure you I never spent a happier three months in my life.

Saturday I walked about good many places enquir-ing for a situation, but the trade being so slow here at present all places were full and good many out of situation, and the salaries are low here at present.

So I determined to try the digings. So we left Mel-bourne Monday morning by train for Woodend, and thereby coach for Forest Creek (Now Castlemaine -Ed) which we reach be-tween five and six in the afternoon. And there en-quired for John and Bet-sie which I very soon found out and found that they were enjoying very good health and very comfortable. Sunday I spent the day with Rus Williams formerly of Mer-thyr who is keeping a store here.

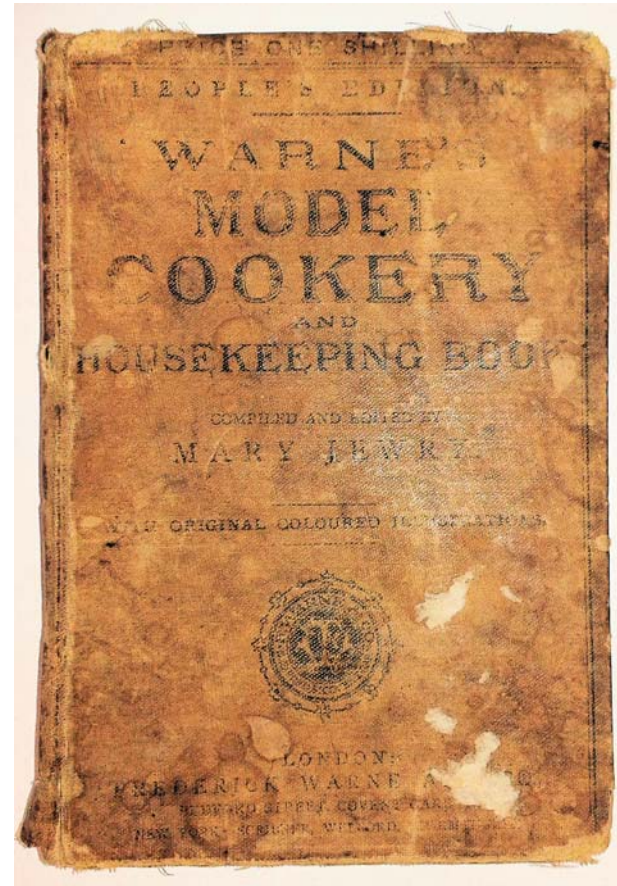
Monday John Morgan and myself commenced diging so went out to the bush along with William Thomas alias Penlan and he fixed out a place for us and we sunk down 11 feet and got half a pennyweight a tub so I thought that was very good for new chums.

I remain your Affectionate Son, Daniel Davies

I hope you are all enjoying so good health as you had when I left and Jane you mind to be a good girl to Mother. Please give me all the news on the letter you will send me because I am very anxious to hear of the Old Country and a Newspaper if you will be so kind.

We recently received a varied range of historic items (thank you Betty) including some well recognizable common kitchen utensils from the 1940/50's with some lesser known particular pieces related to a trade skill.

A flippant observation might be that cooking and eating have not changed for thousands of years. You take the ingredients; whether they may be as meat, fish or fowl; fruits or grains and then heat them to varying temperature or time. Present times allow automation and precise control of the variable parameters. Consider the cooking of venison shown below from a cookery book printed in 1868, yes 156 years ago. Now reflect on how this might be presented today. A glossy full colour picture would accompany the recipe.



PREFACE

In preparing a People's Edition of the Model Cookery Book, the Publishers have been careful that such receipts should be selected as best suit the requirements of housekeepers with small incomes. At the same time a few dishes have been added for home entertainments, &c, of a rather more expensive kind.

Plain cooks will find full instructions in it, by which they may execute any receipts hereafter placed in their hands, and it is hoped that by all readers this condensation of the "Model Cookery" will be found generally found useful.

*The Preface to this old book.
Note the old term Receipts for what we now know as Recipes*

To Clean an Old Silk Dress

Unpick the dress, and brush it with velvet brush. Then grate two large potatoes into a quart of water; let it stand to settle; strain it off quite clear, and sponge the dress with it. Iron it on the wrong side, as the ironed side will be shiny.

VENISON.

Haunch of Venison.

Time, three to four hours.

311. Haunch from twenty to twenty-five pounds.

This joint is trimmed by cutting off part of the knuckle and sawing off the chine bone, then the flap is folded over, and it is covered with a paste made of flour and water. This paste should be about an inch thick. Tie it up in strong and very thick paper, and place it in a cradle spit very close to the fire till the paste is well hardened or crusted, pouring a few ladlefuls of hot dripping over it occasionally to prevent the paper from catching fire. Then move it further from the fire, take care that your fire is a *very* good one, clear and strong. When the venison has roasted for about four hours take it up, remove the paper and paste, and run a thin skewer in to see if it is done enough. If the skewer goes in easily it is dressed, if not put it down again, as it depends greatly on the strength of the fire for so large a joint. When it is dressed, glaze the top and salamander it. Put a frill round the knuckle, and serve very hot with strong gravy. Red currant jelly in a glass dish or a tureen. Vegetables: French beans.

Sago Gruel

Time two hours and a quarter

735. One ounce of sago; one pint of water; one glass of sherry; sugar and ginger; lemon juice or nutmeg to taste.

Stand the sago in a pint of water on the hob to soften for two hours. Boil it for a quarter of an hour, keeping it well stirred, sweeten and flavour as preferred, then add the wine.

Virginia Barnett

Our meeting on 27th October was ably organised by Carina and gave a chance for all members present to talk about their memories of the ancient tradition: *Bonfire Night*.

The tradition of Bonfire Night goes back to 1605, a long time ago, to the 5th November of this portentous year, when a certain young man, Guy Fawkes, along with his accomplices, planned to blow up the British Houses of Parliament with the intention of assassinating King James 1, in order to spark a Catholic uprising in Protestant England, thus enabling religious freedom for all.

Subsequent capture of Fawkes and his confessing to this great undertaking, resulted in him being arrested while guarding the explosives* the plotters had placed beneath the House of Lords. He was sentenced to a traitor's death by being hanged, drawn and quartered: not just Fawkes, but his co-conspirators as well. Based on strong tradition, every year, before the Opening of Parliament, a yeoman conducts a check of the building, just to rule out the possibility of an explosion.

History lesson over, the assembled members were invited to give their accounts of their childhood memories of *Cracker Night*. These events have been in existence in this country since the 19th century, brought here by British colonizers. Our stories were all similar, but different. The central attraction was the bonfire itself, often situated in places that were not exactly safe and fire units were on high alert, if not present at the site. As MarJo said, these events preceded 'hard rubbish collections' and anything and everything went up in smoke.

Christine, from the quiet surrounds of Kew, said the well-anticipated nights provided a special once-in-a-year camaraderie. Kerrie, whose home abutted paddocks and profuse blackberry clusters, piles of which ended up in the bonfires, remembered in particular the fun they had with sparklers. Golden Rains, Roman Candles, Catherine Wheels and Tom Thumbs were the order of the day.

Ralph said a bonfire was always close to his home, given that there were empty blocks on his street and he recalls neighbours with hoses at the ready. Alvie Road, where Chris lived, sounded pretty wild back then and he, firing a rocket which landed near railway works, was observed by an assiduous worker who doxed him into the police; notwithstanding there was a threat of fine and a court attendance ensued,

based on what was later deemed a huge over-reaction. Philip lived near the wilds of Gardiners Creek in Ashburton where, more than once, fires got out of hand. One year, someone got in early and lit the prepared pile of rubbish, which put an end to bonfires in his part of the woods.

All good fun and merriment, but also foolhardy pranks occurred amongst these would-be pyrotechnicians. We have all heard of dreadful 'accidents' with crackers and Carina enlightened us with a few more. The odd death has been recorded. In 1974, the Hamer government banned the sale of explosive fireworks and in 1982 they were banned for good. The Northern Territory and Tasmania, though, have kept up the tradition.

But mostly our memories were of happy, fun times and these bonfire nights were an integral part of our childhood.

'Remember, remember, the 5th of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
I see no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.'

Ralph, our President, thanked Carina for organising such an enjoyable topic for our meeting.

* Reported to be 36 barrels of gunpowder and calculated to be 2500 kg.

More recently (2003) *New Scientist* magazine reports that: Experts from the Centre for Explosion Studies, at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, used modern methods to estimate that severe structural damage would have been sustained by buildings up to half a kilometre away. The explosion would have destroyed Westminster Abbey and undermined buildings as far away as Whitehall, the site of Downing Street today. They found that within a radius of about 40 metres, everything would have been razed to the ground. Within 110 metres, buildings would have been at least partially destroyed. And some windows would have been blown out even as far as 900 metres away.



New Scientist 5 Nov 2003

Land Titles - From European settlement to Native Title recognition

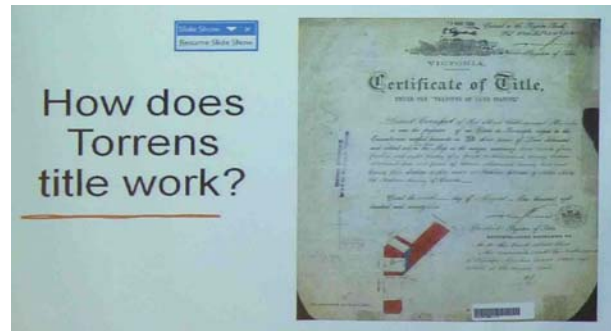
Our September Talk, "Land Titles - From European Settlement to Native Title Recognition", was presented to attending Members by the recently retired Deputy Registrar of Title / Director of Land Registry Services, Mr. Richard Jefferson.

The Talk reviewed how Land Registration has developed since the 1830's, under the "Old Law" - Memorial Deeds system, then the introduction of the "Torrens System" of Victorian government guaranteed Certificates of Title, in October 1862, then the introduction of the first computers in the mid 1980's to start the 30+ years programme to computerise the entire registration process and scan all 3 million+ Certificates of Titles, plus Transfer and related documents, as well as all Plans of Subdivision / Consolidation and their related documents, up to and including the recognition and introduction of Native Titles.

The Talk was accompanied with a PowerPoint presentation of relevant images and actual examples of a "chain" of Memorial Deeds and Certificates of Title, showing their changing physical appearance and type of material used to produce them. At the end of the talk Richard Jefferson

presented to the Society a complimentary copy of the official history of Victoria's Land Titles Office, *Safe As Houses*

Ralph Bartlett



Richard Jefferson (L) receiving a *Then and Now* from President Ralph Bartlett (R) receiving *Safe As Houses*

Recent Acquisition

Cuisenaire

In the last newsletter we printed a request for a set of cuisenaire rods, and we are happy to say, our member Jane A found one for sale and donated it to the Society. Thanks, Jane!

Rods, as they were often called for brevity, were an educational aid that took the world by storm in the 1950s, but the fad was relatively short-lived in many schools. They were designed to help children master arithmetic concepts quickly and easily. They were named after their French inventor, Georges Cuisenaire, a music and maths teacher.

What we would like now is YOUR EXPERIENCE with rods. Did you use them? Or maybe your children or others you knew used them? Did you find them helpful or confusing? Do you know of anyone still using them? Please share what you remember of this educational phenomenon that came and went in our lifetime.



Pinewood 1971



The WHS was delighted recently to receive this image of a fairly young Pinewood Shopping Centre. It was on an investment brochure and the caption stated, "Part of Pinewood shopping centre, Mt Waverley Vic, comprising a supermarket and six shops which are owned by the trust."

Features to notice:

It is *New World*, not *Coles New World*.

Three shops are visible – an ANZ bank, a delicatessen and one other (Can you read it?).

The bunting suggests a recent opening.

A chemist sign can be seen behind the deli.

Where and when has Pinewood had angle parking as is shown in the foreground?

In fact, we puzzled over the exact perspective for some time and were about to consider that an er-

ror had been made about the location when we came across the following image from a 1974 Waverley Gazette, announcing the plans for Waverley Cinema (circled). Note carefully the new building comprising Coles and six shops, three facing south and three facing Blackburn Rd; also the small plot of angle parking serving them. Therefore the new image above was taken from approximately where the Priceline pharmacy is now, and looking northwest.

The ANZ would have been where Subway is now, and the cafe "Southern Society", "Coomart" and Dollar House shops plus their upstairs offices (all to the right of Coles now) were not built yet. (Also the cafes and fresh food market on the west side of Coles were not built yet.)



Aerial view of Pinewood looking NE