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July- Open House Melb;
Aug - Victorian Collections;
Sept - Driver bus depot tour
Oct - Remote police work.

The Bartlett House

Architect designed and built, this remarkable 1950s brick veneer house features timber panelling, a stone rendered chimney, and above all, lots of natural light in every room, achieved through high ceilings and large windows. The gardens were created to preserve as many of the existing eucalyptus trees as possible. This picture shows the designers, Griffin and Norma Bartlett with their first young son Charles in about February 1962.



FORWARD NOTICE

Starting in November this year, WHS will trial general meetings on **the LAST Sundays of the month**, rather than the fourth. This is because some of our members have other commitments on fourth Sundays. Please let us know how this affects you on waverleyhsvic@gmail.com.

WHS Publications

Books published by Waverley Historical Society are available from our rooms on Wednesday afternoons. Payment is by cash or direct deposit. Some as-new secondhand copies are available there too.

At other times, our books are available from **Pinewood newsagency** where credit cards are accepted.

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

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London to a Brick Veneer

A very pleasant diversion on a chilly Sunday afternoon was the chance to listen to our President, Ralph, aided by his brother Charles, outline the story of the home his parents built in Adelaide Avenue, Mt Waverley.

Ralph's father, Griffin, was an English architect who made his way to our shores back in 1958 aboard the 'SS Orsova', as a ten-pound Pom, having become engaged to an Australian girl from Glen Iris. Soon after, he married his Norma, and together they set out for the rolling hills of Mt Waverley, to the newly heralded 'Grandview Estate' and laid down a twenty-pound deposit for a quarter-acre block. The full price of the block was £1210. As Griffin and Norma were both contributors to the design and build, the house would combine English and Australian design elements and, more importantly, conserve whatever they could of the eucalypts already established on the block. With agreement on both scores, building began. Griffin was keen to install as many of his own ideas as possible.



Front entrance detail

btreatment was featured over the back lounge and dining-room's windows. There were three sets of french windows leading from out of both sides of the lounge room, which resulted in many little birds meeting a sticky end as they flew into the glass, completely thrown by yet another window on the other side of the room which gave a fly-through invitation. The high panelled glassed windows in the elevated ceiling allowed for a house full of light.

The house was completed in 1960 and was certainly a different house in an ordinary street and a credit to Griffin and Norma for their combined thoughts and ideas and the perseverance to carry them through. Its split roofline, as depicted in photos, set it apart. A house is just a house without a garden, and Griff went to great pains to make the most of slopes and curves and running water, creating a flagged front path overhanging with a lush fern garden and a perceptive choice of plants.

Griff and Norma moved in in March 1960, being joined by the birth of their two sons, Charles and Ralph in February 1961 and March 1963. Cubby-houses for children were probably quite popular in this era but the Bartlett's was quite something. A photo showed two little fair-haired boys in 1967, sitting at the table, during their little house's construction. Ultimately, its pitched roof and front balcony looking over rustic wooden steps leading to a 'moat', complete with drawbridge! Two unique houses on the one block.

Eventually, the house was sold in 1997, and in a sense it is still there but has been remodelled beyond recognition. Cubby demolished; pool in situ. A once brick veneer, neat design, still presents as a house of light, but is a "monstrosity", in Ralph's words. Ralph and Charles are happy to know that the old house's basic design and framing is still there – somewhere.

As audience, we thanked Ralph, and Charles, for their effort and research in presenting such an interesting talk, peppered with anecdotes and pictures of early maps of this part of Mt. Waverley.

- Virginia Barnett



Ralph Bartlett (right) describing the house, supported by his brother Charles.



Ireland's Dairy

In the last newsletter we featured Gallus's dairy in Ashwood. This month we feature another large and well-patronised dairy from years gone by, and again there are still remnants remaining for the history sleuth to find.

Simeon Ireland was born in Somerset, England in 1839. In 1858 he married Fanny Napper and immediately left for Australia, settling in Bellett's Bull Paddock (now Bellett St Camberwell). For three years he walked to his job at Cheeseman's Nursery in Brighton! Later he asked permission to keep a cow between the rows of the apple trees he tended at the Burridgebbb orchard, and sold the resulting milk in billies.



The Ireland's Dairy 'ghost sign,' showing a healthy baby and establishment date 1872.

In 1879 he had 12 cows and a two-wheeled horse-drawn milk cart, and Ireland's dairy had begun. He built a house and dairy in Myrniong Grove Hawthorn, and the buildings are still standing as a block of units. Simeon's son William and grandson Frank helped run the business and by 1912 they had three carts and were leasing 180 acres for their horses and their 60 hand-milked cows.

Milk sold for four-pence a quart. In 1912 milk started being sold in bottles with china stoppers with rubber rings. Earlier the milkman would ladle milk from his 50-quart can into the householder's jug or billy. Bottling became compulsory in about 1926, first with a cardboard top, then a cap and finally the foil tops many will remember came in about 1938.

In 1938 Frank Ireland bought Wilson's pig farm and in 1951 Gleeson's market garden, both in Ferntree Gully Rd Wheelers Hill; later the dairy in Blackburn Rd and the land in Springvale Rd where the Glen Waverley rail line ends (now Caltex service station). There were other properties in Portsmouth St Mt Waverley, Viewmount Rd Wheelers Hill, and further afield where the family bred horses and grazed the cows.



The Ireland's Dairy site in Blackburn Rd Syndal, where the solid brick coolroom still stands as part of the Italian Pentecostal Church.

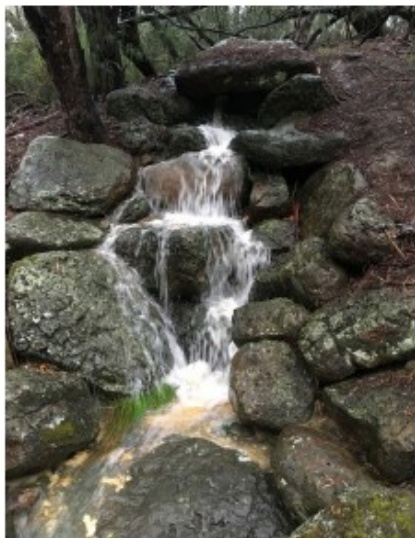
Milk was delivered between 1 and 3am, and paid for by leaving money in the meter box, visiting the dairy in Blackburn Rd each week, or waiting till Mrs Ireland visited.

In Waverley the main Ireland's dairy was on Blackburn Rd, just north of the High St Rd intersection. The buildings now house the Italian Pentecostal Church, and the fore-most structure is the old solid-brick coolroom. It was established in 1954 and its iron sign featuring a contented baby and the words, "Ireland's Milk, Ireland's Dairies Pty Ltd" can still be read (just). It is welded to a steel post on the boundary of the property. Home-delivered milk in Mulgrave/Waverley in the 1950s to 70s began its journey here.



This is a recently acquired photograph of **Waverley High School**, which was on the SW corner of Waverley and Huntingdale Rds. It was taken from the gate on that corner where the school name was announced. The school began in Feb 1956 at Ashburton huts, where many Waverley schools had, with 102 students. The name was to have been Holmeslen High on 7th Feb, then Jordaville High 10 days later, and lastly Waverley High in March. It was able to move into these buildings that same year, and enrolments doubled the following year and peaked at 900 in 1961. At the end of 1991 it was merged with Mt Waverley High and these buildings were finally demolished in 1997. A farewell mug was produced in 1996. Do you have images of this seldom pictured school?

Damper Creek Waterfall



Now that rains have come, the waterfalls at Damper Creek can be viewed, as was impossible during our March walk. The waterfalls only flow when it has rained in the streets near the creek, as this is stormwater that would naturally feed the waterways of the area.

Those who attended the WHS meeting featuring Friends of Damper Creek (FODC) last year, or the walk this year, will recall the praise for "The 2 Tonys : artists with excavators" who carefully laid the rocks that protect the creek from erosion. The restoration with the Two Tonys (Tony Brindley and Tony De LaRosa of Wetland and Wildlife creations) commenced about 1993. Here is an example of how they made functional yet beautiful use of rocks to line the erosion-prone banks. Photo courtesy of FODC website.

Who were they?

In a recent issue of this journal we asked who this couple were. We have now found the answer. They were passers-by when the Waverley Gazette reporters were photographing the newly constructed pedestal and sundial commemorating the Closter house which had stood nearby. This version of the image appeared in the Gazette on Nov 12th 1980, p11. They are **George and Roma Champion**. Did you know them?





BILLY tea, anyone?

I have often wondered about the origins of the term “billy,” that standard piece of swagman gear that we feature on Australia Day. While looking for something else, I found this information on The Hitchhikers' Guide (https://h2g2.com/edited_entry/A896628). The term comes from either (or both) the Aboriginal word *billa*, meaning water (as in *billabong*) and the French *bouillabaisse*, or beef soup (also where *bully beef* comes from). Apparently in the gold era such cans of soup were sold to the diggers, who later used the empty

cans to boil water for tea. (They also made tin cups from old condensed milk tins.) Surprisingly, the term *billy*, *billycan* or *billypot* has now emigrated to UK, Canada and other countries, where the name must seem very random!

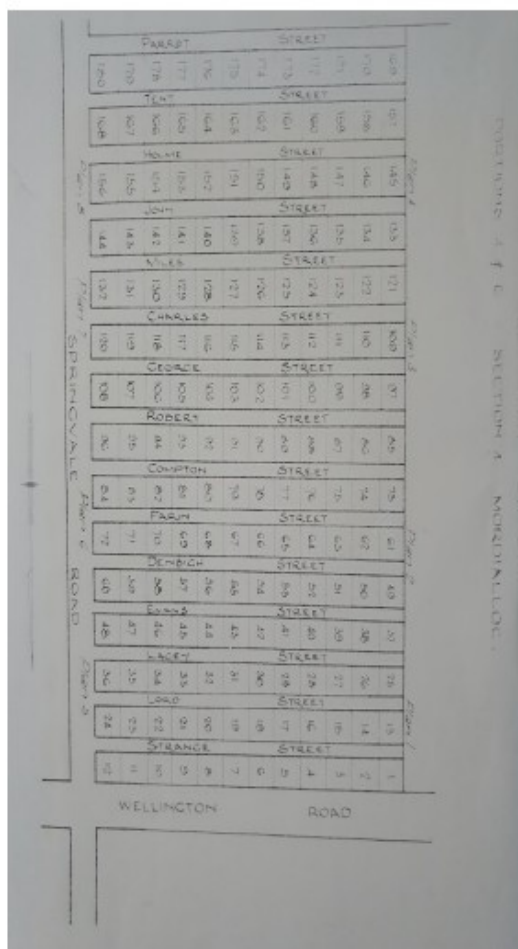


Who was David Crawford?

He must have been remarkable, because a Reserve is named after him in Orchard St Glen Waverley. There are scout halls there, and it looks like a new bike path traverses it. Any information on his story would be much appreciated.

Subdivision Leaflets

As far as real estate advertising goes, the example on the right is rather plain and singularly uninformative. Being the corner of Wellington and Springvale Rds, it boasts it is a “Plan of Wellington Township.” The 180 properties are all square with two street accesses, streetnames being Parrot, Tent, Holme, John, Miles, Charles, George, Robert, Compton, Farin, Denbigh, Evans, Lacey, Lord and Strange – but where are these streets now? As it happens, only one of those streets was ever formed, and it shares its name with the nearby creek. Do YOU have a real estate brochure to share with us?



BURWOOD BULLETIN

The latest issue of Burwood Bulletin (#176, Winter 2025) is now out and available for you to pick up at our rooms. More and more we appreciate this high-quality volunteer-run community newsletter with its interesting array of articles. In this issue, discover which famous Australian children's author comes from Ashwood. However our collection is incomplete. If you have copies of any issues between Issues 115 and 150, please talk to us.

NICK HOOPER : 'RELATABLE'

A wintry afternoon did not prevent a good attendance at our June meeting when we were entertained by Nick Hooper, author of 'Relatable', a social history of the Waverley in which he grew up. It's always nice to wallow in nostalgia for a while and everyone present was able to relate and comment on what we now regard as the halcyon days, never to return.

So, out in what was considered the 'Boondocks', in 1967, Nick's parents moved into their new home at 10 Packham Crescent, with nearby streets named Cherry, Pippin and Orchard, reflecting the previous era of agriculture and fruit growing. In 1972, Packham Crescent was awarded the honour of 'Best Street in Waverley'. The Hooper home was eventually sold in 2002, and Nick remarked that most of the old homes in the street have now been remodelled, removed or restructured, a not uncommon story throughout the suburb. Nick's book focuses on his own family and observations of his childhood into the seventies and eighties; his parents and sister were present as well and able to bolster his bouncy recollections.

The first picture was a flashback in time, of Nick and his Dad in the backyard, Dad pushing the Valiant mower, resplendent in sandals and socks and a hairdo not at all out of place back then. The two schools which Nick attended, Syndal Primary and Syndal Secondary, are now no more. An old pic of the Blackburn Road/High Street Road intersection was taken before the Right Hand Turn sign was incorporated; an old telephone box outside the barber's on the north-west corner of this intersection was one of those boxes, and there were quite a few, which churned out free interstate calls – for a while. Most locals knew about this and queues were common; another such box existed opposite the Syndal Station. Nick's further schooling required train travel and he fondly remembered the old blue trains with doors which didn't exactly close and flying over the Blackburn Road railway bridge would have been hair-raising.

He recalls shopping with his family at Schultz's in High Street Road, run by the Schultz brothers, one being John Schultz, a Brownlow Medallist. A big jump over to VFL Park and an aerial photo of a full attendance. He played in the 'Little League' and back then they played on the whole ground, not just a sliver of ground like today. Nick pointed out that the now Centre Square was once a Centre Diamond, the change occurring in 1975.

Most of the audience had attended footie games there and could remember the long wait exiting the car park after the Game. Sport had a big presence in Nick's early life with strong support from family, as was so often the case.

Nick's talk, and book, focused on the Syndal area. He believes in the importance of recording events and his book is an excellent example of social history. Along with an appreciative audience, our President, Ralph, thanked Nick for his presentation.

- Virginia Barnett



Syndal High had an unusual design



Syndal High school bag



Nick Hooper receiving a thank you from our President

Vale Les Bailey

WHS was saddened to hear of the passing of Les Bailey in May. Les was a long-time resident of Glen Waverley (as recorded in his book, *My Glen Waverley*) and also longstanding member of our Society.

Les was born in Watsons Rd Glen Waverley to Alec and Alice (nee Dunscombe) Bailey in 1939. The closest doctor was in Oakleigh, and Alec rode his bike through puddles and potholes to the store on Waverley and Springvale Rds to call him. However the midwife Sr Todd was closer in Wheelers Hill and rode her bike to deliver Les.

Alice's grandmother was a Herriott, and Herriotts were the first settlers in the area. Others bought land but did not live on it with their families. Thus the area was called Herriotts Flat, then Black Flat, and much later Glen Waverley. The corner of Springvale and Ferntree Gully Rds used to be called Bailey's corner, and Springvale Rd was originally Baileys Rd, both due to Les's great grandparents running a general store there.

In 1960 Les married Ivy and they lived in the farmhouse previously occupied by Harold and Thelma Cornell, parents of Ron and Ken, the famous Mt Waverley footballers and cricketers, which would have suited footy-mad Les very well. Les and Ivy went on to have five children, sixteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Despite the ever-growing size of the family, Les and Ivy hosted family dinners every Friday night. They also attended all the grandchildren's special events, concerts and so on, as well as maintaining their own busy lives. The children unanimously voted that they had had the best possible upbringing.

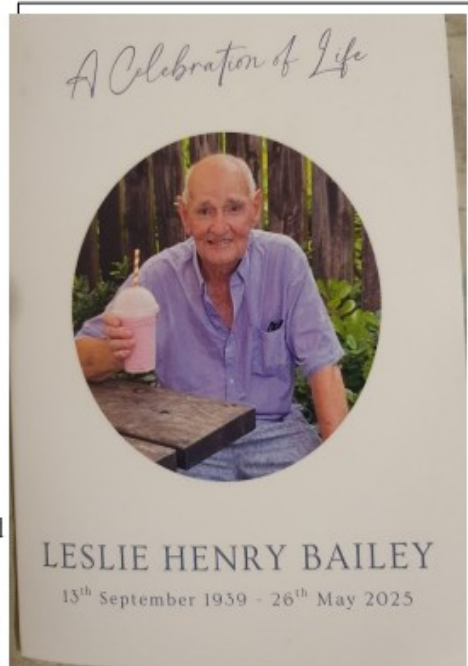
The Baileys were extremely keen footballers, and both Les and his father were life members of GWFC. They played, coached, raised funds and even transported Juniors to games in a van. They were the only father and son team to have been both Presidents and life members. While Les was president the club made it to the VFA, and Les was made a life member of VFA as well. Les's son Glenn is maintaining the family name and is also a life member of GWFC.



Young Les

Another of Les's passions was music and dancing, and Les followed his father into DJ work at the local Mechanics Institute running dances and other events for the community. The experience led to jobs later in life as a city functions manager for several councils (not all at once!).

Les led a full and active life as a member of the Glen Waverley community and a family man. He will be missed, but remembered with admiration and affection.





Sat.-Sun., 26–27 July 2025

For details and bookings please refer to:

<https://openhousemelbourne.org>

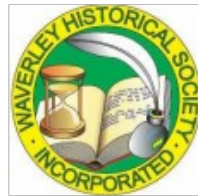
Bookings fill fast, so browse and book soon.



Bus Depot Tour
Sunday, 28 Sept. 2025
2:00 pm



Please book for more details
waverleyhsvic@gmail.com



Annual General Meeting
Sun., 24 August 2025
at 2:00 pm

ALL WELCOME
NEW LOCATION

Alvie Hall

(Cnr. Alvie Rd. & High St. Rd.,
Mt. Waverley)

Followed by a Talk by

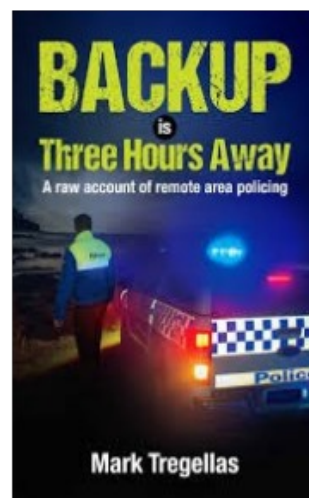
Jackie Fraser, Program Manager,
Victorian Collections



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Australian Museums and Galleries
Association of Victoria

Talk – Wav. Hist. Soc. Rooms
Mt. Waverley Branch Library
ALL WELCOME



Sun., 26 October 2025
at 2:00 pm