

It's coming

Then and Now 2

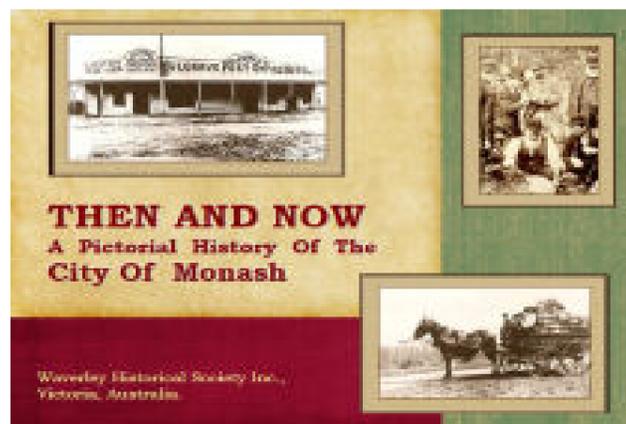
To mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Waverley Historical Society we have produced *Then and Now 2*. This is a follow up to the widely accepted initial volume published in 2010. This is presented in the same style as before with *Then and Now* images of the same location at a range sites in the City of Monash. The early images that some of our earlier residents may well remember, are complemented with some historical background notes. The book comprises 60 coloured pages of images and text in A4 size.

This book, (Vol. 2), and *Then and Now (1)* will be available for \$20 each.

The WHS will also supply books by mail order and have copies available during our opening hours. See the WHS webpages for the mail order purchase request form. This is an ideal Xmas gift for family and friends.



Below is the companion *Then and Now (Vol. 1)*



Our Streets Names Returns

After being unavailable for over 2 years, access to Waverley Streets directory is now available through the Monash local library catalogue. Here are the steps to follow:

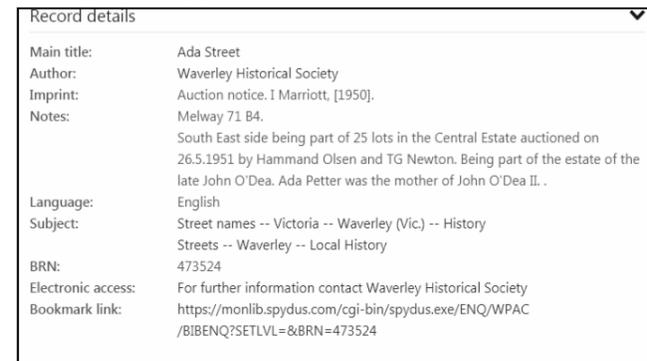
Go to Monash Library home page
<https://monlib.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>.

Then using the down arrow in box that says Full Catalogue (arrowed here), scroll down and change it to *Waverley Street Index* as shown.



Then in the *Search by Keyword* box, type in the full name of the Street you want and press *Enter*. A choice will then appear as it does when book searching. Click on your choice and if there is information about this street it will be presented there for you to read. Here is an example:

Type in **Ada Street** (*Hint do not abbreviate to St*), then press *Enter*. Make your choice: *Click on Ada Street* and then more information will appear. Included in the directory are some reserves that have the same name as an adjacent street. Where another street or estate is associated with your chosen "search street" it may also appear in the result.



The WHS has maps of the Monash city showing many Estate boundaries that were created during subdivision of many pioneer orchards, market gardens and grazing properties.

Email us for more information and we may be able to help.



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Annual subscriptions 2020/21 are due on 1 July. \$25 per household

WINTER 2020

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THE MOTEL

Oakleigh Motel enjoys the distinction of being the first motel built in Victoria. It was opened in 1957 at 1650 Dandenong Road, Oakleigh. The owner, Cyril Lewis, had stayed in motels in the United States of America and these inspired his own vision for the motel. It was designed and built by James Miller. The advent of motels reflected the rise of family holidays in the motor car and the desire of travellers for more modern accommodation. Compared with many traditional hotels, motels had "mod cons" such as air conditioning, telephones in the room, and their own bathroom. It was also a new convenience for travellers to be able to park outside their rooms.

Cont. on P.2

Coming Events

The WHS is in hibernation until the lifting of restrictions on crowd events.

Our **August birthday** marks 50 years since the founding of the WHS by a group of Waverley pioneers. We are anticipating that restrictions will **NOT** be lifted sufficiently to allow us to celebrate this event in our rooms. **See P2**

Unless otherwise stated, General Meetings are held at 2pm on the fourth Wednesday or Sunday in our rooms above Mt Waverley Library (Lift Available) 41 Miller Cres., Mt Waverley. For excursions and outings please carefully note time and location details.

Cont. from P.1 The Oakleigh Motel had a large and colourful external sign in line with the American practice, designed to catch the attention of cars speeding past. The bright colours and neon lights used in the signage were consistent with the American "Googie" (futurist) style. The building, with forty-three self-contained rooms, a dining room and sloping roofline and windows, reflected 1950s building design trends. The motel was classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) in 2001 and listed on the Victorian Heritage Database. It has been redeveloped, not without controversy: the façade has been mostly retained but the accommodation units at the back were rebuilt in 2010.

Sources:

Victorian Heritage Database

<https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au> Victorian Heritage Register – Oakleigh Motel – Statement of Significance.

Simon Reeves: Australia's First Motels (2010) in Motel Owners Journal, Vol 10 No. 2 www.builtheritage.com.au

Congratulations to HMI (and WHS) member Helen Gobbi who was awarded the OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List on 8 June 2020.



Her award is very well deserved, as Helen has contributed actively to History Monash Inc. for over twenty years (including as President for nine terms). Helen continues to make a huge contribution of her time to exhibitions, research, writing, collecting and preserving archives, and many other facets of community history.

Research Query

We have had a research question asking us if we know where a house known as *Innisfree* was. We know it was on Stephenson's Road, because it is mentioned in a 1947 obituary under the name Mather. The requester knows that the Bennett family lived in the house around about 1940, maybe even before. If you know where this house was, could you please let us know so we can pass the information on. Thank you, we are looking forward to finding out more.

Kerrie Flynn Committee Member 2019/20

Waverley Historical Society Programme & AGM 2020

Sadly our exciting plans for the year have all had to be cancelled, even our 50th birthday and AGM! Committee has decided to plan no gathering until November, in view of the dangers to members. Of course we will need to wait and see what will be allowable then, but the current plan is to have the AGM and launch our new book, *Then and Now 2*, at that time.

Meanwhile, annual subscriptions are due now, and we invite you to nominate people for the next committee at this time too. Remember they can be existing committee members.

As for WHS activities, July is Open House Melbourne time. Members will recall that last July we visited some eye-opening features of our city, places we could not usually enter. This year is even better! We don't have to brave the cold, the traffic, the unknown streets. The thirteenth Open House Melbourne will present the largest collection of virtual tours in Australia, enabling access to over 50 buildings from the comfort of your own home – Parliament House, PROV are just two of them. Just go to:

<https://www.openhousemelbourne.org/enter-your-virtual-city/>

In lieu of August, September and October events, explore some of these options:

Melbourne Day (185th birthday is 30 Aug): learn about Melbourne's history on line at: <https://www.melbourneday.com.au/>

Monash Gallery of Art is 30 years old but due to Covid-19 it will be closed but in the meantime there is a virtual tour you can follow. Search mga.org.au and click on "Collection."

The museum is NOT open, but see: <https://museumsvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/>

Whether you go physically or virtually, these places are full of fascinating objects and displays. Museums are not just for children! However, enjoying some of these exhibits with a young friend can enhance your enjoyment.

Burwood Cemetery Talk

For our first meeting of 2020, we were enthralled with a talk about the history of Burwood Cemetery, presented by an engaging Liverpoolian, Ismail Abuleela, who has in fact spent the past ten years living in this country; five years in Perth, and is now making his home in Melbourne. We learnt that the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust manages nineteen Melbourne cemeteries and memorial parks; it is one of five Trusts operating in this city. These Trusts are classified as Class A, whereas smaller Trusts, Class B, are run by local councils, still highly regulated and occur mainly in rural areas. The Class A Trusts are self-funded and are, of necessity, extremely regulated. Three per cent of cemeteries' levies are paid to the government. The sheer spread of business deals with over two hundred diverse communities.

Ismail is an Engagement Officer. His work involves organising and running cemetery tours, talking to groups like ours, and educating celebrants and ministers of religion in the workings and minutiae of the various burial grounds, if only to make their job easier. Ismail talked about the city's demographics and how, very simply, space for burials is running out. Cemeteries don't just appear, they are years in the making. The latest to join this Trust will be the Harkness Cemetery, over in Melton, which was first aired in 1986 and is only now starting to be mapped out. The funding mechanism for Metropolitan Trust ensures that all burial sites are protected for perpetuity. Burwood Cemetery, for example, has to be looked after for ever. Ismail mentioned that, in rare cases, buried remains may have to be transferred, such as in the early days of this city, when buildings encroached on burial space.

Ismail has made a study of Burwood Cemetery. Way back in 1858, the first plans for a cemetery involved a small triangle of land to the east of Gilmour Street. Acquisition of more land happened slowly, rectangular-shaped lots were bought, but not necessarily linked, and a creek ran through the centre, which complicated things somewhat. Although this creek-land was deemed unfit for grave-sites at around this time, the Cemetery Order was amended in 1937 to say that, because of remedial work, the land 'could' be used for interments, including some for planting. Nowadays, the graves are built over this area and all paperwork and plans have been unlocatable. Ismail displayed an old map of the era, of the township of Ballyshanassy (old name for Burwood) Public Lands in the Parish of Nunawading. In 1887, when the cemetery was gazetted, extensions were proposed to keep pace with growing demand. Another map showed the watercourse extending between Gilmour Street and the then-named Government Road, now Evans Street. Today, a road runs along the creek-line and there was even mention of a sink-hole!

Cemeteries are generally beautiful, restful places. Ismail informed us that, back in England, around the time of the Industrial Revolution, people spent their leisure time in cemeteries, meeting and picnicking, socialising, and enjoying the clean air of the wide treed spaces, away from the pollution of the factories nearer their homes. Where better to spend a warm summer's afternoon? Just as we have 'significant' trees, so do we have 'significant' cemeteries, and this is because of the aesthetics due to form, scale, colour and texture of graves, the evocation of a feeling of timelessness. Burwood Cemetery has all of this, the meandering roads and haphazard arrangement of graves; a joy to walk along. Religious denominations appear in no particular order, which adds to the appeal. Someone commented on the fact that yew trees are often seen in cemeteries; Ismail agreed that this is so and said it goes back to pagan origins. The modern-day policy at Burwood Cemetery is to replace fallen trees with Australian native species.

Ismail said that, around 1921, a new house was built for the caretaker, on the western side of Gilmour Street, which generated a rental income over fourteen years. Yet cemeteries were not supposed to make money. The Trust took about twelve years to sort this unlikely problem, and repossessed the house and land; meanwhile the caretaker had to live within the cemetery grounds, next to the office. This is no longer the case. The appropriate fencing of the cemetery occurred in the 1940's, along with the toilet block. Most cemeteries have crypts and vaults. In Burwood, there is an above-ground option of burial, crypts, set in a niche wall erected in 1962. (In churches, crypts are below-ground). There are also mausolea, but no below-ground vaults because of the far-reaching effects of the creek.

In 2014, the Burwood Cemetery was officially declared 'full', and there are 33,000 interments to date. Coming to the end of his talk, Ismail talked about three notable burials: the earliest grave appeared in 1858, that of John Schneider. Later, there was Brigadier General Harold Edward 'Pompey' Elliott, who had enlisted in 1900 (4th Victorian Bushmen), and fought in the battle at Fromelles. His return to civilian life saw him enter politics, where he rolled up his sleeves and worked solidly. The war, though, had such an effect on him, that his premature death was due to suicide.

Christina Cock, who lived from 1887-2002, was the Cemetery's oldest super centenarian; she died at the age of 114. Ismail would have talked on gladly, but time was up. Grateful thanks were expressed by Sueie, on behalf of all present.

Virginia Barnett

are not taking place at airports and ports. Why has Australia completely dropped the ball on this aspect of precautions?

Another set of observations

The lock-down began on 16th March 2020. My workplace was still operating the next day, but that evening emails went round to all students and staff that there would be no more classes for the time being. There had been some talk of a new virus before that, but pandemics like SARS, Asian flu and Avian flu had occurred before without drastic measures being put in place. This one was different. At first it was like a holiday. No work, no voluntary pursuits, no gatherings at all – more time at home, in the garden, with the family, finishing long-forgotten projects – it was almost a dream. Of course a lack of income was a worry.

By April my boss had worked out ways of running virtual classes and employing staff again. My role was to mark essays and provide personalised feedback and extra homework tailored to each student. Suddenly I was very busy again!

Random other experiences – much less traffic, quieter streets; queuing to get into supermarkets; the shock when basic needs were first unavailable in shops – toilet paper, the inexplicable target of the panic buyers, plus rice, oats, milk powder; running out of internet because of all the Zoom meetings and classes; being unable to visit the elderly or to celebrate special birthdays, weddings or funerals; meeting (not too closely) more neighbours more often as we all spent time in our gardens – even enjoying projects together from a distance; NOT being jostled in tight places but instead being aware of others and giving way to them; setting up internet chat times with family and having more contact than we have had for decades; getting things in the mail like we used to years ago; and friends unexpectedly increasing their computer skills. It has not been all bad!

At this stage we don't know when lock-down will end, but there are some things I hope will never be common again. The idea of "soldiering on," a concept pushed by advertisements for a cold-symptom suppressant – dosing oneself up and keeping going to work (to share the infection around) should no longer be seen as praiseworthy. Blowing out candles on birthday cakes – who ever thought this was a good idea? Give the birthday person a fan to do the job! On the other hand I hope some of the positives will never fade out.

What have YOUR experiences been? Remember, we would like every member to contribute something – a story, like the above, photos, news clippings, brochures – anything to help make a future exhibition about what 2020 was.

MarJo



Senior School Choir - Social Distanced

M. Angelico

**News from our sister Society
History Monash**

Thank you to Waverley Historical Society for the opportunity to send greetings through "History Here".

So far in 2020 History Monash Inc. has of course been working mainly behind the scenes. We've had an increase in email enquiries from people seeking family and other information, and we've responded to these as best we can whilst our headquarters at the Monash Federation Centre is closed. (The roof of the building has been replaced and preventing our use of the facilities.)

We've been fortunate to receive a grant from the Monash City Council via the "Community Strengthening" program to support an exhibition on Historic Oakleigh. This will be curated later in the year and opened when the pandemic situation allows. Members of the committee have been conducting research focussed upon Oakleigh, within the constraints of the closure of most research facilities until recently. We have also been working closely with the City of Monash on renewing our lease at the Monash Federation Centre.

We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of the City of Monash, the Bendigo Bank (Pinewood Community Bank) and Barry Plant (Mordialloc). Hoping to see you soon.

Ann Nield President
History Monash Inc
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Waverley Historical Society is Fifty Years Young!

MarJo Angelico

What is history? It is as old as the hills and oceans, and as young as yesterday. What amazing times we are living in! We should all be keeping diaries about how we are travelling (ie. NOT travelling) in this unique time.

So a big birthday comes along, and we cannot celebrate it! Weddings, funerals, christenings also pass without the usual festivities. We are all learning new ways to do things, whether it be socialising from a distance, educating, exercising, or shopping. The rules keep changing and it is difficult to plan anything at all.

Six months ago, we could have said that Waverley Historical Society collects, preserves and disseminates information and images of the old Waverley area (Monash minus Oakleigh). This was done through weekly work time where projects progress, and where interested people can come to ask questions or provide information. Also there were monthly gatherings, sometimes a speaker on a local history topic, other times an excursion or a walk. Often WHS speakers are asked to do presentations at other clubs and societies. Of course the internet plays a part, with website, facebook, and email research enquiries. Then there are publications and the newsletter. That is how it has been for years - decades – but not now.

Who is WHS now? Clearly the remote parts still work as before - internet, publications, newsletter, and even some projects continue. Walks, talks, meetings, corporate projects have been put on hold. Even the collecting and preserving have slowed down.

However, one task has been enabled by

the lock downs! One of the ways we were to celebrate our jubilee was to publish a new book. With outside commitments reduced to a minimum, we have had time to put it together ahead of schedule. *Then and Now Volume 2* should be available around the time this newsletter hits the streets. Exactly how depends on the rules at that time, but check out our website or email or phone us. Bursting with images of times gone by that are paired with images of the same scene now, and enhanced with short explanations and interesting details, this book will enthral local residents.

Over the years the nature and projects of the group have varied. In earlier days there were bus trips and even weekends away for members. Displays were mounted at shopping centres. Whole classes of school children would visit and explore. Members walked about designated areas in pairs, noting down details of plaques inside and outside buildings, and photographing them. Photographers went around recording street scenes, new buildings and those about to be demolished. In meetings,

fascinating stories of the past were told and recorded. A large number of historical markers were placed both for Australia's bicentenary and Victoria's 150th birthday. Steam train rides, colonial games events, memorial lectures, history mystery object displays and visits to other Societies were organised. Funds for projects were raised in all sorts of ways, including cake stalls, social nights, art exhibitions, weaving and other craft demonstrations, and embroidery displays.

More recently, historical walks have become increasingly popular and we have run a couple of these each year. Similarly we have "virtual walks." The latter cover busy major roads where traffic noise makes real walks untenable, so instead, armchair tours are held inside our rooms. This gives us the chance to discuss various locations and buildings in more detail. This prompts some of the participants to expand on their personal experiences at the site.



The Herring homestead Jells Park c.1970s



Art Show Hamilton Place, Mount Waverley March 1975

WHS File Image

WHS File Image

We collect a range of items including Melway directories, aerial photographs, real estate brochures, school year books, family histories, photographs and much more. Indexing is another task that gives people access to history that is otherwise locked away, so we have indexed many books, old newspapers, maps, and other resources. We still get a lot of questions about the history of houses and streets, clubs, schools, churches and shops, so increasing our knowledge of the area and collecting images remain a priorities. Several publications bring this information to the public, including our latest, due out soon.



Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop at the WHS Rooms 8 Dec 1991

Meetings were once held in private homes, St Stephens church, the civic centre, Alvie Hall, Notting Hill school, Holy Family hall, and Mt Waverley community centre. Some were even held in Mt Waverley library, and in the rooms upstairs, which later became our own.

A lot of energy was spent trying to find a permanent "home." With the collection ever growing, and being carried to meetings in car boots, only to be stored under beds and in garages between times, a place of our own became increasingly necessary. Some of the places WHS was offered, but then "fell through," include the old homestead in Jells Park (now demolished), the



WHS Bus Trip to Maldon Sep 1986

old Closter House in Stephenson's Road (after a year of trying to save this solid brick house it was deemed unsafe and demolished) and the Black Flat schoolhouse. A four-year campaign and many meetings and proposals, culminating in a proposed museum of both education and local history, was discarded with scant reason. Finally in 1980 our current rooms were offered and we have now occupied them for 40 years.



WHS members encourage children to Pin the Tail on the Donkey at the Colonial Games Held on Australia Day at the Monash Civic Centre 26.1.2003

So Waverley Historical Society, which was started by an enthusiastic group of locals in 1970, will have its big birthday this year, but how it will be celebrated is still undecided. This is surely a historic time!



A Historical Walk along Deidre St., Glen Waverley

Today's news is tomorrow's history

AGM 2020 Items

The audit of the WHS financials is complete and annual reports are being prepared. Our AGM has been postponed until November. Details to be announced in October *History Here*.

Members' Impressions of Living Through Covid-19

We are living through a historic time! There have been pandemics before, but never with the government response we have now. Even major influenza epidemics like the 1919 one reported in HH228 that closed the little Mulgrave school on Wellington Rd did not go as far as we have experienced since March this year. We must record this unprecedented event for posterity! It would be good if EVERY MEMBER were to contribute something – a few photographs, a short memoir, collected brochures and newspaper articles, notices of cancelled events – anything that will record what these months have been like. Here are a few we have already received.

Life in lockdown or is it - Taking Time to Smell the Roses?

The Covid-19 Pandemic has seen us all confined to our homes. I have been enjoying the time at home to reflect on what I enjoy, what I miss and what I could have been doing. I love jigsaw puzzles and I have done 5 so far, ranging from 500 pieces to 2000 pieces.



The beginning of a pleasant few hours in isolation

I have been doing some more knitting, crafts and unfinished tasks. I have had fun doing more cooking; however it also means more washing up! I have texted people a lot and chatted on *What's App* with my pen friend in Ireland. It has been interesting as we are all experiencing the same thing no matter what country we are in.

I have had numerous visits from Australia Post and sometimes that was my only real person contact. When it was safer to do so I visited my mum, but most days we have chatted on the phone. Other members of my family live further away so text, phone calls or video calls are in place. WHS tasks have been completed online and been very worthwhile. I have chatted with neighbours in my complex that I have never met before and seen others walking around. I

have found out how handy it is to have 7-Eleven, the post office and the fish shop opposite me and that it is quite a nice walk. A health shop selling vegies opened about 4 weeks into lockdown so that was very convenient for me. I have visited the supermarket less, supported a local coffee shop and the butcher. I have found everyone is so polite. No one pushes in at the supermarket, people stand back to let you pass and people out walking say hello. I am hoping some of this slower pace and respect for each other will continue.

I hope you have found the positives too in this time of Covid-19, closed and barred shops, signs, empty playgrounds, near-empty streets, people in masks.



The Salvation Army Op Shop Mt. Waverley

Locked in our homes but free to mingle with arrivals at airport?

One person returning to Australia from overseas a few days after the lock-down began remarks:

Our arrival at Melbourne on an A380 coincided with the arrival of three other large aircraft. There were absolutely no health checks carried out as we mingled through immigration checks, collecting bags and lining up for customs checks. In the arrivals hall, friends collecting passengers were tightly packed together. There was no restriction on people catching taxis or buses. It seems pointless to put in place restrictions on people living here if nothing is done to check those entering the country from all over the world. At every other airport we were subjected to head and body temperature checks every time. I am at a loss to understand why checks