

CAMBERWELL HISTORY

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL
AND DISTRICT



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DEEPDENE

Boroondara Council recently announced the re-establishment of Deepdene as the City's newest and smallest suburb. This change occurred on 17 March 2010. The Council's website (www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/our-city/research-statics) shows that as at 2006 Deepdene had a total population of 1,555 comprising 718 males and 849 females with 594 total dwellings.

ARCHITECTURE OF EDWARD BATES ON THE 'BELMONT' ESTATE, BALWYN

Bill Mackie

Bill Mackie is the grandson of William and Kate Bates and has visited all the properties discussed in this article. He is a member of Camberwell Historical Society.

Belmont, when its owner Robert Reid died in 1904, occupied about 33 acres that extended along Whitehorse Road from Reid Street to Parkside Avenue and along Mont Albert Road from Salisbury Avenue to the east side of Camberwell Grammar School. On this estate three large residences were built as homes for Reid's two daughters, a son and their spouses, plus the magnificent Belmont stables that housed 8 horses and a number of vehicles as well as having quarters for the coachman. For each of these buildings the architect was Edward Albert Bates, who was educated at Scotch College before he commenced his articles in 1883 and became a draftsman in Melbourne's leading firm of architects Reed, Henderson and Smart. He also prepared plans for residences on other sites for other members of the Robert Reid family.

Some of Reed's major commissions had been Melbourne's Public Library, its Town Hall, the Trades Hall, the Exhibition Building, and parts of Melbourne University. Before and after Joseph Reed died in 1890 the partnership spawned and split into several separate partnerships, such as that of its employees Hyndman and Bates in 1888 and when Henderson formed his own practice in 1890. After some successive changes in the parent partnership Bates returned to the fold when it was reconstituted as the partnership Bates, Peebles and Smart in 1907. Over the next few years

this firm was busily involved in the design and construction of the Public Library's great domed reading room, completed in late 1913. Peebles, who is credited with the reading room's design, retired in 1922; in 1926 the new and long-standing partnership Bates, Smart and McCutcheon was formed.

So, how did Edward Bates become involved in domestic architecture at *Belmont*? Probably because two Bates brothers married two Reid sisters. William Bates and his younger brother Edward, together with their mother and several sisters lived in a house they

n a m e d *Uxbridge*, now 12 Grandview Grove, East Hawthorn, where they had moved from *Uxbridge House*, Nicholson Street, Fitzroy after their father the Hon. William Bates, M L C , a Melbourne businessman, died there in



Uxbridge, East Hawthorn, displays E Bates' design for its renovations made in 1905. Its small tower over windows of the main bedroom is on the right.

1891. *Uxbridge* was built in 1889-90 by Huddleston and Brown; its gate carries the bronze name-plate 'Uxbridge House', brought from the Fitzroy home. In 1905 it had additions made to EA Bates' design which included the front of the house with a small tower that gives character to this residence; its front porch has 'Uxbridge' embedded in its paving. *Uxbridge* is listed as *Uxbridge House* on the Register of the National Estate for its architectural and historic significance, and is stated to have been occupied by the Bates .

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In 1891 new stables, designed by Edward, were built for Robert Reid on a Belmont site that is beside the intersection of Crest Avenue and Oakdale Avenue



Northern side of Belmont's stables; spiral stairs in the tower led to coachman quarters on upper floor. The lower level had a large central courtyard with vehicle storage near the tower; on this side big gates, with clock above, faced the house and on other side gates opened to the driveway, now Oakdale Avenue. Stalls for 8 horses, with large feed room above, occupied the near half of the building.

(formerly the driveway to the stables from Mont Albert Road). The presence of 'candle-snuffer' towers on both the stables and Uxbridge and their architectural styles reflect a fashion of their time.

Young William Bates, who was a

solicitor, married Kate Reid of Belmont in October 1892 and they soon moved into their new home Larino, which had been designed by his brother Edward in March 1892. In December 1897 Edward married Ethel Reid; he designed their home, named Maleela. On adjoining lots of about 4 acres each in the Belmont estate, Larino and Maleela were located between the present day Reid Street and Maleela Avenue, with Larino fronting Whitehorse Road and



View of the north face of Larino with its lily-pond and garden formed after the two-storey addition was built in 1920. The house's front entrance is located behind the tree on the right with a driveway leading to Whitehorse Road. This 1937 photo shows how Larino was when it became the home in 1939 for refugee children. Balwyn Manor now stands on this site.

Maleela's south boundary almost opposite Crest Avenue. No descendants of these Bates families have knowledge or records of the origins of the names Larino and Maleela. Larino is the name of a town in Italy, close to the Adriatic coast due east of Rome. Maleela sounds like an

aboriginal name, e.g. Mallala in SA, but I can find no mention of Maleela in any document I have accessed on aboriginal place names.

Arthur Maurice Reid, second son of Robert, married Elizabeth Fleming in 1901. They had Edward Bates design their new home on the Belmont estate. Like the blocks of land provided by Robert Reid for Arthur's two sisters and their husbands, Arthur's home Myam-

bert had a large block that was situated east of Oakdale Avenue and fronting Mont Albert Road. Years later this site was subdivided and Myambert Avenue constructed. Today Myambert is the only surviving



house built for Reid family members on the Belmont estate so it remains an example of Edward Bates' style of domestic architecture.

Myambert, Myambert Avenue, Balwyn, designed by Edward Bates in 1901 for Arthur and Eve Reid.

Each of these three homes had Edwardian style characteristics that first appeared in some commissions of Hyndman and Bates in the early nineties. Larino, when built in 1892, was described as a single storey bungalow. It was first extended in about 1910 when a second storey was added on its south side. By 1920 further extensions were made for servants' quarters, a billiard room and balconies. This was followed in about 1925 by substantial landscaping of the front garden with a lily-pond and fountains added. Larino became the most elegant home in the district. With only Kate Bates and a couple of staff remaining in this big house in 1939, Larino was sold to the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society; it accommodated about 40 children and was renamed Frances Barkman House. The old house was demolished in about 1961 and replaced by a large two-storey residence. The Victorian Social Welfare Department acquired the property in 1964 and named it Illoura Children's Home. In 1984 the State Government sold it and now, after further enlargement and modification, it is the aged care facility Balwyn Manor. Maleela was a more modest, single-storey home; most of its Bates family had fled the nest when Edward Bates died in 1931 so it was sold, demolished and land subdivided by 1939. The Belmont mansion and stables were demolished after May Reid died in 1955.

Edward Bates designed several other residences for members of the Reid family. In 1907 he designed substantial additions to a small house named Glencoe House on the Esplanade at Mornington. It had been purchased by his mother-in-law Mary Reid for use as a holiday home by her family who called it Little Belmont. After Mary's death in 1924 the house passed to Ethel and Edward Bates. In 1946 the Bates family sold it to RF Sanderson, who renamed it, Mulberry.



In 1924 after Belle Reid sold her veterinary practice in



The remains of *Little Belmont* in 2009; now named *Mulberry*, it comprises the house with garage and outbuildings at rear. The car park of next door house occupies the former tennis court site; a driveway extended from the double gates past the house to the garage.

Deepdene to PT Kellynack (who after retirement sold it to Hugh Wirth) she moved to live on her farm *Blossom Park*, Bundoora, where she had the home-

stead designed by Edward Bates and the garden designed by Edna Walling. At about this time Belle's sister May bought a fine piece of land at Olinda, where she decided to build a house that would be a retreat from the family home *Belmont*, where she had been managing the household and caring for her mother since her father died. This house, named *Glenleven*, was also designed to her specifications by brother-in-law Edward. Made of local stone and with a square tower it became known locally as 'The Castle'.

All designs for these Reid family houses are now held

in the collection of Bates, Smart and McCutcheon plans in the Archives of The University of Melbourne's Baillieu Library.



May Reid's retreat *Glenleven*, Olinda, is known locally as 'The Castle'. A big garden surrounds it. It was designed with a large central music room or hall with bedrooms and other rooms around each side.

Sources

Australian Heritage Database. *Uxbridge House*, 12 Grandview Grove, Hawthorn East. Place Details ID 19932, Website <environment.gov.au/heritage>.

Goad, PJ & B Starr, *Bates Smart; 150 Years of Australian Architecture*. Thames and Hudson. Melbourne, 2004.

Bates Smart & McCutcheon Archives: Architectural Drawings - The University of Melbourne Archives, Melbourne.

BANKS IN BOROONDARA

Trevor Hart

This article continues from CAMBERWELL HISTORY No 1. It recounts the beginnings and development of banking in Boroondara and mentions some of the more colourful aspects of its history.

Trevor Hart is an archivist with experience in business and school archives and is a member and former president of Camberwell Historical Society.

Of course the crash also severely affected people. Maurice Brodzky lived in Kew, or at least his second son was born there. This connection with the suburb and his connection with banking brings him into my picture. Brodzky, several times bankrupted, was the publisher of *Table Talk* 'a weekly miscellany', from 1885 to 1902 when he sold it to the Herald and it became a society journal. His 'investigative' journalism led him to the land companies and new banks where he found suspicious and fraudulent practices particularly in the Federal and Mercantile Banks.¹⁰ The directors of the Mercantile Bank were later prosecuted.

Bankruptcies were rife and Brodzky publicised the 'secret compositions' of the time. John McCutcheon, assistant general manager of the Commercial Bank had to sell his property *Strathroy* at the corner of Barkers Rd & Kildare St Hawthorn East to ward off the supreme humiliation.¹¹ Not so lucky was William Greenlaw who had become general manager of the Colonial Bank in 1871. He built *Villa Alba* in Walmer St Kew. His debt was £115,000 on which he paid six pence in the pound (£2,875).¹²

On the other side of the banking ledger was Randal Alcock of *Crossakiel*, Hawthorn who died in 1927 leaving £865,816 and a reputation for integrity, ability and charity. Alcock, not connected with the famous billiard table, was chairman of the Royal Bank of Australia from 1901 - 1927. Alcock's small localised bank opened one of its few branches, in Glenferrie in 1915.¹³

Boroondara is a place eminently suited for bankers to live. Henry Miller, known as "Money" Miller, a financier and politician had a 30 acre estate *Findon* in Kew. Miller was founding chairman of the Bank of Victoria and held the position until his death in 1888. He died leaving an estate of £163,847 in New South Wales and



£1,456,680 in Victoria.¹⁴ Harry McEwin Scambler, first managing director of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited lived in Hawthorn and his successor, Charles Henry Rennie, lived in Kew.

It took several decades at the turn of the century for the economy, and banks in particular, to recover. The ES&A, the pioneer bank in the district was the most active with agencies and branches all over the present municipality: and one just outside at Tooronga.

During the early twentieth century the State Savings Bank made a significant contribution to the development of Boroondara through the credit foncier scheme and the building of its own properties. The SSB financed over a third of the houses in the Urquhart Estate in Hawthorn (Burwood, Auburn, Riversdale & Glenferrie Rds). Up to June 1934 the bank had built 13,336 houses in areas like Glen Iris (and Garden City) and this continued.

The Second World War had an impact on Boroondara banks with a number of offices being closed so staff could be released to the war effort. In June 1942, Sir Alfred Davidson, general manager of the Bank of New South Wales wrote to LJ McConnan (later knighted for his work in defeating the banking nationalisation proposals of the Labor government) who was general manager of the National Bank, saying that the Wales had released 55% of their Australian male staff to the war. He understood that the banking industry total was 40%. All up, some 492 branches were proposed for closure around Australia with the Wales closing 109 agencies.¹⁵



ES&A Canterbury, nd. Reproduced with permission of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (London Album)



ANZ Camberwell 1954. Reproduced with permission of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ZH3-390A)



ANZ Kew sub-branch 1952. Reproduced with permission of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ZH3-522)

Even in the days when bankers behaved like gentlemen and did not actively poach each other's accounts, competition was still strong. In 1937 the Bank of Australasia sought its Board's approval to open in the Kew, Camberwell, Ivanhoe and Box Hill districts particularly because the Union Bank and the Wales were opening branches. The Wales was seen to be opening "almost in a wholesale manner" even though some branches would not be profitable for many years.¹⁶

Just before and after the war the Union Bank opened

in places like Balwyn and Camberwell, and the Bank of Australasia at Kew, East Kew and Glenferrie. The Bank of Australasia had considered opening at Camberwell but decided in favour of South Camberwell where they opened in 1937. By 1948 they realised that they were losing business to the Camberwell banks and decided to open there. Staff numbers at Camberwell give an indication of branch size in pre-computer days: ES&A 10; National 6; Commercial 5; Union 3; Wales 5; Commonwealth 8; State Savings 8.¹⁷



Bank of Australasia Burwood, nd. Reproduced with permission of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (AH3-469)



Union Bank 225 Whitehorse Rd Balwyn, nd. Reproduced with permission of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (UH3-125)



ES&A Bank Glen Iris, nd. Reproduced with permission of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (London Album)

Banking was about gathering new business but, equally important, was protection of existing business. This philosophy guided the opening of many branches, eg. Burwood. The Bank of Australasia saw this suburb expanding with only the ES&A represented. It saw good business prospects, but also saw it as "consolidating our connection" because it was mid-way between existing branches at East Malvern and Box Hill.¹⁸ Similarly at Ashburton, which of course was mid-way between the recently opened Burwood and East Malvern branches, the district was seen as developing with a "population of approximately 5,000 . . . and there is an extensive home building."¹⁹

Endnotes

- 10 Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 7 p419
- 11 Peel p52
- 12 Cannon p190
- 13 This branch still operates for ANZ Bank in the same building
- 14 ADB vol 5, p252.
- 15 ANZ Archive. E/137/1.
- 16 ANZ Archive. A/129/23. GM to Mgr London Confidential No1866 of 1 Jun 1937
- 17 ANZ Archive. A/99/29. GM to Mgr London Confidential No 3148 of 10 Apr 1948
- 18 ANZ Archive. A/129/27. GM to Mgr London Confidential No 2848 of 14 Aug 1946
- 19 ANZ Archive. A/99/30. GM to Mgr London Confidential No 3225 of 1 Oct 1948

To be continued



LAST MEETINGS

27 May 2010

On 27 May Commissioner Wesley Harris, speaking without notes, addressed the Society on the **Salvation Army in Camberwell**. Wesley Harris served the Salvation Army overseas before retiring to Melbourne in the mid-1990s.¹

The Salvation Army has its roots in the work of Rev. William Booth who began his outreach ministry to the people of London in 1865. The Salvation Army was formally established in 1878. The first meeting in Australia was held in Adelaide on 5 September 1880, followed by Sydney, then Melbourne on 24 December 1882.²

Commissioner James Hay, a long time resident in the Camberwell district, conscious of the eastward spread of population, directed that a Corps be established in Camberwell. The first public meeting was held on 29 January 1910 in the Upper Hawthorn Hall, 216 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn.³ A Citadel was quickly built at 546 Burke Road and opened in December 1910. Captain Lily Temby and Lieutenant Edith Dunstan led

the Corps. This building was destroyed by arson in 1955 and replaced with a four-storey building.⁴ The adjacent youth hall was destroyed by fire the following year.

With the Burke Road building outgrown, a new facility was opened on 5 September 1981 at Bowen Street where the Army provides aged care services at *Bethany*, activities for senior citizens and children and a new citadel. In 1912 the Army opened the East Camberwell Girls' Home in Brinsley Road, in the now demolished former Baillieu home, the present site of Brinsley Nature Reserve. This home, which changed its name to the William Booth Memorial Home, closed in 1972.

1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesley_Harris

2 <http://www2.salvationarmy.org.uk/history>

3 This hall was on the west side of Camberwell Road just north of Burke Road

4 This complex was recently demolished to make way for the apartment development at the Junction

22 July 2010

On 22 July the Hon. Michael Baden-Powell, Mr Peter Kemp and Mr Neville Scantlebury from the National Boer War Memorial Association spoke to CHS on **“Our Forgotten Heroes”**

The Boer War – Why Australia needs to build a memorial in Canberra.

:

Michael Baden-Powell started the talk about the Boer War, 1899 – 1902 explaining that the Boer War was overshadowed by Australian Federation in 1901 and the people who participated forgotten. The Boer War was really the first war in which Australia participated as a nation. 23,000 Australians went to South Africa from the six colonies. Many took their own horses. Many Australians were already there due to the diamond mines.

Peter Kemp spoke of the 1000 Australians killed in action or by disease. Six Victoria Crosses were awarded to Australians. The speakers did not discuss

the moral issues of one of the most brutal wars ever fought.

There is no monument in Australia to those killed in the Boer War even though there is one to every other war since. A Committee has been formed to build a memorial in Canberra. Land has been donated by the government.

Neville Scantlebury wore a replica uniform of the Victorian Rangers and talked about the uniforms and weapons used by the soldiers of the Boer War.

Michael Baden-Powell talked about how Col. R. S. S. Baden-Powell held the siege of Mafeking for 217 days with defenders killed.

The Boers were the first to use commando tactics. Baden-Powell was a brilliant tactician who did his own scouting, sketching and mapping. A video of the history of the Boer War including the siege of Mafeking was shown. 31 May is declared as National Boer War day.

EXCURSION

24 July 2010

A small number of members of Camberwell Historical Society visited the exhibition “Celebrating 100 Years of Flinders Street Station”. The exhibition based on research done by Jenny Davies for her history of the station was at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Jenny Davies was at the exhibition and provided members with a commentary on the display. She will speak to CHS members at the Society’s meeting to be held on 18 November.



MEETINGS FOR 2010

23 September	“Clocks”	Mr Vivian Kenney
18 November	“Beyond the Facade – Flinders Street Station, more than just a railway station”	Jenny Davies

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of March, May, July, September and November

All meetings held at **Meeting Room, Hawthorn Town Hall (side entrance via car park)
360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn**

BOOK REVIEW

Heimat Melbourne: A History of the German-Speaking Community of Melbourne 1855 to 1865. Volkhard Wehner. Published by the author, Glen Iris Victoria 2010. pp [viii] +339. \$35 plus postage, paperback.

Normally a book such as this would be outside the area of interest of Camberwell Historical Society, but its author is a member and former president of CHS, and brings to life residents of our neighbours Hawthorn and Kew.

The period between the Australian gold rushes and the beginnings of the formation of the German empire had a major impact on the creation of a German diaspora. In this period the years from 1855 to 1865 are seen by Wehner as the time when the German speaking community of Melbourne had a distinct identity. These people were not linked by notions of country, for Germany was not established until 1871. Their links came from the German language: they came from Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy, Denmark, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the sovereign states that later became parts of the German empire.

In the course of this detailed study in which he laments

the small number of German accounts of early Melbourne, the author discusses the problems of the German speaking immigrants; of their settlements at various places including Northcote, Westgarthtown (now Thomastown), Doncaster and, closer to home, Hawthorn. They had difficulties with citizenship and property ownership but despite their difficulties they played a major part in the development of Melbourne in the 1850s and 1860s.

Wehner describes the press, the church, the business, scientific and arts communities and all through details many individuals and their contributions to their respective areas of expertise. A few of these men appear in Hawthorn (JW Lindt photographer, Julius Siede conductor, August Fritsch and Martin Holzer brick-makers). Unfortunately many other arrivals are too late to fall within the period. Few German speakers came to Camberwell but others settled in Hawthorn and Kew; names such as Maurice Brodsky, Carl Pinschhof, Gottlieb Schuler and Alberto Zelman are some. They are the members of the diaspora who immediately merged into the Anglo communities in which they settled.

The range of contributions is extraordinary and, of course, continued after the community, which Wehner describes as *one of the largest and earliest non-Anglo-Irish immigrant groups in Victoria*, lost its obvious ‘identity’. Volkhard Wehner has done this community a great service in bringing it out of the shadows. TJH

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Annual subscriptions for the year ending 30 June 2011 were due on or before 1 July. Un-financial members are requested to forward their subscription to the Secretary.

Subscription rates are: Ordinary member \$25 Family member \$30