

# CAMBERWELL HISTORY

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL  
AND DISTRICT  
Camberwell Historical Society



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**Principal Patron:** Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC  
**Patron:** His Worship the Mayor of Boroondara, Cr Heinz Kreutz, PhD

## PATRON HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF BOROONDARA, CR HEINZ KREUTZ, PhD

Camberwell Historical Society is pleased to announce that Cr Kreutz has graciously accepted our invitation to become an additional Patron of the Society during his Mayoralty.

Cr Kreutz who is the representative for Lynden Ward is the eleventh mayor of the City of Boroondara. He has a PhD in Linguistics and holds a senior position in the Education Faculty at Monash University.

## 50 YEARS – APPROACHING OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE

Camberwell Historical Society was founded at a meeting held at the Civic Centre, Camberwell on 10 May 1963. Much planning is taking place and a history of the Society is being compiled. Any members who have memories of the early years of the Society, or photographs of people or places from 1963 onwards are asked to contact the society's secretary..

## SOCIETY RECEIVES COUNCIL GRANT

In April CHS purchased a laptop computer, software and a data projector for the society to use in talks to members and at other events. The money for this electronic equipment was provided through the Boroondara Community Development Grants Program.

Extensive research as to what was needed was made by Stephen Watson and a price comparison was conducted to ensure the maximum capacity was purchased for the best price.

## SOCIETY RULES

The newly accepted Rules for Camberwell Historical Society Inc came into effect on 24 April 2012.

Their introduction was not entirely without its little dramas as, despite having reviewed the proposed new rules as presented to and accepted by our membership on 28 February, the Department of Justice required that our existing Rule 9 Discipline, should become Rule 9. Discipline, Suspension and Expulsion of members, and 9a Disputes and Mediation. With this administrative tweaking our rules are now fully compliant and provide for the next proposed changes to the legislation. The new CHS rules are available to members on request or will be available to be read on our website.

## KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES HERITAGE AWARD

On 21 February, Kew Historical Society representing the local community, and the City of Boroondara, were awarded the Planning Minister's Heritage Award for 2012 for the restoration of the Kew Court House complex. This award recognises the restoration of this important local landmark. The court house, built in 1888, was bought by the Council in 2007 and is now a Community Cultural Centre. Kew Historical Society made a major contribution to fund raising for its restoration.

## ADDITION TO THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

Emulation Hall in Rochester Road, Canterbury has been added to the Victorian Heritage Register. This Egyptian Revival style hall was built by the Freemasons in 1927-1928.

## CONTENTS

Meetings for 2012	Page 6
The Baillieu Family in Camberwell	2
Camberwell Chorale	4
Last meetings	5
Book notes	6
Help Wanted	6
New Members	6



## THE BAILLIEU FAMILY IN CAMBERWELL 1890-1915

**Dr Peter Yule & Rachel Goldlust**

Continued from Issue No 8

### *Heathfield*

After the sale of *Knowsley (Raheen)* in December 1888, WL Baillieu and his father-in-law, Edward Latham, with their families, moved into a neighbouring house called *Ainslie*. Although WL had signed a contract to purchase *Ainslie*, the contract was rescinded and WL rented the property until 1895. In that year he joined the family trek to Camberwell, where he rented a modest, single-storied, brick house in Waterloo Street owned by a solicitor, John Wallace. Its net annual value of £75 indicates that it was considerably smaller than *Merrylands*, which he had built for his parents.<sup>13</sup> During the 1890s WL took advantage of low depression prices to buy several blocks of land on Brinsley Road from the Trustees Executors and Agency Company and in 1898 he bought a house in Brinsley Road, which he named *Heathfield*. The house had been built in 1885 by William Arthur Brinsley Tobin of the Mines Department, whose spectacular insolvency was widely noted in the *Argus* during 1891.<sup>14</sup> In 1890 the Tobin property consisted of 4½ acres and a brick house of 12 rooms with a net annual value of £245.<sup>15</sup> Brinsley Road had been a private road proclaimed public in June 1891.<sup>16</sup>

An advertisement in the *Argus* in 1896 regarding the Tobin residential site stated;

*Lot 11. Camberwell – Land having a frontage of 250 ft to Prospect Hill Road by a depth along Brinsley Road of 195 ft substantially fenced with picket fence. A charming residential site*<sup>17</sup>

Following Tobin's insolvency, his house in Brinsley Road was occupied by a John McGee until 1895 and then by Dugald Little until 1897 or 1898.<sup>18</sup> The Shire of Boroondara Rate Books for 1897-98 show WL Baillieu as renting a brick house in Brinsley Road owned by the Trustees Executors & Agency Company. Reflecting the continuing depression, the NAV of the house had been reduced to £160. Rate records in the following year, 1898-99, show WL as owning three properties in Brinsley Road; including the 12-roomed brick house on the corner of Brinsley Road and Prospect Hill Road.

WL contracted for additions 'behind Brinsley Road' with a WH Cooper in 1900 and further improvements were made over the following years. By 1903 it had 23 rooms, yet its NAV remained only £170, with the rates being £15/11/8.



*Heathfield, Brinsley Road, Camberwell, early 1900s*

While the family lived at *Heathfield*, WL's oldest son, Clive, later the first Lord Baillieu, was educated at a small private school called *Fairholme*, where one of his classmates was Keith Murdoch.<sup>19</sup> Murdoch's father, Rev. Patrick Murdoch, was minister of Trinity Presbyterian Church and frequently played golf with WL.<sup>20</sup>

All the Baillieu brothers were early motorcar enthusiasts and as early as January 1907 WL built a 'motor house' at *Heathfield*. This led to an interesting exchange of letters with the Camberwell Town Clerk. On 20 March 1907 WL wrote:

*I beg to inform you that I have erected a building or covered way at the back gate of my property as a Motor house.*

*I completely lost sight of your building conditions, and as it may be held technically that I have not conformed to your building regulation, I desire to take the earliest opportunity of informing your Council that such was not my intention. There are no other houses in this street, nor can any be erected, as there is no land excepting my own property. I therefore trust you will be able to agree to what I have done.*

*I regret that through an over-sight I did not make the application before erecting the building.*<sup>21</sup>

The Town Clerk replied:

*In reference to the erection by you of a Motor house on your property adjoining Matlock Street I am instructed to state that on consideration of the facts as reported by the Building Surveyor, the Council will take no exception to the building remaining in its present position.*<sup>22</sup>

By 1900 WL was one of the richest men in Victoria, and his wealth was further increased following his investments in Broken Hill after 1904. Along with future American President Herbert Hoover and WS Robinson, WL was largely responsible for the successful introduction of flotation technology for the separa-



tion of Broken Hill's complex ores, thereby greatly increasing their value. There was a certain inevitability that eventually he would move to Toorak, and in 1910 he bought a house in Kooyong Road, although he retained his Camberwell property while his new home was being renovated. All his surviving brothers except Prince also moved to Toorak before the First World War.

The sale advertisements for Heathfield in 1912 give an extensive description of the property;

*Substantial and Commodious Family Residence with about four and a quarter acres at East Camberwell.*

*Baillieu Patterson and Allard are instructed by the owner Mr WL Baillieu who has purchased another property to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION "Heathfield" Brinsley Rd, East Camberwell standing in charming and well kept grounds.*

*"Heathfield"*

*is a most substantial and well constructed family residence containing on the ground floor, entrance hall 20ft x 10ft; drawing room 20ft x 17ft; with bay and alcove; study 18ft x 13ft; diningroom 22ft x 10ft with large bay; breakfast room 13ft x 13ft; schoolroom 24ft x 12ft; besides large kitchen, house-maid's pantry, storeroom, servants' dining hall and cellar; upstairs are the best bedroom 27ft x 17ft and six other bedrooms....; two bathrooms, with hot and cold water; sewing room, linen cupboards, clothes presses and a tower room. The house throughout is in good order.*

*The outbuildings comprise dairy, laundry, specially good garage that would accommodate four cars; stable, milking shed.*

*The land has an area of nearly 4 ½ acres and forms a self-contained block with four frontages, having a frontage 600ft to Brinsley Road on the west by a depth of 280ft along Prospect Hill road on the south with 239ft to Wandin Road on the east and 178ft to Matlock Street on the north. It would therefore be eminently suitable for subdivision either at the present time or in the future, and the position of the house at the northern end of the land, is such that blocks could be cut off and sold without detriment to the house.*

*The house is laid out with carriage drive, shrubberies and flower garden, croquet lawn, asphalt tennis court and kitchen-garden.*

*The position of "Heathfield" is most convenient being only about three minutes walk from the east Camberwell railway station and bowling green. The Riversdale golf links are about five minute's walk.*

*Possession Immediate.*<sup>23</sup>

The purchaser of Heathfield was the Salvation Army, which used the building as the Salvation Army Girls School. The site was later leased to the Education Department, becoming for a few years in the early 1970s the Brinsley Road Alternative School. In 1974 the Salvation Army informed the department that it required the Brinsley Road property back.<sup>24</sup> The Camberwell City Council was offered the property and building in 1976, then a three-acre property, for around \$400,000 and council committed to turning the land over to recreational use.<sup>25</sup> The building was demolished and today WL's former home is a park.

WL also owned another smaller house and a large block of land in Brinsley Road.

### Other Baillieu Properties

In 1899 Arthur Baillieu married and built a large house across the railway line in The Broadway, part of a large subdivision by W.L. Baillieu & Co. The name 'Sefton Place' adjoining East Camberwell Station is a permanent reminder of the Baillieu connection – Sefton being the name of Edward Latham's house in Carlton and later of WL's house at Macedon. Arthur's house at no.81 The Broadway was called *Bringa* and he lived there until he bought a property in Toorak in 1909.

In about 1902, Edward Latham moved to 83 The Broadway, next door to Arthur Baillieu. He died in 1905, but his widow, Emma Elizabeth, lived in the house until her death in 1910.

The Baillieu family's presence in Camberwell was short-lived. The quiet, leafy suburban streets providing a temporary refuge while the family recovered from the disasters of the early 1890s and built up its resources to re-emerge as one of the wealthiest families in Victoria in the years before the First World War.

### End notes

13 Sands & McDougall Directory, State Library of Victoria.

14 Argus, 10 June 1891, p.9.

15 VPRS379/P0/34, VPRS379/P0/37, VPRS379/P0/49, VPRS379/P0/55, VPRS379/P0/58, VPRS379/P0/64.

16 J Alex Allan, 'History of Camberwell, 1841-1954', 1954 [manuscript]. State Library of Victoria, p.295

17 Argus 16 May 1896, p.10

18 Sands & McDougall directories.

19 Baillieu and the Murdoch brothers attended Camberwell Grammar School: Baillieu 1902-1904; Keith Murdoch 1901; and Frank Murdoch 1901-1903. [Ed]

20 R.M. Younger, *Keith Murdoch: Founder of a Media Empire*, Harper Collins, Sydney, 2003, pp.18-20. Note that Younger incorrectly states that WL moved into Heathfield in 1894.

21 WLB to Town Clerk, Camberwell, Baillieu Allard Papers, 1/34, University of Melbourne Archives.

22 Camberwell Town Clerk to WL Baillieu, 17 April 1907, in *ibid*.

23 Argus 4 May 1912, p.2

24 *Free Press Camberwell* 4 December 1974, p.7.

25 *Progress Press*, 1 September 1976, p.6.



## THE CAMBERWELL CHORALE

**Dr John Gregory**

**Continued from Issue No 8**

Since 1974, the Camberwell Chorale has been led by Douglas Heywood, who has built on the traditions established during the first 30 years of the choir's history. A choir member, soloist and deputy conductor during Dr Schildberger's era, Doug brought his own infectious enthusiasm and special commitment to music education to the position. At the time of his appointment, Doug was also director of music at Norwood High School, and later became a lecturer in music education at the University of Melbourne. He has also been active in a range of other positions while in charge at Camberwell, including directorship at various times of the Caulfield City Choir, the Victorian State Singers, the Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir, and the annual Carols by Candlelight choir at the Myer Music Bowl. In 1995, he was awarded an OAM for his contributions to music in Australia.



Douglas Heywood OAM

Soon after becoming musical director of the choir – known officially as the Camberwell Chorale since 1977 – Doug Heywood established the Camerata Orchestra, which has performed regularly with the choir ever since, presenting major choral works in their original orchestral form, along with many notable soloists.

While established choral masterpieces from Handel to Vaughan Williams have continued to form the backbone of programming, a number of contemporary works have been given their world premieres by the Chorale during the Heywood years, including *At Dawn (Cyprus Refugee Camp no.4)* by Stelios Tsiokas (1986). In 1990, the Chorale premiered a remarkable new work by English/Australian composer Michael Easton – his *Symphony No.1 "Unsung Heroes"*. This work, dedicated to the Chorale, Camerata Orchestra, and Doug Heywood, commemorates the Gallipoli landing, setting poems by Housman, Sassoon, Rupert Brooke and others, often in rhythmically and harmonically challenging form. Parts of the score were still being radically re-written *during rehearsals*, simply increasing the excitement and difficulty for choir and orchestra members alike! Following the composer's untimely death in 2004 at the age of only 50, the work was performed again, in April 2007, from a score completely reconstituted by Doug Heywood, who is now

involved in an ambitious project to produce a high-quality archive recording of the work, featuring the Camberwell Chorale.

Another notable Heywood initiative was the formation of the Victorian Concert Choir in 1983, giving singers with little or no musical training the exciting opportunity to join members of the Camberwell Chorale, the Camerata Orchestra, and distinguished soloists, in performing large-scale choral works in the new Victorian Concert Hall (and, later, other major Melbourne venues). The aim of the VCC was simply, in the words of its Chairman of Trustees, the late Sir Rupert Hamer, "to open the stage doors of the Concert Hall to choristers who, without the fear of audition, can meet for 10 rehearsals and prepare for a performance of a significant choral work."<sup>6</sup> Exhilarating annual concerts eventuated, featuring works such as Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Verdi's *Requiem*, sung by massed choirs of over 300 voices. A particular highlight, in this writer's opinion, was a remarkable performance of Sir Michael Tippett's challenging and moving modern masterpiece, *A Child of Our Time*, in the Dallas Brooks Hall in 1995. The VCC venture, which ran until financial pressures caused its demise in 1999, was acclaimed for its community character – which also remains a continuing emphasis of the Camberwell Chorale itself.

Besides performing in the Camberwell Civic Centre, Hawthorn Town Hall, and various other Boroondara venues, the Chorale has also travelled extensively during the Heywood era, performing elsewhere in Melbourne, and in a number of Victorian centres such as Ballarat, Echuca, Port Fairy, Queenscliff, Shepparton and Yarrowonga. As in the Schildberger years, Chorale members have joined other choirs for several memorable Melbourne occasions since 1975, including Victoria's sesquicentenary celebrations in 1985 (as part of the 800 voice Victoria choir at the Exhibition Buildings), and the choral contribution to Melbourne's heroic but unsuccessful Olympic bid in 1990 (beamed to the world by satellite!). Chorale members regularly sing in Carols by Candlelight (televised nationally each Christmas Eve), of which "Uncle Doug" Heywood has been choral director since 1989.

In 1994 and 2004 respectively, the Camberwell Chorale celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries with special concerts featuring characteristic works from both the Schildberger and Heywood years. Now well into its seventh decade, the Chorale shows no sign of losing momentum, despite fresh challenges. Among recent achievements, a 2008 performance of Vaughan Williams's opera *The Pilgrim's Progress*, featuring no fewer than 26 soloists, may be singled out. The Camberwell concert received glowing praise from Hector Walker (well known from his regular programme on Melbourne classical radio station 3MBS-FM). In "The Pilgrim's Progress in Melbourne", a review written for the Ralph Vaughan Williams Society in England,



Walker described the Chorale's performance as "a remarkable achievement". He compared it with one in Sydney earlier in the year (the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's death), by the Australian Opera Chorus and others, conducted by Richard Hickox, concluding that while the Sydney concert

*... achieved a degree of professional polish that was often lacking in Melbourne, I felt that the performance here came closer to the composer's vision. It was involving and, ultimately, deeply moving.*<sup>7</sup>

Other recent concerts have included two stirring performances of Verdi's *Requiem*, sung together with the West Gippsland Chorale (Warragul Performing Arts Centre and Hawthorn Town Hall, October 2010), and a memorable May 2011 concert featuring works by three generations of the Mozart family, including Wolfgang Amadeus's *Great Mass in C minor*, and his son Franz Xaver's *Piano Concerto in E flat* (an Australian premiere; with Katherine Shiell as soloist).

The latter concert, while an outstanding success, musically speaking, was unfortunately not well attended enough to cover performance costs. This problem, not unknown to the Chorale over the past decade, raises difficult problems for the choir's continued financial well-being, given the group's ageing core membership, and an increasingly congested concert and entertainment environment. However, the musical director and Chorale committee have taken several steps recently to address these challenges.

Alexandra Cameron, a passionate music educator who is currently Head of Music at Wesley College Elsternwick, and who has a strong belief in the importance of community music, was appointed deputy musical director in 2010 – a key initiative. Several younger members have also been recruited recently to all voice groups, and the choir continues to grow.

While the Chorale still receives welcome financial support from the Boroondara council, it remains largely self-supporting, relying fundamentally on members' annual subscriptions, a wide range of fundraising activities conducted energetically by a dedicated team of choir members, and of course ticket sales. A recent initiative has supplemented the choir's income through tax-deductible donations, contributing to the choir's continuing viability in these GFC-challenged times. It is to the credit of both Doug Heywood – still a vital force after some 37 years in the position – and the volunteer committee, made up largely of choir members (including current president Adam Brown), that the Chorale continues to flourish. Onward to 2044!

#### Endnotes

6 Quoted from the program for the first VCC performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in July 1983 (and reprinted in subsequent VCC programs).

7 Quoted from the reprint of Hector Walker's review, published in the December 2008 issue of "Sounds Incorporated", the Chorale's in-house Newsletter.

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## LAST MEETINGS

**28 February** Changes to the Society's Rules were brought about by changes in Government requirements. Members voted in favour of the proposed changes in a Special Meeting (see page 1).

**Living in Archivy** — **Trevor Hart** spoke about the processes of archiving and his background in archive management and local history. He gave examples of what information could be found in various archive repositories about the Camberwell area.

**27 March** **Local History and Heritage; it's good for us!** — **Associate Professor Don Garden FRHSV**

Professor Garden, who is president of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, spoke about the history movement in Australia and gave an outline of the role of local historical societies. He saw one important contribution they make as adding to the social welfare of districts by creating community identity and wellbeing. Dr Garden's career has covered the writing of local and environmental history and biography and he is widely published.

**21 April** **Walking Tour — Broadway to the Town Hall** — In wonderful walking weather, this tour covered the western side of Camberwell meandering through the 1880s subdivisions of Tara, The Hollies, Fairholme and the areas south of Prospect Hill Road to the Town Hall.

**5 May** **Melbourne High School Visit** — On a cold wet day members of the Society toured Melbourne High School. Glen Turnbull, the school's archivist and also a member of Camberwell Historical Society talked about the extensive history of Melbourne High School, its principals and famous students. We were taken on a tour of the school including the tower which houses the school's Archives.

**22 May** **Historical Landscapes of Boroondara** — **Dr Gary Presland FRHSV**

Dr Presland began by describing his background and how he came to an interest in the geography of Melbourne. In a very clear exposition he described how historical landscapes were researched and reconstructed and showed illustrations of the various vegetation types that would have existed in Boroondara. He also described the inter-relationships of weather, vegetation and animal life in creating the landscape. A lively question and answer session followed his talk.



## MEETINGS FOR 2012

General Meetings for the year will be held at Ashburton (except for the September meeting which will be at Kew on Thursday 13 September)

Dates for remaining meetings in 2012 are:

24 July	Recollections of living in Camberwell	Professor David deKretser AC
28 August	Annual General Meeting	
13 September	Sidney Myer at <b>Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library</b> Note change of day to <b>Thursday</b> for this meeting only	Stella Barber
29 September	Excursion — Lilydale Historical Society	
27 October	Excursion — Church Tour	John Maidment OAM
18 November	Excursion — <i>Labassa</i> , Caulfield North	
27 November	The Architecture of Boroondara	Professor Conrad Hamann Senior Associate, Lovell Chen

Meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of February, March, May, July, August and November at the **Ashburton Library Meeting Room**. The September meeting will be held on the **second Thursday** at the Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library.

The Ashburton Library Meeting Room is at **154 High Street, Ashburton**.

**All meetings commence at 8.00pm.**

## BOOK NOTES

### WILLIAM LAWRENCE BAILLIEU: FOUNDER OF AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST BUSINESS EMPIRE

By Peter Yule

This book, recently launched by the Premier in somewhat controversial circumstances, is an account of the life of a man who made an extraordinary contribution to the development of Australia's mineral industry. Well written, it holds nothing back about Baillieu's bankruptcy in the 1890s or his informal and formal management of the cartels that operated in Australia in the early half of the twentieth century. With interests also in property, brewing and newspapers Baillieu was able to re-establish his fortune to the benefit of his direct family and siblings with all of whom he had a very close bond. As this and the previous two newsletters show, the Baillieu family had a connection with Camberwell.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

### Ordinary Members

Mr P Hobson  
Ms G Wallace

## HELP WANTED

Warners Nurseries (a wholesale plant nursery) will celebrate its 100th year in business in 2014. They are currently researching for a planned book. The nursery started on a small property in Auburn road in 1914, moved to Rowell Avenue and Radnor Street, Camberwell around 1920 and then to Warrigal Road Burwood in the 1940s. Please forward any information to the society's Secretary.

## CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

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Committee members–Jan Alexander, Val Goldsworthy, Trevor Hart (Editor)