CAMBERWELL HISTORY

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL AND DISTRICT

Camberwell Historical Society, Inc.

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Principal Patron: Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC **Patron:** His Worship the Mayor of Boroondara, Cr Jack Wegman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On the 10May, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our Society with a dinner and on the following morning we planted a tree to commemorate this milestone in our history.

The dinner was held at the Box Hill Golf Club and was a most enjoyable occasion well attended by our members and friends from neighbouring historical societies. In my speech, I referred to "the wonderful gathering of the clan". Professor Blainey, our chief guest and the Society's Principal Patron, addressed us on this occasion. He enthralled us with his stories as he took us through our history relating to Camberwell and beyond.

Our Tree Planting took place at Read Gardens on a beautiful autumn morning. Three young children from the area helped me plant a Linden tree. I did mention to the gathering present that I hoped that my helpers will visit this tree from time to time and also return to the tree again when Camberwell Historical Society celebrates its 100th Anniversary. Josh Frydenberg, the Federal Member for Kooyong, addressed those present, making this a very special occasion indeed.

The Society thanks the City of Boroondara for its generous support in providing this commemorative tree and allowing its planting in Read Gardens.

I look forward to our Society going from strength to strength in the next fifty years.

George Fernando



President George Fernando, Mrs Ann Blainey and Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC, chief guest and the Society's Principal Patron at the dinner held to celebrate the Society's founding.



Sophie and Chloe Tremewen, George Fernando, Nicholas Manly, and Josh Frydenberg, MP planted a Linden tree in Read Gardens, Camberwell, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of CHS.

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BOROONDARA'S HENRY WALSH NOTABLE CLOCKMAKER, PIONEER AND CIVIC LEADER WHO GOT THINGS STARTED

Bill Mackie

Bill Mackie, is a great-great-grandson of Henry Walsh and a previous contributor to *Camberwell History*. An earlier article about Henry Walsh appeared in *Camberwell Historical Society Newsletter* No 4, November 1997.

Henry Walsh was born in about 1805 in London. Throughout his life he was a man of great enterprise and energy. He migrated with his wife and two sons in 1849 to Melbourne, when it had about 20,000 citizens just 14 years after its first settlement. He set up his business at 26 Swanston Street making clocks, watches, thermometers and jewellery. In 1852 he was elected to the Melbourne City Council. In 1856-57 he was the first chairman of the Boroondara District Road Board; in 1858 he was elected mayor of the City of Melbourne, and became a Member of the Legislative Council in the Victorian Parliament in 1869. He was the first chairman of the City of Melbourne Gas and Coke Company and first chairman of the Melbourne and Suburban Railway Company. Few people have achieved as much in serving their community during their first ten years in this country.



Henry Walsh, MLC. Mayor of Melbourne, 1858-59. City of Boroondara Heritage Collections

Early life in England

In 1827 Henry was apprenticed to clock maker Robert H Fish of London and in the same year married Charlotte Wade at St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, London. His two elder sons, Henry and Frederick, were born in about 1829 and 1830 respectively, presumably London while he served his seven-vear apprenticeship. During 1835-1839 Henry was working in Newbury,

Berkshire, where his third son Alfred was born in about 1835. At Newbury he made a unique clock with two dials and a complex movement invented by clock-maker Joseph Vines; one dial showed solar time and the other sidereal time. This clock is now in the Science Museum, London.

The 1841 Census of England shows watchmaker

Henry Walsh (35), Charlotte (35) and son Alfred (6) living at 23 Market Place, Reading, Berkshire. The same Census shows their sons Henry Jr (13), Frederick (12) and eighteen other boys up to fourteen years old, and a school assistant (38) were resident with the family of schoolmaster John Moss and his wife Anne in Newbury. Local trade directories show Henry Walsh trading in Reading in 1837 and in 1844. The 1851 Census shows Henry Walsh (23) and two other men, of about



Solar and sidereal time clock. Sidereal dial shows 24 hours with the two lower hands, and a third, large hand shows phases of the moon and its position relative to the sun, which is represented by the fourth hand above.

Science Museum, London

similar age and each listed as watchmaker, living with a family in Newbury; this suggests that son Henry Jr may have been serving an apprenticeship to a clockmaker at a time when his parents were in Melbourne. In September 1852 a Henry Walsh arrived in Melbourne on the *Statesman* as an unassisted immigrant but the listing appears to show his age as 30 rather than 20, which was about the age of Henry Walsh Jr.

Henry Walsh Sr returned from Reading to London at some stage after his wife Charlotte died in Reading in 1844. In 1845 he married Phoebe Sallows (née Bowring) in Lambeth, Surrey. In 1849 a Henry Walsh was trading at 123 Chancery Lane, London. This report is coincident with the fact that a large clock, donated by Henry Walsh in 1855 to Christ Church. Hawthorn. has a dial inscribed 'Walsh & Co. London'. Christ



Wall clock donated by Henry Walsh to Christ Church, Hawthorn, in 1855.

Church was built in 1853-54, close to the property where Walsh made his home not long after he arrived in Melbourne.

All English records about Henry Walsh show only one given name for him. Soon after settling in Melbourne his name in all public documents had become Henry Sallows Walsh. Perhaps he adopted the name Sallows to distinguish his name from that of his son Henry, who traded in Warrnambool in the same type of business as that of his father; possibly he also chose Sallows in deference to his wife Phoebe, who was Phoebe Sallows before she married him.

New business in Melbourne

In Melbourne Henry Walsh quickly established his business of making clocks, watches, thermometers and jewellery.² In 1851, under the name Henry Walsh, his

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business was located at 26 Swanston Street. In 1854 his eldest son. Henry Jr. set up his own business in Warrnambool as a watchmaker. Also in 1854 Henry Walsh, his son Frederick and Edwin Jones were in partnership, trading as Walsh, Jones & Company. In 1855 Henry bought a property at 53 Collins Street where he carried on the business. The Walsh, Jones & Co. trading partnership was dissolved in 1858³ but the name continued to be used in advertisements until late 1858 ³ and the name Walsh, Jones & Co. London appears on timepieces during some subsequent years, and reflects the practice of Australian importers using a London address for English made goods. In fact, a Walsh, Jones & Co. advertisement in 1854 stated 'Arrangements have been made to ensure from Europe a supply of the best articles which are manufactured in their trade.' (Following the dissolution of the partnership Edwin Jones began business as a scientific instruments seller.)4

Walsh and Sons was formed in about 1855 with Henry, Frederick and Alfred in the partnership. This partnership was dissolved from 1 July 1861⁵ when Henry senior retired. He had sold his interest to his two sons who continued under the name of Walsh Brothers & Co.

From 1861 to 1882⁶ the firm traded as Walsh Brothers with Frederick and Alfred managing the business at 53 Collins Street; their father was much involved in public duties and other business activities after being mayor of Melbourne in 1858-59.

Clocks and watches

Museum Victoria has two interesting Walsh items in its horology collection. One is a pocket watch, having a second's dial and a gold hunter case with chain; it is attributed to Walsh Jones & Co. London and was for a testimonial presentation in 1854. The other timepiece



Marine clock supplied by Walsh, Jones & Co. London for HMVS Nelson in Victoria's Navy. Museum Victoria

is a marine wall clock with a brass dial in a round carved case. It was used on the Victorian Navy battleships HMVS Nelson and HMVS Cerberus. It carries, on the front of the dial, the inscription Walsh, Jones & Co. London, and on the back of the dial is a repairer's mark with an inscription 'I [?]. Jones, Nelson Place' and

'13/10/72'. Walsh, Jones & Co. had a good business servicing ship's chronometers, which may account for the name and Nelson Place address that is in Williamstown.

It is difficult to define the nature and scale of clock making in the Walsh family business after Henry arrived in Melbourne. It seems the Walsh business had a heavy reliance on English sources for its timepieces. A few timepieces currently in private and public collections carry the names 'Walsh' and 'Melbourne' but the names of the Walsh firms in Melbourne do not appear on clocks in public places such as railway stations and significant buildings; few of today's traders in clocks and watches seem to recognize the name 'Walsh'. It is likely that, with Henry becoming preoccupied with public and corporate affairs in the colony of Victoria, the Walsh Bros. business moved strongly into the manufacture and sale of jewellery and a wide range of gold and silver items for trophies, tableware, presentation pieces, and wedding gifts.

Jewellery, tableware and presentations

The discovery of gold in Victoria in 1851 brought many people and much wealth to Melbourne. Walsh Bros. was regarded as the largest jewellery business in colonial Victoria. The firm was a leading supplier of high-class clocks, watches and jewellery. It commissioned Victoria's best goldsmiths and silversmiths to make trophies, testimonials, epergnes, and other tableware. Eminent craftsmen in Victoria who were involved in commissions by Walsh Bros. included William Edwards, Edward Fischer, and Julius Hogarth. An early item of tableware was a silver basket for sugar or cream (made by William Edwards for Walsh & Sons in about 1858). Another creation by Edwards. and retailed by Walsh & Sons in about 1861-62, was a casket of distinctly Australian character formed by an emu egg with silver at its base. By 1852 they were advertising as gold-buyers at 19 Swanston Street and in 1853 imported an assortment of superior gold scales and weights.7

Two substantial items associated with the Walsh family business have historical interest. One is a large silver claret jug that was designed and made by William Edwards of Melbourne. Its history starts in August 1859, when the first ornamental street fountain in Mel-



Silver claret jug, 42 cm high, made by William Edwards for the Melbourne City Council. Fountain. This jug is now in the National Museum of Australia. Illustration source: Geelong Gallery.

bourne was erected at the intersection of Collins and Swanston Streets to celebrate the city's newly piped water supply from Yan Yean Reservoir. It was named the Victoria Fountain and was officially opened by the Phoebe Mayoress, Mrs Walsh. In recognition of this duty she was presented with a large claret jug by the Corporation of the City of Melbourne. Phoebe subsequently gave the jug to Henry's grandson, Henry Bowring Walsh (son of Frederick), for his 21st birthday. In recent times it was in the silver collection of the Vizard Foundation. The foun-

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tain became known as the Dolphin Fountain because its basin had six dolphins supporting the central column, but its initial position at the centre of the street intersection obstructed the traffic so within 3 years it was moved to the Carlton Gardens, where it survived for a number of years before being removed.

The other item, also made by Edwards, for Walsh Bros. under a commission from the Melbourne City Council in 1864, was a bridal present for Princess Alexandra, who in 1863 married Edward, Prince of Wales. A large epergne, its design was to embrace:

A base of rock work, upon which animals native to Australia are placed and above which two stems, one of vine and the other of fern, rise, meeting at the top, and supporting a bowl of burnished silver. The stem will be of gold. The birds, rock work and foliage with the animals below are to be frosted silver, the stand of blackwood with silver mountings and shields for arms and inscriptions. The work will contain 40 ounces of 18 carat gold and 200 ounces of St. Arnaud silver, and cost 300 pounds.

This bridal present was purchased with funds from shilling subscriptions given by "the colonists of Victoria". It was put on display in October, 1864 at Walsh Bros. premises. The design was changed slightly, with an oak tree and a fern tree, each of gold, being bound gracefully together by a vine. These species were an allegory of the British oak and Victorian fern tied by the vine that is common to the old and new world.

Longfield

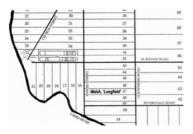
Henry Walsh was about 45 years old when he settled in Boroondara. At some time about 1853 he bought from the original owner Thomas Payne Lot 47, it being one of about eighty Crown allotments in Hawthorn offered for sale in 1851-1853; many allotments were sold for three to four pounds per acre. Walsh's block was 7.5 hectares (18 acres) of farmland six kilometres (3½ miles) east of Melbourne city, on elevated ground close to the Yarra River. It extended from Power Street to Glenferrie Road. He named his little farm Longfield. This was his home for about twenty years. Lisson Grove, running from Power Street to Glenferrie Road, now occupies much of the original Walsh property. In 1856 Henry Walsh had a weatherboard house near today's corner of Lisson Grove and Power Street. In 1873 Henry and Phoebe moved to a new brick house, still standing today, at 22 Shakespeare Grove, Hawthorn.

At Longfield he established an orchard and a five acre vineyard. He was an active member of the Horticultural Society of Victoria, which established Burnley Gardens where the Burnley College campus of Melbourne University is now located. A report of the July 1863 meeting of the society records that Mr HS Walsh of Hawthorn donated a China flat peach and a seedling apple, which he had raised and named 'Longfield seedling'. At a horticultural show in February 1862 Walsh won first prize in the class for 'native wine', for his Longfield white wine of 1858 vintage and second prize for his wine of 1860. In 1867 Walsh's Longfield

wines were served at a reception for the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Alfred) who was visiting Melbourne. Walsh was president of the Melbourne Vine Growers Association in 1867.

Public activities

Soon after his arrival in Melbourne Henry



Map of part of Hawthorn showing allotment 47 bought by Henry Walsh and named *Longfield*, near corner of Power Street and Riversdale Road. Source: Gwen McWilliam, *Hawthorn Peppercorns*

Walsh became involved in public duties. In 1852 he was elected to represent the Hotham Ward of the Melbourne City Council. He was also a Justice of the Peace, an appointment entailing magisterial duties.

The Church of England established its first church east of the Yarra River in Boroondara. It was built in 1853-1854 and was named Christ Church. It still stands on the corner of Church and Denham Streets, Hawthorn. Governor La Trobe gave a beautiful baptismal font to the church in 1854. In 1855 Henry Walsh donated a large wall clock, inscribed 'Walsh & Co. London'. At about the same time he presented a clock to St Joseph's Catholic Church, Hawthorn.

In 1856-1857 Walsh was elected as the first chairman of the Boroondara Road Board. When Hawthorn and Kew became municipalities in 1860 he presided over the first election of Hawthorn councillors. The remnant area of the Road District became the Shire of Boroondara then later the City of Camberwell. In 1994 Camberwell, Hawthorn and Kew were merged into the City of Boroondara which virtually embraces the original Boroondara Road Board District. A photograph of Henry Walsh used to have pride of place with the photographs of the mayors of the City of Camberwell in the Camberwell Town Hall.

In the 1850s he was the first chairman of the City of Melbourne Gas and Coke Company, which supplied gas in 1856 for street lighting in Melbourne. He was also first chairman of the Melbourne and Suburban Railway Company, which was formed in 1857. It built lines first to Richmond, then in 1860 to Windsor and in 1861 to Hawthorn.

A document from the archives of the Melbourne City Council describes how Henry Walsh became Mayor of Melbourne.

In 1858, at the end of one of John Smith's many terms in office, city finances were low and Council morale depressed. Determined to rid themselves of Smith, all councillors except Walsh voted against Smith at the mayoral election, and Walsh became mayor with the task of bringing order to the city's affairs.

In September 1869 Walsh became a member of the Legislative Council in the Victorian Parliament. He

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resigned in May 1871 due to ill-health.

The three sons of Henry Walsh

The first son of Henry and Charlotte was Henry Thomas Harrington Walsh, born in about 1829, and their second son Frederick was born in about 1830; presumably both were born while their father served his apprenticeship in London. Son Henry purchased the watchmaking business of G Tomlinson, Warrnambool, Victoria, on 28 October, 1854. He married Marianne Kirby at Warrnambool in 1859.

Frederick and Alfred became partners with their father Henry in 1855, trading as Walsh and Sons, Later the business became Walsh Bros. and traded until it was sold in 1882. Frederick was a Member of Parliament, as MLA from 1868 to 1874 and 1881 to 1883; in 1870 he was on the Royal Commission on Noxious Trades. Frederick died in Hawthorn in 1903. Alfred, who had married Maria Margaret Woods in 1866, became a 'real estate and stock broker' but lost most of his capital during Victoria's severe financial depression of the early 1890s. He died in 1917. A granddaughter of Alfred said that his wife Maria persistently urged her husband to change his occupation from one of trade to one of higher social status. Perhaps she considered all trades were noxious! Their eldest daughter Mary was the grandmother of Bill Mackie, author of this biography.

The three brothers, Henry of Warrnambool, Frederick of Hawthorn and Alfred of Brighton and later of Rochester in northern Victoria, established separate families which later maintained no contact with each other.

Apart from some street names no monument, or less tangible memorial, seems to commemorate Henry's achievements in his trade, businesses and service to

the community. His portrait, painted as Mayor of Melbourne, was destroyed by fire in the Melbourne Town Hall in 1925. He died on 6th July 1877 at his home in Shakespeare Grove and was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery.⁸

Sources

Genealogical information, from on-line and municipal library sources:

<www.ancestrv.co.uk>: <www.familysearch.org>:

Pioneer Index from Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Horological information from on-line and other sources

AG McDonald, personal communication, 21 June 1995

British Horological Institute

Museum Victoria,

Science Museum London,

<www.clockswatches.com>

General and historical information

JB Hawkins, 19th Century Australian Silver, Antique Collectors' Club, England 1990.

Brian Huber, All that Glitters: Australian colonial gold and silver from the Vizard Foundation, Geelong Gallery, Geelong, 2002 Gwen McWilliam, Hawthorn Peppercorn, Brian Atkins, Melbourne, 1078

The Argus 25 April 1863, 'The Vineyards Around Melbourne', South Bourke Standard, 1862-1869

< www.powerhousemuseum.com>

boroondara.vic.gov.au/our-city>

<www.navyhistory.org.au>

Special thanks to Ruth Dwyer, Hawthorn, for much information transcribed from several 19th Century Melbourne directories and newspapers.

Footnotes

- 1 A sidereal day is about four minutes shorter than a solar day.
- 2 Henry Walsh advertised that he had commenced business in *The Argus* on 13 April 1849.
- 3 The Argus, 4 Jan 1858, p7
- 4 The Argus, 1 Jan 1858, p7
- 5 Victoria Government Gazette, 9 July 1861, p1336
- 6 Henry Young and Co advertised as successors to Walsh Brothers in The April 7 June 1882, p.6
- in The Argus 7 June 1882, p6
- 7 Henry was actually advertising as a gold buyer in 1852. The Argus, 3 February 1852 p3
- 8 Compartment R, Grave 461

CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

Three churches celebrate milestone anniversaries in 2013.

St John's Anglican Church, Camberwell – 150 years

Services were held as early as 1856 in Camberwell, a Government land grant was made in 1862 and the first church begun. the church was extended in 1869 and 1872. A section was rebuilt in 1887 to become the first part of an entirely new building, added to in 1914 and finally completed in 1924. In March 1955 the church gutted by fire. The foundation stone of the present building was laid on 29 September 1956 and the church consecrated on 24 Feb 1959

St Mark's Anglican Church, Canterbury – 100 years

The first service in this new parish was held on 27 April 1913. The foundation stone of the present church was laid on 10 September 1927. Dedication took place in 1928 and the church was consecrated on 24 July 1943.

Our Lady of Victories, Camberwell - 100 years

This parish, known as St John Berchman's, dates from 1881 although land for a church was granted by the Government as early as 1859. The foundation stone of the present building was laid on 21 May 1913 and the church. The opening of the church occurred on 12 October 1918 with a crowd said to total 80,000. It was consecrated in 1925.

5



PREVIOUS MEETINGS

28 March

Susan Priestley, FRHSV 'There is properly no history, only biography' (Ralph Waldo Emerson): Reflections on writing the life of Henrietta Dugdale

At a time when Melbourne was a hub of political liberalism, free thought and a range of new scientific, spiritualist and secular movements Henrietta Augusta Dugdale (1827-1918 was an original mover in Victoria's 24-year struggle to secure the vote for adult females but she first took an interest in all issues affecting women from 1869. Susan Priestly gave an enlightening address on this extraordinary women, linking her to American Ralph Waldo Emmerson. Dugdale, born on London became a Camberwell local where she lived in Riversdale Road for fortyfour years from 1872. The talk covered a wide area and introduced us to a little known part of our local history.

18 April

The two addresses on this night were presented to an audience of over seventy persons.

Helen Sleigh A brief summary of the experiences of the small farming community of Strathbogie in north eastern Victoria during the First World

War. CHS member **Helen Sleigh's** great uncle was born and raised in Strathbogie and died in no man's land at Fromelles; he was never found. Helen gave an account of how the war affected this thriving small town and its surrounding area and what impact the departure of enlisting men had on its viability. We always hear of the big picture but this account was particularly interesting because of its focus on a local community.

Lambis Englezos, AM Missing of Fromelles Lambis Englezos is well known for his work in discovering the burial place of the bodies of many un-located Australian service men of World War I and for having them re-interred in a formal Australian war cemetery. His spirited address covered the procedures he went through and the trials an tribulations in getting the Government to act on the discoveries.

10 May

Jubilee Dinner Sixty members and friends attended the Society's Golden Jubilee dinner at the Box Hill Golf Club where they heard Society's Principal Patron deliver a fascinating address ranging through Victorian history.

11 May

Jubilee Tree Planting Some thirty-five members and friends attended the planting of an American Linden tree in Read Gardens and about sixteen went back to enjoy a morning tea at the Society's new office at 8 Inglesby Road. The City of Boroondara graciously provided the tree and the location. A commemorative plaque will be erected at a later date.

23 May

Kevin BaileyEast Timor and Its History

Kevin Bailey became involved with East Timor in 1991 after seeing a film of the Santa Cruz massacre of November 1991 shown on television. It was filmed by Max Stahl and smuggled out of the country by a tourist. He became Honorary Consul General for Timor-Leste after Independence in 2002. Kevin spoke about the country of East Timor, its history and the history of Australian involvement with East Timor which started with Australians going into East Timor in 1942. A large number of East Timorese lost their lives protecting the 300 Australian soldiers who fought there. He also talked about his and his family's involvement with the country.

POMPEY ELLIOTT

On Saturday 23 March, the President and a small group from CHS joined RSL members and others at Burwood Cemetery to honour the memory of the late Senator Major-General H E 'Pompey' Elliott on the 82nd anniversary of his

death on 23 March 1931. Lambis Englezos welcomed all present and guest speaker Dr Ross McMullin, who authored the biography *Pompey Elliott*, gave a short address. Among floral tributes laid on the gravestone were those from Camberwell RSL and Pompey's alma mater, Ballarat College (now Ballarat Clarendon College). [Val Goldsworthy] Elliott built the house at 56 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell and lived there until his death. [Ed.]



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MEETINGS FOR 2013

Meeting dates for 2013 have been confirmed. All meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month. All meetings will be in The Blackwood Room, Camberwell Town Hall building, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell at 8.00pm.

The remaining meetings in 2013 are:

27 June Michelle Wyatt and Mark Stephenson Heritage Planning at the City of

Boroondara Michelle Wyatt is Team Leader, Strategic Planning and Mark Stephenson is

Heritage Advisor at the City of Boroondara.

25 July Dr Dianne Reilly AM The forgotten Governor: Charles Joseph La

Trobe Dianne Reilly is the former La Trobe Librarian in the State Library of Victoria and

co-founder of The CJ La Trobe Society.

22 August Annual General Meeting

26 September Dr Anne Vale Lady Garden Makers — The Last of the Roman-

tics Dr Vale is Chair, Victorian Committee of the Australian Garden History Society.

20 October (Sunday) - 27 October (Sunday) History Week

24 October Myra Dowling and Mardie Novak The Local History Collection and

the Boroondara Collection

28 November Trevor Hart Wandering through the History of Camberwell

Trevor Hart is editor Camberwell History and a former president of CHS.

GALLIPOLI AND BEYOND 1915-2015

Camberwell Historical Society has agreed to participate in this project to commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 2015. The project is being supported by the City of Boroondara, the Boroondara Historical Societies Association, Kew RSL and Friends of Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery Inc. George Fernando, is the CHS representative.

CHS would like to collect information, photographs and memorabilia relating to Camberwell men and women who served in WWI and if you have such items, or know of anyone who does who would like to donate them to CHS or have them copied by the Society please contact the Society's archivist, Trevor Hart (Phone 9882 5101).

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member:

Nathan Feld

Contributions to *Camberwell History* contain the opinions of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Camberwell Historical Society, its committee or members.

CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY. INC

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