

# CAMBERWELL HISTORY

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL  
AND DISTRICT

Camberwell Historical Society



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**Principal Patron:** Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC

**Patron:** Her Worship the Mayor of Boroondara, Cr Coral Ross

## MEN OF GOD AND WOMEN OF PROPERTY

*Some people talk of morality, and some of religion, but give me a little snug property.*

Maria Edgeworth (1767 – 1849), *The Absentee*

### **Bryony Cosgrove**

Bryony Cosgrove has worked in book publishing for over thirty years and has taught in Publishing and Communications programs at Melbourne, RMIT and Deakin universities. Her book *Portrait of a Friendship: the Letters of Barbara Blackman and Judith Wright, 1950-2000* was published in 2007. She has a Masters in Biography and Life Writing and is currently completing a PhD at Monash University. She and her family have lived in Camberwell at 6 Moorhouse Street for 22 years. The Benson/Dickens family were previous owners of the house and kindly provided the family photographs.

In the Benson/Dickens family, men were prominent members of the Church, and women were property owners and family financial managers at a time when the most common description of a woman's 'rank or profession' on public records was 'home duties'. The passing of the Victorian *Married Women's Property Act* in 1883 enabled these women to make use of their financial skills to buy and sell properties during a period in which female suffrage, State and Federal Government representation, and a fair minimum wage were also being introduced. The term 'property developer' was not in currency at the turn of the twentieth century, and it was unlikely to have appealed to such devout and modest women. Their property acquisitions were a means of making do. Yet one wonders whether the categorisation 'home duties' would have been any more appealing to them.

Marian Arthur was described as a 19-year-old spinster, with no 'rank or profession', at the time of her marriage to surveyor and architect William Benson in Christ Church Ballarat in 1864. She married with the written permission of her father, widower William Arthur, because she was underage.<sup>1</sup> The importance of an education, if not a profession, however, would have been clear to Marian, the child of a schoolmaster. As William Arthur's only surviving daughter,<sup>2</sup> she would have handled the domestic responsibilities for her father and two brothers until her marriage to William Benson. Her new husband gave his age as '42', although his death certificate suggests that he was at least 52 in 1864, making him even older than Marian's father.<sup>3</sup>

William Benson was an educated man, interested in politics and local affairs, and it is possible that he met Marian Arthur through her father. Both William Arthur and William Benson may have witnessed the events that led to the Eureka Rebellion on the Ballarat goldfields in the early summer of 1854. The young town of Ballarat attracted many enthusiastic and entrepreneurial men, described by historian Geoffrey Serle as 'morally enlightened artisans ... claimed as one

<sup>1</sup> William Benson and Marian Arthur, marriage certificate, district of Ballarat [sic], Colony of Victoria, 1864 (No 1152).

<sup>2</sup> William Arthur and his three children arrived in Melbourne in November 1849, as unassisted migrants on board the *Gitana* (*Argu s* passenger index, 1846-1868). His wife, Harriet, presumably had died giving birth to another daughter, who did not survive.

<sup>3</sup> William Benson, death certificate, district of Ballarat [sic], Colony of Victoria, 1882 (No 230).

kind of elite in the van of political and cultural progress'.<sup>4</sup> Benson had at one time been an escort trooper in South Australia and then a reporter on the *Ballarat Times* before taking up architecture and surveying, and in 1853 he had been a signatory to the Bendigo Goldfields petition presented to His Excellency Charles Joseph LaTrobe, then Governor of Victoria, concerning the unfair licensing system on the goldfields.<sup>5</sup> William Benson gave an entertaining lecture on 'the sport of licence or digger-hunting' to the Working Men's Temperance Meeting in the Alfred Hall in Ballarat on 19 February 1870, a month after the birth of his first daughter, Emma Mary.<sup>6</sup>

The Bensons established a home in South Street, Ballarat, and William took rooms at the Mechanics' Institute Chambers for his architecture and surveying practice.<sup>7</sup> The Institute, established in 1859, was also an intellectual and social gathering place, hosting lectures and providing classes in subjects such as mathematics, book-keeping, grammar and composition, architectural drawing, French and music; the library and reading room were well patronised by men and women.<sup>8</sup> It is likely that William and Marian Benson were among the patrons. Ballarat also boasted an art gallery, a chamber of commerce, the Theatre Royal, a public library, and its own philharmonic society, all of which contributed to the city's cultural life and all of which were housed in magnificent buildings funded primarily by gold.

The physical and moral wellbeing of the townsfolk was also attended to, with a hospital, a benevolent asylum and an orphan asylum all being established by the late 1860s.<sup>9</sup> And Ballarat was a city of churches, the earlier wooden structures gradually being replaced by brick and stone edifices, many with soaring spires. Although William and Marian Benson were married in the Anglican Christ Church in Lydiard Street, according to the rites of the Church of England, both the Benson and Arthur families were attracted to the Church of Christ and the Baptist Church, which had growing congregations in and around the goldfields towns. The churches' links with the Temperance movement, and their less hierarchical structure and more informal style of worship, meant that they appealed directly to 'the self-educated petty-bourgeois, and in particular, independent tradesmen, who were flattered by the notion that they were capable of understanding and responding to the gospel without priestly help'.<sup>10</sup> Men and women of the congregation – the brethren – were closely involved with the running of the church and were encouraged to speak out during services. The Reverend Isaac New, who laid the foundation stone for the Ballarat Baptist Church in 1866, was to officiate at the marriage of Marian Benson's older brother the following year in Melbourne.<sup>11</sup>

By late 1881, the Bensons had moved to Ballarat West, which had become the commercial and industrial hub of the town, enhanced by the siting of the railway station linking Ballarat to Melbourne. Marian Benson had by then given birth to four girls and three boys, two of whom had died in infancy. At the height of that summer, however, William Benson suddenly became ill with chronic diarrhoea, a highly contagious sickness for which the popular remedy was an infusion prepared from the gum of wattle trees.<sup>12</sup> Despite treatment, he died at home within a week, and was buried two days later in Ballarat Cemetery. Four of the five deaths listed on the same register page for 28-30 January 1882 in Ballarat give diarrhoea as the cause, suggesting that the illness was widespread and was targeting the elderly, the infirm and the very young. The city's poor sewerage system contributed to several outbreaks of diarrhoea and cholera. William

<sup>4</sup> Geoffrey Serle, *From Deserts the Prophets Come: the creative spirit in Australia 1788-1972*, William Heinemann, Melbourne, p.25.

<sup>5</sup> The 1853 Bendigo Goldfields Petition, State Library of Victoria, <http://experimedia.vic.gov.au/collections>

<sup>6</sup> W.B. Withers, *History of Ballarat and Some Ballarat Reminiscences*, Ballarat Heritage Services, Ballarat, 1999 (facsimile edition – originally published 1870), pp.49-50.

<sup>7</sup> F.M. Dickers *Ballarat & District Directory*, 1865-66.

<sup>8</sup> Jennifer Hazelwood, 'The role of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute in the Cultural Life of Ballarat and the Education of Females 1859-1880', lecture delivered at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute, 10 September 2004.

<sup>9</sup> W. B. Withers, *History of Ballarat*, pp. 159-61.

<sup>10</sup> Graeme Chapman, *Ballarat Churches of Christ 1859-1993*, CCTC, Melbourne, 1994, p. 12.

<sup>11</sup> W.B. Withers, *History of Ballarat*, p. 166.

<sup>12</sup> Jennifer Hagger, *Australian Colonial Medicine*, Rigby, Adelaide, 1979, p. 104.

Benson was 69. His death left Marian Benson with five children: William Herbert, 14, Emma Mary, 12, Marian, 10, Margaret Jane, 5, and little Ethel Bonne-Bonne, 3.

Marian Benson inherited her husband's modest estate just before an important change in the law in the Colony of Victoria. The following year, in 1883, the Victorian Government passed the *Married Women's Property Act*, which for the first time gave women in the Colony of Victoria control over their own property and earnings after marriage.<sup>13</sup> This legislation would subsequently allow Marian Benson's daughter, Emma Mary, to own property in her own name, and allow Emma Mary to will the bulk of her estate to *her* married daughter, Jeannie.

The spiritual and practical support of a Church of Christ congregation probably had some bearing on Marian Benson's decision to take her young family to Melbourne after the death of her husband, settling first in North Carlton in the vicinity of the Lygon Street Church of Christ. Her father, William Arthur, had also moved from Ballarat to Melbourne in order to establish himself in business as an insurance agent and self-styled 'gentleman' on Sydney Road in the suburb of Coburg. The opening of a train and then a tram link from Coburg to the city had started a land boom in the area. Her older brother, portentously named William Shakespeare Arthur, had moved to Melbourne some years earlier, and had been working as a labourer and living in Collingwood when he married housekeeper Rebecca Cobb in 1867 at the house of Baptist minister Isaac New. William Shakespeare Arthur produced no works of literature and no children, even though he married three times – the last at the age of 72. From the early years of the twentieth century until his death in 1921, however, he made a comfortable living as a produce merchant.<sup>14</sup> Coburg, located between the Merri and Moonee Ponds creeks, was referred to as the salad bowl of Melbourne because of all the farming and market gardening that was supported by its rich, dark, volcanic soil.<sup>15</sup>

On the edge of Melbourne's city centre, the Queen Victoria Market's wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable section was formally established in 1878, much of this supplied by Coburg market gardeners. Halls were subsequently established for the selling of meat, fish and dairy products at the market, making this a convenient and popular place to shop, among the bustle of stall holders taking delivery of barrow loads of produce.

Perhaps the market traders were regular customers at Jabez Dickens & Sons' barrow factory at 94 Elgin Street, Carlton: a fine two-storey residence above a workshop opening onto a bluestone-cobbled rear courtyard.<sup>16</sup> Jabez, a cooper and carpenter from Sharnbrook in Bedfordshire, and his Scottish wife, Jane Thomson, had met in the colony of South Australia and married in Adelaide in 1856,<sup>17</sup> according to the rites of the Uniting Church, before moving to Melbourne.

The Dickens and their young daughter Elizabeth settled first in Catherine Street, Richmond, where a son, William Thomson, was born in 1860 and a daughter, Jemima, in 1862. By 1864 the family had moved to Carlton and were living at 103 Elgin Street, one of the suburb's wide, commercial thoroughfares. Jane Dickens gave birth there to another son, David, who lived only sixteen days before succumbing to diphtheria – one of the epidemic diseases that remained a major cause of infant mortality until Melbourne's poor public health and sanitation were addressed.<sup>18</sup> Jane was to give birth to eight children, of whom six survived into adulthood.

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<sup>13</sup> The Act had been passed in Britain in 1870, drafted by the lawyer husband of suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst, and was eventually passed in all the Australian colonies.

<sup>14</sup> William Shakespeare Arthur, death certificate, district of Coburg, State of Victoria, 1921 (No 1206).

<sup>15</sup> Richard Broome, *Coburg: between two creeks*, Lothian Books, Melbourne, 1987, p. viii.

<sup>16</sup> Rather fittingly, the premises now house the offices of a firm of structural, civil and hydraulic engineers.

<sup>17</sup> Jabez Dickens and Jane Thomson, marriage certificate, Adelaide, Colony of South Australia, 2 June 1856 (Book 26 Page 58).

<sup>18</sup> David Dickens, death certificate, district of Melbourne North, Colony of Victoria, 1864 (No 6166).



*Left to Right: Jemima, Elizabeth, Jabez, William, Mary, Jane, George and Jeannie Dickens*

This photograph of the Dickens family, probably taken around 1890, shows a portly Jabez and a slender Jane surrounded by their two sons, William and George, and their four daughters, Elizabeth, Jemima, Jeannie and Mary. The men are dapper, in cutaway jackets and high collars, and the women tight-laced and demure. Jabez' left arm seems to hang limp in his jacket – perhaps the result of an injury – but he looks solidly proud of his position and his family. With good reason, because although from 1889, Melbourne's financial boom, which had been fed by land speculation, began to falter and then crashed, Jabez Dickens & Sons' barrow factory remained in business and remained in the family even as the building trade collapsed. By 1893, about thirty percent of breadwinners were unemployed.<sup>19</sup>

The existence of a second certificate recording the union of Jabez Dickens and Jane Thomson, this time in Melbourne at 94 Elgin Street, Carlton, in 1869, presents a puzzle. This marriage certificate states that Jabez is a 50-year-old carpenter, and childless, and that Jane Thomson is a 42-year-old spinster and domestic servant, also childless. Apart from denying the existence of six of their children, Jabez also claims to have become a widower in 1865. The 1869 marriage was celebrated by a 'Minister of the Gospell' [sic].<sup>20</sup> Perhaps Jabez was already married when he first arrived in Adelaide around 1849, and if so, without his wife. This would have made his 1856 marriage to Jane Thomson bigamous. If indeed he had been married before, and his first wife did die, childless, in 1865, then Jabez and Jane might have felt inclined to 'remarry' – this time legally. Jane is the only wife listed on his death certificate, along with his eight children – two deceased.<sup>21</sup> It is not known whether Jabez and Jane's children were ever aware of this second marriage or the reasons for it.

Two blocks from Lygon Street, Marian Benson took up residence at 'Melrose', number 253 Amess Street and one of the centre terraces in an elegant, two-storey row of six that sat between more modest, single-storey workers' cottages.<sup>22</sup> Apart from closer proximity to family, Marian Benson's move from Ballarat to North Carlton would have provided more education and

<sup>19</sup> Broome, *Coburg: between two creeks*, p.153.

<sup>20</sup> Jabez Dickens and Jane Thomson, marriage certificate, district of Carlton, Colony of Victoria 1869 (No 1084).

<sup>21</sup> Jabez Dickens, death certificate, district of Carlton, Colony of Victoria 1897 (No 8149)

<sup>22</sup> The façade of the house, now the office of a database production company, has been rendered over the original tuck-pointed brickwork commonly used in the late 1880s, when the row of terraces would have been built.

employment opportunities for her children. Although she had inherited her husband's estate, Marian had five children to raise. At the time, the Colony of Victoria had no Poor Law and no government-sponsored form of relief for those in need, and family support – both financial and emotional – was essential.<sup>23</sup> North Carlton was sufficiently removed from the cramped and increasingly polluted streets of Carlton and South Carlton, yet was becoming well served by public transport, shops and schools.

Princes Hill State Primary School, the sixth to be built in the Carlton area, was opened in 1889, and in January 1892, 15-year-old Margaret Jane Benson, Marian's second-youngest daughter, was apprenticed as a pupil teacher. Although a respectable profession much in demand after the introduction of free, compulsory and secular education in the Australian colonies in 1872, and possibly taken up by all the Benson daughters, the pupil-teacher apprenticeship was gruelling. Candidates were generally aged between 13 and 15 when they sat for examinations in grammar, etymology, history, calculus, prose and poetry, geography, reading, diction and spelling. Successful candidates were required to supply health certificates.<sup>24</sup>

Margaret Jane Benson's doctor certified that she was of 'sound constitution, good health and physical capability to undertake the duties of a pupil teacher, and she was apprenticed to the head teacher for five years. She spent the all day in a classroom under the surveillance of the class teacher, and during recess and after school she was tutored by the head teacher. In the evenings she had homework to complete. She was paid £20 for the year's work, and on passing each year of her apprenticeship she was paid an increment of £10 per annum as recognition. After the five years, in 1897, she was awarded a Licence to Teach and was then probably appointed to a rural school.<sup>25</sup> She would have had to resign from the teaching profession when she married in 1902 and moved to the outer district of Sunbury.<sup>26</sup>

The Misses Benson and their mother, Marian, would have socialised with other members of the Church of Christ congregation on Lygon Street, perhaps joining the ladies' choir, the sewing group and the 'ladies aid' group to assist with visiting the sick, as well as attending church socials, musical evenings and picnics. Their brother, William Herbert Benson, who had moved to nearby 567 Station Street, might well have become acquainted with a young man living across the road at 634 – William Thomson Dickens, an engineer, whose family also attended the Lygon Street Church of Christ, and whose devout older sister, Elizabeth, was to become a missionary.<sup>27</sup>

**Part 2 of this article will appear in the next Newsletter.**

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<sup>23</sup> Annemarie Law and Pat Grimshaw, *Among the Terraces: family support in Carlton*, Carlton Forest Group, Melbourne, web p. 1.

<sup>24</sup> Nicholas Vlahogiannis, *Prinny Hill: the state schools of Princes Hill 1889-1989*, Princes Hill Schools, Melbourne, 1989, pp.70-1.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Green and Savage Tribes Genealogy Home Page.

<sup>27</sup> Jill Skerry, great-granddaughter of Emma Mary Dickens, family recollections (3 June 2005).

## JUBILEE TREE PLANTING ONE YEAR ON



One Year ago an American Linden was planted in Read Gardens to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Camberwell Historical Society.

Before a large crowd, the President, George Fernando was assisted at the planting by three young Boroondara residents. Nicholas was one of those assisting and frequently visits Read Gardens to check on "his tree".

Nicholas Manly with the American Linden planted 11 May 2013. Photograph by Val Goldsworthy.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 24th June 2014 8 pm**

**Speaker: Bruce Postle**

**Topic: "50 Years of history through photographs"**

**VENUE:** The Meeting Room, Camberwell Library,  
340 Camberwell Road, Camberwell



Bruce Postle was one of the greatest Australian Photojournalists of the 20th century. His career that spanned over 50 years included 29 years at The Age. His legendary photographs covered the most notable events and people, capturing many moving moments in our history. He has been an inspiration to many who have followed in his footsteps.

## VALE: TREVOR JOHN HART 11.9.1942 to 30.4.2014

President, Camberwell Historical Society (1996 to 1998)

Archivist, C.H.S. (2011 to present)

Newsletter Editor, C.H.S. (1997 to 2001, 2010 to present)



Growing up in Caulfield and studying at Caulfield Technical College, Trevor became deeply interested in history and the arts. He received his MA in Archives and Records Management at Monash University and later a Graduate Diploma in Information Management.

He joined the E.S.& A. Bank at the age of fifteen, on 10.2.1958. Trevor's initial placement was in the Bank's Processing Department; in the 1960s he was transferred to General Manager's Office. Several letters to the Bank's senior management survive which reveal that Trevor put his case for the establishment of a Bank Archive. Max Scambler agreed and gave the go-ahead to collect and archive. In January 1969 Trevor was appointed as the Bank's Acting Archivist - his vision was realised.

While a banker, he maintained his commitment to history. Named Group Archivist at the A.N.Z. Bank (1983-2000), he worked tirelessly to maintain records and artefacts of predecessor banks. His assistance to visiting researchers granted access to the archives was much valued and appreciated. It was his recommendation that led the bank to open, in 1985, a museum in the splendid 1880s Gothic Revival Bank, on the corner of Collins and Queen Streets. He was Founder and Manager of the A.N.Z. Banking Museum from 1984 to 2000, and Manager of the Group Art Collection from 1994 to 2000. It is today the only banking museum in Victoria and one of only two in Australia.

Trevor joined the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Genealogical Society of Victoria in the 1960s. He was soon influential in both groups: on the R.H.S.V Council (1970-81, 1983-1986) and Treasurer (1972-80); and at the G.S.V (1964-88, including Councillor and Honorary Secretary). He continued his work at the local level, founding or leading the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group (1970) the Caulfield Historical Society (1972), the Malvern Historical Society (1973) and the Fitzroy History Society (1982). He was President of the Camberwell Historical Society (1996-98), Archivist (2011 to the present) and Newsletter Editor (1997-2001, 2010 to the present).

When the A.N.Z Bank abolished his position in 2000, he became archivist at Camberwell Grammar School, before joining the University of Melbourne Archives as Senior Business Archivist and then Rio Tinto Business Archivist. He continued his work with Camberwell Grammar School, adding Ruyton Girls' School and Eltham College; he remained archivist at Ruyton and Camberwell until his death. Trevor published extensively and contributed entries on early banking identities to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

Members of the Camberwell Historical Society, neighbouring societies and work colleagues recall earlier times spent with Trevor. Fellow archivist Glen Turnbull writes, "Trevor was a great colleague and an enthusiastic historian, influential in local history and archivist fields. He was often invited to be a guest speaker at seminars organised by the R.H.S.V. and the Australian

Society of Archivists. He accepted frequent invitations to speak at public meetings, particularly on the Camberwell area".

Jane Nigro, remembers in the early 1970s that, "Trevor was one of the first members of the Malvern Historical Society. We were the young ones! Trevor was establishing the Caulfield Historical Society at the time".

Anna Carina, who works at Villa Alba in Kew said, "I loved his sense of humour, and that twinkle in his eye. I loved volunteering with him at Villa Alba, and appreciated his hard work".

Gary McCallum, retired staff member from A.N.Z. remembers, "Trevor was one of the least demanding managers to deal with. His unique requirements as Group Archivist were a pleasure to source. Always a gracious colleague".

George Fernando, President of C.H.S., stated that, "Trevor Hart was a pillar of strength in Camberwell Historical Society and a great source of help to us. He made an enormous contribution to the Society; he was diligent and meticulous in whatever he did and set the standard for all of us. Trevor will be greatly missed".

"A loyal friend, a fine scholar and a man of infinite mirth. *Sui Generis* - one of a kind. A hard worker and wise counsellor for Camberwell Historical Society". (Val Goldsworthy)

Trevor was a gentleman, erudite, thoughtful and generous, with an infectious sense of humour. He died on 30 April, after a short illness. He is survived by his wife, Louise, and children, Nyree and Nicholas. A memorial service, attended by family members and friends, was held at Camberwell Grammar School on 14 May 2014.

## **NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Camberwell Historical Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August in the Meeting Room, Camberwell Library, 340 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, , Victoria, 3124 at 8pm.

In accordance with the Society's rules, the current committee members retire and nominations are called for the ensuing year. In terms of the rules, up to seven members may be elected. Retiring committee members are eligible for re-election. The Society's rules state that the Committee shall consist of: a) The Officers of the Society and b) up to four ordinary members. The Officers of the Society shall be: (a) President, (b) Treasurer, (c) Secretary

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE**

In accordance to the Society's Rules, the Society's financial year operates from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June and subscriptions are due and payable on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> each year.



## MEETING REPORTS

### **Excursion to the National Aviation Museum, Lilydale Workshop, Sunday 9 March 2014 10.30am**

A group of CHS members visited the workshop which restores planes before display at the Museum at Moorabbin Airport. David Bevan, our guide, was extremely enthusiastic about his subject. The type of planes stored at or under reconstruction at Lilydale were: a Miles Falcon Major M3A, one of only 3 in the world; a Dehaviland Leopard Moth which last flew 10-12 years ago; a BA Swallow, once owned by Lang Handcock, which has had to be completely restored; a Tiger Moth with a gypsy moth engine and a Cessna.

### **Tour of Public Records Office Victoria Tour Thursday 20 March 2014 10am**

Leigh Kinrade led a group of CHS members on the tour of the archives. The one hour tour included a look at the shelves, some old records such as hand written court transcripts, unusual items, books of prison records and a tour of the special cold storage area for sensitive records. An opportunity to see the volunteers at work taking high resolution photographs and scanning documents was given.

### **Talk by Dr Ross McMullin "Farewell, Dear People: Australia's Lost Generation of the Great War" Tuesday 22 April 2014**

Ross McMullin was a captivating speaker, telling the stories of ten exceptional young men killed during WWI. Ross carefully chose young men from across Australia and of a variety of backgrounds to research for his book. He explained in depth what their losses meant to their families and to Australia as a nation.

### **Excursion to Bolobek Garden, Mt Macedon 27 April 2014 3pm**

Members of Camberwell Historical Society and friends were welcomed to Bolobek by Brigid and Hugh Robertson. After a wonderful afternoon tea, Brigid talked about the history of the garden and then we were invited to stroll around the gardens in our own time. The Oswald Symes created Bolobek from 1911 and held the property until 1969 when it was sold to Robert and Joan Law-Smith, who had John and Phyllis Murphy design a new modern house in 1970. Lady Law-Smith enhanced the garden and it has become a Heritage garden of great significance.

### **Excursion to Stonnington History Centre 21 May 2014 10am**

The Stonnington History Centre is an archive dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of the City of Stonnington and its antecedents, the former Cities of Malvern and Prahran. It is operated by The Stonnington Library and Information Service. David Tuck was our guide and gave an insightful tour of the archives to Camberwell Historical Society members.



Bolobek photographed by George Fernando 27.4.2014

### **NEW MEMBER**

We welcome the following new member: Marshall Lanyon

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.

## MEETINGS FOR 2014

All meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each alternate month in the Meeting Room, Camberwell Library, 340 Camberwell Road, Camberwell at 8.00pm.

- 24 June**      **Bruce Postle "50 years of history through photography"**  
In 27 years as a photojournalist with *The Age* Bruce Postle has become one of Australia's most celebrated photojournalists. His talk coincides with an exhibition of his work at the Monash Gallery and the publication of a book.
- 16 July**      **Excursion to the Victorian Telecommunications Museum, 10.30 am**  
**375 Burwood Rd Hawthorn**  
The museum is housed in the Telstra Hawthorn telephone exchange near Glenferrie Station and is about preserving Australia's telecommunications heritage. The items come from both Telstra and the volunteer affiliate that manage the collection.
- Aug 26**      **Annual General Meeting 8pm**
- Sep 23**      **Anne Barton "Edmund Barton : the one man for the job"**  
Anne has researched Edmund Barton, a major figure in the founding of Australia; his role in the Federation movement, his time as Australia's first Prime Minister and, from 1903, as a justice of Australia's newly formed High Court.
- Oct 12**      **Excursion to the 19th Century Portable Iron Houses, South Melbourne, 2pm**  
These remarkable examples of early property development are among the few prefabricated iron buildings remaining in the world. Conducted by a National Trust tour guide, there will be a small charge for this tour
- Nov 25**      **Jane Nigro "The History of Malvern"**  
Jane Nigro, former President of the Malvern Historical Society, founded in 1972. Jane has been involved in many of Malvern's publications and she is the editor of the Society's newsletter. In 2005 Jane was awarded the City of Stonnington Citizen of the Year - Art/Culture in recognition of her work with the Malvern Historical Society.

## CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

ABN 79 935 200 741      Incorporation No A0041541Y  
Affiliated with The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Inc

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President — George Fernando; Secretary - Adèle Fernando-Swart; Treasurer - Nathan Feld

Committee members — Frances Watson, Anna Carina

*Camberwell History*: Editor — Adèle Fernando-Swart

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*Camberwell History* is printed in the office of Josh Frydenberg, MHR, Federal Member of Parliament for Kooyong