

# CAMBERWELL HISTORY

## RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL AND DISTRICT

Camberwell Historical Society, Inc.

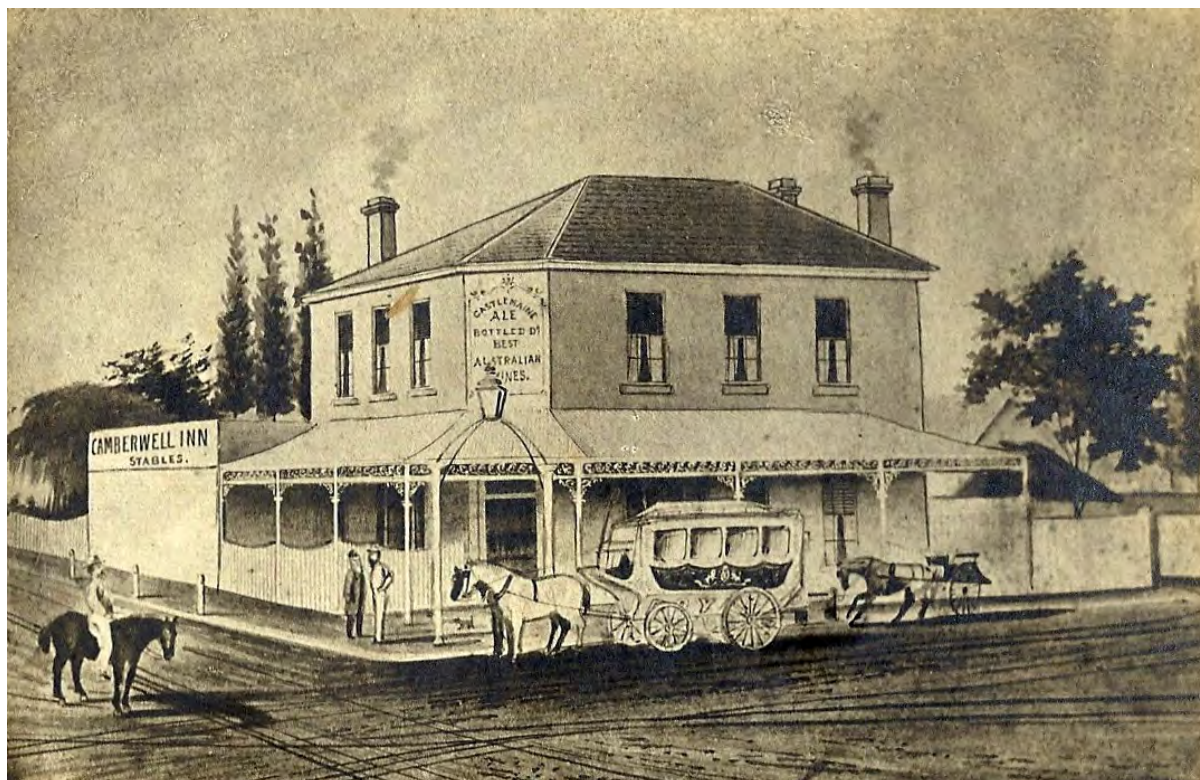


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**Principal Patron:** Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC  
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## THE NAMING OF CAMBERWELL

Gwen McWilliam, OAM, BA

Gwen McWilliam is well known as an authority on the history of Boroondara and the author of a large number of books and pamphlets about the City. She was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia in 2001 'for service to the community of Hawthorn and district, particularly through the research, documentation and publication of its history.' This award could equally have been made for her service to the community of Camberwell which is no less significant. Gwen McWilliam was made an Honorary member of CHS in 2000 in recognition of her work.

In a paper delivered to CHS in 2000, Gwen McWilliam discussed the origin of Camberwell place names. A substantial part of the paper related specifically to the naming of Camberwell itself and cast doubt on the source of the name.

Camberwell Inn, date unknown. CHS 2011-6

And Camberwell ? The name existed in 1858; it appears in James Bonwick's *Sketch of Boroondara*:

'Several private townships are scattered throughout eastern Boroondara, as Camberwell, at the junction of the two great roads...'<sup>1</sup>

James Bonwick was a teacher, and also briefly an estate agent, with dealings in the Pleasant Road area in Hawthorn and also along Camberwell Road, where the

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little village really began.<sup>2</sup>

The next place to look would be Blainey, who states that,

'The crossroads was a fine site for an inn, and in the spring of 1853 George Eastaway rode from Melbourne and bought land from John Dane on the north-east corner of the junction and built a hotel of corrugated iron. Searching for a name he thought of the roads that converged at Camberwell Green in his native London, and called his new house the Camberwell Inn .... The settlement adopted the name.'<sup>3</sup>

It is a delightful picture, but how true? Blainey acknowledges his great debt to historian J Alexander Allan, who wrote an enormous history of Camberwell – nearly 400 roneod foolscap pages. Allan had too good an imagination, and can leave the reader confused and doubting. However, it must have broken his heart when the Council commissioned Blainey to write a history instead.<sup>4</sup> It was likely Blainey's source was Allan. Allan relied on detailed Titles research, without questioning. Allan wrote about the Camberwell Inn:

'During the latter half of 1854 George Eastaway, the district's pioneer innkeeper, arrived in what is now Camberwell and built the "Camberwell Inn"...'<sup>5</sup>

(then, unfortunately later on) 'As George Eastaway bought the site in 1853, it is only reasonable to suppose that the building was begun, if not completed, that year, as it was of corrugated iron the process of building would not be a lengthy one.'<sup>6</sup>

His title searching found that John Dane (the so-called Crown Grantee, who bought Crown Portion 115), conveyed a block to Eastaway at the end of October 1853, and calculated that it was eleven weeks and three days after the Crown grant was issued to Dane, in August 1853. Hence Blainey's comment about Spring sales. Allan's titles research was correct, but he did not realise that Dane purchased his Crown Portion fifteen weeks before, at government land sales early in May 1853 (when the previously unsold part of Boroondara, from Auburn Road to the present Warrigal Road was sold), and the land had been advertised back in March 1853. Dane paid 47/- [shillings] per acre for Crown Portion 94 the same day (on the Hawthorn side of the Junction); his CP 115 - 35 acres, 1 rood and 36 rods - cost him 25/-per acre; or £886/17/6.<sup>7</sup>

However, the official document - signed by Charles La Trobe because it was Crown Land - was not issued to John Dane 'of Collingwood' for months. The boundaries included three roads: the present Burke and RIVERSDALE Roads, and the first part of Prospect Hill Road

(21 chains 50 links,<sup>8</sup> if someone would like to measure), as planned government roads, but unnamed. The small print referred to a 'quit-rent' of 'one peppercorn for ever, if demanded', and also that 'We' (the Royal plural) Hereby Reserve ... all such parts ... of the said Land as may be hereafter required for making Public Ways, Canals or Railroads, in over and through the same, ... And Also all Sand, Clay, Stone, Gravel, and Indigenous Timber, and all other Materials, the natural produce of the said land which may be required for the construction and repair of any Public Ways (*et cetera*) and the right of full and free ingress, egress and regress into, out of and upon the said land ...'<sup>9</sup>

Dane obviously did not regard his lack of documentation as a problem, because he had already organised to chop up his blocks and sell. CP 94 was advertised for sale in fifteen allotments at the end of May 1853, thirty one weeks after he bought! And then CP 115 in June, five weeks after he bought. Both Crown Portions were sold by estate agent, John Hurrey, as 'well adapted for garden purposes and addressed to Market Gardeners, Wood Carters and others', and both as 'Title - Grant from the Crown.'

But where did Eastaway buy? Hurrey's advertisement for CP 115 actually added:

'Intending buyers are requested to meet the Auctioneer at his private residence in Upper Hawthorne at 12 o'clock in order that he may accompany them to the different lots.'<sup>10</sup>

Hurrey's auctions were held in Elizabeth Street in Town, but this was 'on the ground' at 12 o'clock precisely (and no mention of Dane) so a bit of a rush from his house near Henry Street!<sup>11</sup> Hurrey still had the unsold portion of 115: twelve allotments for auction in his rooms at the beginning of July 1853, with:

'... great elevation, for villa sites ... (and) magnificent and uninterrupted view of Hobson's Bay, and Richmond and Collingwood when the wood in the foreground is cleared ...'

and probably later in the month (but no CP number listed) 'with capital brick earth' for brick-making.<sup>12</sup>

That corner of the crossroads would be the prime site for a commercial enterprise, and among the first sold. Eastaway paid £280/4/8 for his 3 acres and 27 perches, and probably bought in Winter not Spring, with some delay in the documents or final payment, before the land was conveyed in October 1853. It is likely Eastaway was in the district by 1854: an unclaimed letter for him at Hawthorn Post Office was noted in the *Government Gazette* in August 1854.<sup>13</sup> Allan gave the *Standard's* comment that the Eastaway family 'of the Camberwell Inn' was leaving the district after *nearly*





Mr. Host Eastaway, of the Camberwell Inn, and his daughter are leaving our neighbourhood and proceeding to their native land by the good ship Norfolk, on Saturday next. For nearly thirteen years the family has been resident at Camberwell, and during that time they have been universally respected for upright conduct, urbanity of demeanour, and above all, for those good qualities which are so essential in young communities, viz., undoubted honesty of character, and sincere good-fellowship towards their neighbours. We, in common with all who know them, wish them a hearty God speed, and a safe arrival amongst their older though not more warm friends in the old country.

*South Bourke Standard* 7 June 1867

in 1855 as 'a few wattle and daub huts, a smithy and an hotel called the Camberwell Inn ...' so it appeared 'certain that the inn was built no later than the year 1854.' His source was the Colles 1910 *History of Hawthorn*,<sup>15</sup> but unfortunately he gets it slightly wrong. The original actually says wattle-and-dab, not daub and 'an inn called the Camberwell Hotel', not an hotel called the Camberwell Inn (but that is splitting hairs). The date of 1855, however, appeared further back in the text in brackets, as though approximate. In between was a comment that Molesworth had just acquired a house built by Pettit, and then 'out past Camberwell ... on a Sunday morning we go hunting kangaroos and wallabies. It is a pretty wild sort of country' (the sort of comment Allan would not have liked). Molesworth was Judge Molesworth who lived in *Edlington* once on the south-west corner of Burwood and Auburn Roads. Contractor William Pettit's house was advertised for sale in August 1858, and Molesworth was there by 1859, with Pettit in another new house just west. So it was likely Morton was remembering events circa 1858.<sup>16</sup>

I would expect the Camberwell Inn to have been built in 1857, as Allan kindly provided the information that Eastaway had mortgaged the property (which is often to get the money to build) early that year.<sup>17</sup> But how to confirm that date? The 1856 Victorian Parliamentary *Electoral Roll* is useful, but it seems possible to miss people. I did not find the hotel; I found only two entries for a George Eastaway. First at the corner of King Street and Flinders Lane, with a salary of £200 from a Mr Martin, and secondly at Red Gum Flat Boroondara as a gardener, with freehold house and land.<sup>18</sup> So there was a house and land in the district, and perhaps a job in Town? But the confirmation that the inn was younger came from the Licensing Court in Town, at the end of April 1857: George Eastaway applying for a 'new license for a new house' known as the Camber-

well Inn Boroondara. This was also an application for a new license for a new house. The application was supported by Mr. Wrixon and a strong memorial. Granted.

*The Argus*, 30 April 1857

iron, with a shingled roof, giving the local paper again as his source, but the advertisement of June 1864 only states that the inn was four bedrooms and three sitting

13 years, as proof that the inn opened in 1854. They may have been in the district, but not necessarily at the inn.<sup>14</sup>

Allan also quoted Hawthorn pioneer Robert Morton describing Camberwell

rooms 'exclusive of those required for the use of his family,' in a later application for a license to Hawthorn Court.<sup>20</sup> If the hotel was in Hawthorn the rate books would add the type of building material, but the Boroondara Council only provides that information in 1890, when the hotel was described as brick. In April 1867, before leaving Camberwell, Eastaway applied to transfer his license 'for the house and premises known as the Camberwell Inn' to James Gazzard, brewer of Collingwood. Gazzard was unlikely to rebuild so soon, and the 'old-established house known as the Camberwell Inn and grounds ... at the junction of six roads, Camberwell' was for sale by Mrs Gazzard in November 1876, still before the tremendous increase in the district's population and prosperity of the mid 1880s.<sup>21</sup> There may be a detailed description at that time, but I believe Allan confused the hotel with the former Fletcher's Iron Hotel on the south-east corner of Burwood and Glenferrie Roads, but I have no proof.

The name Camberwell was popular quite quickly; there are official references in the Boroondara Board's *Annual Report* in September 1857 to road-making - contracts for 65 chains of an unnamed road, and a further 120 chains, both 'east of Camberwell' (about 3 kilometres?). The 1858-1859 *Assessment Roll* includes Eastaway with some fifty ratepayers as Camberwell (although some were on the Hawthorn side), and there were Hawthorn Council contracts for road-works, and a footway, 'near the Camberwell Inn' in mid 1861.<sup>22</sup> This does not prove that the name Camberwell came

from that hotel, but it was in a very prominent position, and that name was preferable to 'Red Gum Flat'.

And, by the end of October 1861 Eastaway offered the now reduced Boroondara District's Board 'a large room adjoining the inn for meetings rent free', so Camberwell owes a debt to the hotel.<sup>23</sup>

one another. In reference to the place for holding the meetings of the Board, he had had an opportunity of consulting the Attorney-General on the subject, and put the question to him—"Do you think that a road board meeting can be legally held out of the district?" The Attorney-General at once gave it as his decided opinion that the meetings could not legally be held out of the district.

Mr. Webb, under these circumstances, would move that the future meetings of the Road Board be held in the large room adjoining the Camberwell Inn, placed at the disposal of the Board by Mr. Eastaway for that purpose rent free; and that the Secretary be instructed to remove all books, papers, and furniture forthwith.

The Chairman thought it necessary to explain that Mr. Eastaway had placed a room at the disposal of the Board free of expense.

Mr. Carter thought it would be very desirable to remove if it was illegal to hold their meetings outside the district.

*South Bourke Standard*, 25 October 1861

The Boroondara Shire rate book of 1878 has George Withers owning the Camberwell Inn and one acre and a shop in Riversdale Road, and extra house and two shops by late 1882. There are a couple of pictures in Blainey's book - two quite different buildings - although the first is only a sketch of a simple unadorned corner two-storeyed building with three windows up-



stairs either side. The other is obviously brick with plaster geegaws - balustrade and pedestal pots - still three windows upstairs, but another eleven in perhaps four matching terrace shops on Riversdale Road. Another photo shows the new Palace Hotel up Burke Road, and shop owners names from circa 1891.<sup>24</sup> By September 1891 the two brick buildings on Riversdale Road had increased to five, plus two unfinished, and four timber buildings on Burke Road had increased to eight. A tender notice was found in September 1889 for a hotel and six shops at Camberwell, architect Frederick William Grey, and another for a hotel and four shops in March 1891, perhaps the same buildings. Then a local paper mentioned a start made with buildings on the site of the new hotel in June 1891 - a month before the opening ball of the new Town Hall. And by 1893-1894 the Withers owned 17 buildings around the Junction corner.<sup>25</sup>

The corner now looks very different, but until 1999 you could still see red Victorian face-brick at the back. The de-licensed hotel was converted into shops in the 1920s. That was easy to check, with an entry in the Council's *Building Register* in November 1923, for builder G W Simpson, owner Mrs A Dillon, and then a reference to the changed appearance in the local paper in May 1924.<sup>26</sup>

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> James Bonwick, *A Sketch of Boroondara*, Second ed, 1968, p 5  
<sup>2</sup> Bonwick's name is on land in CP 105B, CP 114, in the Land Registry Index Book at the Titles Office from 1855  
<sup>3</sup> Geoffrey Blainey, *A History of Camberwell*, Second ed, 1980, p 9 [Mrs McWilliam still refers this book to anyone interested in the history of Camberwell because she describes it 'as well written and easy to read and is informative and interesting.' Ed.]  
<sup>4</sup> Allan was appointed as 'Official Historian to the City of Camberwell' in 1949 at a fee of £850 (pounds). He completed a history in 1954 in 201,350 words. In an undated three-page letter published in the 'News Pictorial' he complained of poor treatment by the Council over Blainey's history, being neither notified nor consulted. [Editor]  
<sup>5</sup> J Alexander Allan *The History of Camberwell 1841-1950*, unpublished ms p162  
<sup>6</sup> Allan *op.cit.* p351  
<sup>7</sup> Allan *op.cit.* pp 5-6, 162, 351. According to Allan, Dane bought 6 Aug 1853, Greenaway bought 26 Oct 1853, *Argus* 6 May 1853, advertised as Lot 27, *Argus* 24 Mar 1853  
<sup>8</sup> About 432.5 metres [Editor]  
<sup>9</sup> Copy of *Victoria Land Purchase* given to Camberwell Library Local History Collection (CLLHC) 1990  
<sup>10</sup> *Argus* 7 June 1853  
<sup>11</sup> *Argus* 24 May 1853, 7 Jun 1853; Hurrey's home/office was in Burwood Road: Titles & rate book research  
<sup>12</sup> *Argus* 2 Jul 1853, 9 Jul 1853  
<sup>13</sup> Allan, *op cit*; copy of Titles Office memorial 3/56, 9772; CLLHC; VGG 22 Aug 1854  
<sup>14</sup> *South Bourke Standard* (Allan calls it the *Boroondara Standard*) 7 Jun 1867. (See illustration)  
<sup>15</sup> CGA Colles, *History of Hawthorn and book of reference illustrated; Jubilee year, 1910*. Hawthorn 1910  
<sup>16</sup> Colles *op.cit.* pp23-24; Pettit's house advertised *Argus*: 14 Aug 1858; Research in Boroondara Road Board *Assessment Rolls* and Hawthorn rate books.  
<sup>17</sup> Allan 20 Feb 1857  
<sup>18</sup> State Library's transcribed cards on microfiche CL  
<sup>19</sup> Licensing Court 29 Apr 1857; *Argus* 30 Apr 1857 (See illustration)  
<sup>20</sup> *South Bourke Standard* (once again called *Boroondara Standard* by Allan) 14 Jun 1864  
<sup>21</sup> Boroondara Shire Council rate book 1890-1891; *South Bourke Standard* 18 Apr 1867; 24 Apr 1867; *Argus* 24 Nov 1876, p8  
<sup>22</sup> Fletcher's: Hawthorn Council rate books, and many other references. William Elliott and Henry Clark, contractors: Boroondara District Road Board Oct 1856 -Sept 1857 Copies in CLLHC; Hawthorn Library LHCR 978 1116/1861,9254/7/1861  
<sup>23</sup> *South Bourke Standard* 25 Oct 1861. (See illustration)  
<sup>24</sup> Copies in CLLHC; Blainey, *op cit*, illus. pp1ates 5,10-11  
<sup>25</sup> Boroondara Shire rate books, Miles Lewis ed. *Architects' Index* 17 Aug 1889; 15 Mar 1891; *Hawthorn & Kew Express* 26 Jun 1891, 31 Jul 1891  
<sup>26</sup> Camberwell Council *Building Register* 766, 19 Nov 1923; *Camberwell Citizen* 10 May 1924

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## WARNER'S NURSERIES-ENQUIRY

Historian, Stella Barber, has begun working on the history of Warner's Nurseries. WR Warner served on the Camberwell Council for eighteen years and was mayor of Camberwell in 1937 and 1946. The nursery opened in Auburn then moved to Camberwell. In 1938 it moved to Warrigal Road, Burwood before finally moving to Narre Warren North. Stella is seeking any memorabilia, archival material, newspaper cuttings, nursery catalogues or memories and stories about the nursery and the Warners.

If anyone has such information could they please contact Stella on her email address [smbwordsmith@unite.com.au](mailto:smbwordsmith@unite.com.au)

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## KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013 McINTYRE LECTURE

Wednesday, 20 March, 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Kew Court House.

Graeme Davison, Emeritus Professor of History at Monash University will deliver the lecture.

### 'All that is essential to happiness': The Villa Ideal and the First Australian Suburbs

Australia was the first suburban nation, and its first cities were planted just as English architects and landscape writers, like John Claudius Loudon, were popularising the suburban villa and cottage. This lecture surveys the emergence of Australia's first suburbs in the 1830s and 40s and shows how English ideas were applied to the Australian environment, in places like Melbourne's sea and riverside suburbs, such as Brighton and St Kilda, Hawthorn and Kew. What is the longer-term value of Loudon's legacy in an era when cities are becoming increasingly large, dense, multicultural and environmentally vulnerable? Booking essential: Ph 0425 737 704 or 9853 2539 [info@kewhistory.com.au](mailto:info@kewhistory.com.au).



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure I welcome you back for the 2013 year. This is a very special year for our Society as it is our Jubilee Year. We are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Dinner to be held at Box Hill Golf Club at 6.30pm on Friday 10 May 2013 and a tree planting at 11.00am on Saturday 11 May at Read Gardens. (Details to come.) I am excited to be celebrating these events with all of you.

I am also pleased to announce that we have taken up residence in 25 Inglesby Road. The keys to the door were handed over to us on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February. We look forward to inviting you all to inspect the premises in the near future. The Society would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Boroondara City Council for making these premises available to us.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meetings and events planned for the year,  
George Fernando

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## BOOK REVIEW

### Remembering Hartwell

John Arnold

John Arnold is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Journalism, Australian and Indigenous Studies at Monash University. A one time research librarian at the State Library of Victoria, he recently retired after 23 years at Monash.

**Volkhard Wehner, *Old Hartwell: the life and times of the village that lost its name***, Hartwell, Vic: The Author, 2012, pp. 367. \$25. Available from the author, PO Box 1002, Hartwell, 3124, or [info@vollkhardwehner.com](mailto:info@vollkhardwehner.com)

Although I have never lived in Hartwell, I realised as I read Volkhard Wehner's *Old Hartwell* that the suburb has played and continues to play an indirect part in my life. I was bought up in nearby Burwood in the fifties and sixties. Until we were eighteen and could drive, the main form of transport for my brother and I was the Burwood tram. It then started at what was known as the Burwood Tram Terminus at the junction of Toorak and Warrigal Roads.

We would catch the tram into the City, terminating at Princes Bridge at the end of Batman Avenue. The route took us down Toorak Road, swinging right at Camberwell Road, passing a dry cleaning business on the left, a little further on the Hartwell Fire Station on the right as the tram headed towards Camberwell Junction and then onto the City.

From memory, the v-shape piece of land at the junction of Camberwell and Toorak Roads was occupied by a service station. From *Old Hartwell* I learnt that

this site in its time housed two local landmarks: the Tyrone Hotel (remembered now only through Tyrone Street) and later the art deco Regal Theatre. My mother says that she took us there before it was demolished (in 1959) but I have no memory of it. But the numerous tram trips through Hartwell where, if one was lucky, the conductor would give you the stub of a ticket pack after he had sold the last one, are imprinted on my mind.

I went to Burwood High School (now part of Deakin's Burwood Campus) as did many children from Hartwell. I was friends with two who lived in Lithgow Street and Trent Street respectively so I became familiar with some of Hartwell's streets and their surrounds.

Once I could drive, I immediately gave up the tram and took to the car. Here, when going into the City you would continue down Toorak Road rather than verging right at Camberwell Road (unless you were going to play billiards upstairs at Arthur's at Camberwell Junction, the venue still functioning as a snooker and pool place) until you got to St George's Road in Toorak to link up with Melbourne's first freeway, now part of the M1. On the way back, if caught in peak hour, you would curse the delay at the Toorak/Camberwell Road junction caused by the merging traffic and, of course, the trams going either way.

At Monash University I met my future wife. She lived with her parents in Wattle Valley Road, not far up from Nevis Street. The best way to get to her place from my home near Wattle Park was not via Toorak Road and attempting the nasty turn into Wattle Valley Road at the Dustings corner. Instead, I used to cut through from Warrigal Road to Through Road opposite Wattle Park State School (where I had spent six years), turn left at Cornell Street, go past Nazareth



House, loop right to Hunter Street with Highfield Park on my right and then turn left when I got to Wattle Walley Road.

In the late seventies I wrote the history of the Riversdale Golf Club. Its second home was the paddocks immediately to the west of the Outer Circle Railway line, now the Willison to Hartwell section of the Alamein line. The parkland that I had seen so many times on my tram trips behind and adjoining the fire station was part of the golf course (a map of its layout is reproduced on page 121 of *Old Hartwell*). The north-western part of the course became the famed Golf Links Estate while the northern part adjacent to the railway line became Willison Park, named after a local councillor of the time. Arthur Willison<sup>1</sup> was doubly remembered as the Golf Links Station at the bottom of Stoddart Street, the nearest point from the railway line to the clubhouse, was renamed in his honour.

In the nineties, in addition to co-writing a revised history of the Riversdale Golf Club, I occasionally watched my son play junior cricket at Lynden Park or visited a friend who lived in Dominic Street. But, by then I had well and truly moved away from the eastern suburbs.

Now in 2013 I find myself a resident of Auburn, a suburb with some of the same identity problems as Hartwell. It is actually known as Hawthorn East and shares a postcode with the wider area, but like Hartwell, it has its own railway station.

My partner used to live near Hartwell Station in Cullinton Road, named after a prominent member of the Riversdale Golf Club, as were nearby Murdoch and Kirkwood Streets, and mistakenly referred to as 'Cullinton' Road at various times (including on a map reproduced on page 146 of *Old Hartwell*). She, however, always refers to the area around where she used to live as being in Camberwell rather than Hartwell.

When going to the Riversdale golf course, now in Mt Waverley, for a game, I drive along Camberwell Road and past some of the streets leading to the Golf Links Estate, before turning right at Glen Iris Road. And I occasionally shop at Leo's Supermarket in Summerhill Road, a business that proudly gives its location as being in Hartwell not Camberwell as many other local businesses do.

So my links to Hartwell are both continuing and go back a long way. Reading *Old Hartwell* brought back many memories of the suburb to me, as it will to others. Since his 'retirement' from the Acquisitions Department of the Main Library at Monash University, Wehner has been a prolific author and self-publisher. *Old Hartwell* is his eleventh book according to the State Library of Victoria catalogue. It is a lively and well written history graced by a foreword by Geoffrey

Blainey and the research for its writing included interviewing over 40 current and former residents.

Hartwell both exists and does not exist. Hence, the second part of the sub-title of Wehner's history: *the village that lost its name*. The author himself has a Glen Iris address but it could be well argued that he lives in Hartwell. His nearest shops are certainly in Hartwell. The suburb does not have its own postcode but shares one with Camberwell. As far as real estate agents are concerned, Hartwell does not exist. There are no properties in Hartwell currently listed on realestate.com.au although many for sale are in the area called Hartwell in the Melway's and whereis.com.au. And there is still the Hartwell Primary School.

Hartwell's dilemma is neatly summed up by Deborah Shand in her history of the primary school<sup>2</sup> where she talks about Hartwell no longer being a village nor having become a suburb, just being a location that 'straddles the edges of Camberwell and Burwood'.

The origins of the name Hartwell for the village that sprung up around what became the intersection of Camberwell and Toorak Roads and its surrounding paddocks is unclear. Many think it is named after *Hartwell House*, the residence built by early settler James Irwin on the north side of Toorak Road between what is now Wattle Valley and Highfield Roads. But Wehner points out that this is incorrect as the name 'Hartwell' was first used as early as 1853 while *Hartwell House* did not exist until the early 1870s.

Although making reference to *Hartwell House* in Buckinghamshire in England, Wehner does not link it to the local village of Hartwell where this National Trust owned property is located. He seems to suggest that the name 'Hartwell' just sprung up but I think it is most likely that the village he writes about was named after the Hartwell in England. Given that James Irwin called his residence *Hartwell House*, it is possible that he had some link with the English Hartwell. But until further evidence comes to light, one can only speculate here.

Wehner discusses in detail the three key elements that gave Hartwell its distinctiveness and character. The first was the main creeks: the W Creek (called so because it was shaped like a "W" but often referred to incorrectly as the West Creek) and the Back Creek. They provided adventure playgrounds for local children; the W Creek a winding hazard through the golf course and, after heavy rains, a more severe hazard due to its regular flooding making Camberwell Road impassable. When almost completely barrelled, the surrounds of these two creeks provided the nucleus of many of Hartwell's parks and playing fields such as Fordham Gardens, Frog Hollow and Lynden Park.

The second factor was the public transport built





through the suburb, beginning with the Outer Circle Railway and then the tramline running to the City one way and Burwood the other that opened in 1918. Both made Hartwell (and Camberwell) an attractive commuting middle-class suburb, a point not missed by subdividing real estate firms, some of whose seductive posters are reproduced in *Old Hartwell*.

The third factor was the role of the churches in Hartwell. In addition to being places of worship, they acted as social centres, especially in an area (post-1920) free of hotels. The Eddy Street Presbyterian Church is a prime example. The church had an active tennis club, ran packed out dances on Saturday nights attended by both locals and people from far and wide. And from the Eddy Street congregation came the Hartwell Players, one of the oldest continuing amateur repertory groups in Australia.

People lived their lives through churches like Eddy Street, St Dunstan's and St Dominic's. Wehner mentions the work of the remarkable Reverend John Lawton as Minister at Eddy Street in the nineteen-thirties and early forties. At the launch of *Old Hartwell*, when the guest speaker Don Kinsey referred to Lawton, one man sitting with his wife proudly announced that they had been married by Lawton some seventy years previously.

The legacy of the two creeks and the two transport lines remains but the influence of the traditional churches in Hartwell has diminished considerably, reflecting an Australia wide trend to secularisation. The demise of this 'glue' of the Hartwell community along with the decline of its shopping strips is something the author laments. He is a touch pessimistic about the future of Hartwell, or more correctly, the continued use of the name and having a community that supports it. In his final chapter, Wehner speculates about whether the sixty-eight units in the 'Mayada' complex on the corner of Toorak and Camberwell Roads 'will inject greater local commitment, loyalty, and money into this area, or will many of the units remain empty for most of the year, serving no other purpose than as investments and safety havens for absentee overseas owners ...

I am more sanguine. Whatever misgivings one has about high-density residential developments in leafy middle class suburbs, developments like 'Mayada' have the potential to produce a new community, albeit a different one, in Hartwell. Its residents, along with others in similar developments, will need milk and bread, a glass of wine or a boutique beer and something to eat within walking distance of their apartment. Leo's Supermarket will provide them with groceries and delicacies for home use.

Some of the old shops along both Camberwell Road and Toorak Road have the potential to become restau-

rants or bars. The shops around the Hartwell Railway station already show a marked improvement in terms of activity as evidenced by the numbers I saw sitting outside the Ousia Café on a recent Sunday drive through the area. The old garage site on the corner of Summerhill and Toorak Roads is currently awaiting development. Will it be apartments or an office block? The former would be preferable. Only time will tell whether the 'Mayada' will become another landmark building like its two predecessors on the site: the Tyrone Hotel and the Regal Theatre.

As one would expect in a book covering such a long time span there will be occasional errors in the spelling of names and the like. And those with specialized knowledge will pick-up the odd factual error. One time Hartwell resident Alan Schwab did not play in the VFL although he was a senior VFL/AFL administrator (A relative umpired in the 1961 grand final and his son played in several grand finals for Hawthorn). The golfer Harry Culliton, already mentioned, never belonged to Royal Melbourne, having joined Riversdale (when it was known as the Surrey Hills Golf Club) in 1895, not 1915 as suggested by the author.

But these and any other errors are small beer. Hartwellians – old and new including the author - can be proud of this history of their suburb. *Old Hartwell* has already gone into two reprints, proof in itself that although the suburb may have lost its name, its spirit lives on.

#### Endnotes

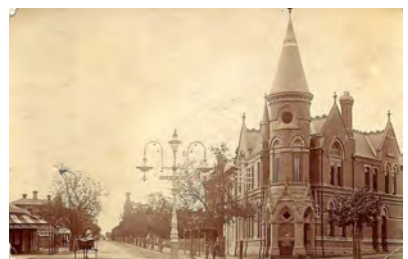
<sup>1</sup> Arthur John Ernest Willison served on the Camberwell Council 1915 to 1924 and 1927 until he died in 1932. he was mayor 1922 to 1923 [Ed.]

<sup>2</sup> Deborah Shand [comp.], *Red Bricks, Blue Sky A History of Hartwell Primary School No. 4055 1922-1997*, Burwood, 1997

## ACCESSIONS 2012

The Society received 29 accessions during 2012. These included: photographs and postcards; various publications relating to the history of Camberwell including former president Volkhard Wehner's history of Hartwell; a house building plan (location to be identified), City of Camberwell crested china; posters relating to activities in Maling Road, Canterbury; records of Camberwell Arts Society including the minute and account books; subdivisio

CHS Acc 2012-28 Post Office & Camberwell Road c1900





## MEETINGS FOR 2013

Meeting dates for 2013 have been confirmed. All meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month with exception of April. The April meeting will be held on the third Thursday so as not to clash with Anzac Day. All meetings will be in the new Camberwell Library in Camberwell Road at 8.00pm.

Meetings in 2013 are:

- |   |                                 |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 28 March                                | <b>Susan Priestley, FRHSV</b>   | <b>'There is properly no history, only biography'</b><br>(Ralph Waldo Emerson): <b>Reflections on writing the life of Henrietta Dugdale</b><br>Susan Priestley is an eminent biographer, local historian and former President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Her article 'A Radical Camberwell Lady' appeared in <i>Camberwell History</i> No 10, September 2012. <b>Note that this meeting will be on the Thursday before Good Friday.</b>   |
| 13 April (Saturday) - 21 April (Sunday) | <b>Australian Heritage Week</b> |   |
| 18 April                                | <b>Lambis Englezos, AM</b>      | <b>Missing of Fromelles</b> 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. CHS member <b>Helen Sleigh</b> will give an introduction <b>A brief summary of the experiences of the small farming community of Strathbogie in north eastern Victoria during the First World War.</b> Helen Sleigh's great uncle who was born and raised in Strathbogie died in no man's land at Fromelles and was never found. |
| 10 May                                  | <b>Jubilee dinner</b>           | Friday 6.30pm Details to be advised   |
| 11 May                                  | <b>Jubilee tree planting</b>    | Saturday 11.00am Details to be advised  |
| 23 May                                  | <b>Kevin Bailey</b>             | <b>East Timor and its history</b><br>Kevin Bailey is a financial planner and Honorary Consul General for East Timor since its independence in 2002.   |
| 27 June                                 | <b>Dr Dianne Reilly AM</b>      | <b>The forgotten Governor: Charles Joseph La Trobe</b> Dianne Reilly is the former La Trobe Librarian in the State Library of Victoria and co-founder of The CJ La Trobe Society.   |

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## Retirement from the Committee

It was with sadness that Camberwell Historical Society committee accepted the resignation of Jan Alexander after ten years on the committee.

The committee thanks Jan for her support and encouragement and wishes her well with her future endeavours.

This leaves a vacancy on the committee, for which we are actively seeking a replacement. Please contact the Secretary should you wish to contribute to the Society by serving on the committee.

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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.

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## 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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Committee members – Anna Carina and Val Goldsworthy.

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