

CAMBERWELL HISTORY

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL
AND DISTRICT

Camberwell Historical Society



No. 25

June 2016

ISSN 1838-0875

Principal Patron: Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC

Patron: His Worship the Mayor of Boroondara, Cr Jim Parke

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our speaker in June, Ken James, will be discussing the Mechanics Institutes which were very important for the education of many people in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

On 23 March 2016, The Friends of the 15th Brigade met at Burwood Cemetery to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the death of Major General Harold Edward 'Pompey' Elliott. Students from Ballarat and Clarendon College, Pompey's old school, attended. Dr. Ross McMullin was the main speaker.

Camberwell Historical Society was a contributor to the RHSV publication *Remembering Melbourne*. Together with Hawthorn and Balwyn historical societies we contributed images and text. The book will be approximately 200 pages in length. We look forward to its publication later this year.

George Fernando



THE CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

The Battle of the Somme, 1916

Fought between July and November 1916, the Battle of the Somme was one of the defining events of the First World War.

The Somme offensive was planned as the major Allied effort on the Western Front for 1916, but with the start of a desperate battle between French and German forces at Verdun, the British Army assumed the main role. After an intense, week-long artillery bombardment of German positions, the infantry began their advance at 7.30am in the morning of 1 July 1916. While there were some gains to the south, in the north the attacking troops struggled to overcome formidable defences, many of which had survived the artillery barrage. By the end of the first day, some 57,000 Commonwealth and 2,000 French soldiers had become casualties – more than 19,000 of whom had been killed.

The offensive continued over the following months, and men from every part of Britain and across the Empire took part. Both sides committed huge quantities of manpower and munitions to the struggle. When the offensive was halted in November, more than a million Commonwealth, French and German soldiers had been wounded, captured, or killed.

There are 150,000 Commonwealth servicemen buried in 250 military and 150 civilian cemeteries on the Somme. More than 100,000 more were never found or had their remains

identified. They are not forgotten, but are remembered by name on six memorials to the missing for those whose graves are not known.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing is one of the main focal points for remembrance in the Somme. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and unveiled in 1932. Every year on 1 July, a commemorative service is held at the memorial in remembrance of the men who fought and died during the Battle of the Somme, and it is the main focus for the centenary commemorations.

REPLACING THE STONE AT OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

Frances Clancy



Scaffolding, which has for some years been concealing much of the Basilica of Our Lady of Victories, is the sign of a long repair program. The basilica was built a century ago, using a honey-coloured sandstone from Barabool, near Geelong, which was very popular in the late 19th/early 20th centuries as a contrast to the harder look of bluestone or brick. In Melbourne this sandstone was used in buildings such as Newman

College, St Mary's in West Melbourne, and St Peter's in Toorak - and many others. Unfortunately, all these buildings now have a common (and very expensive) problem: their stone is rotting.

All natural stone has minute channels which can allow water to penetrate it. This water can expand to fracture the stone internally, and it also contains dissolved salts, which crystallise and expand in the stone, loosening the surface and causing it to crumble or flake away. Unfortunately, the Barabool stone had a high salt content, and after a century it was no longer sound. It was flaking badly and becoming dangerous. When pieces began to fall from the walls of the basilica, something had to be done urgently. It was essential to find matching stone which was non-porous and which would last for centuries. The worst area was the west wall, so it was tackled first. Suitable stone was found in a quarry in south-east Queensland, and work on this wall was completed three years ago. Every stone had to be taken out and individually replaced, and all the mortar repaired and repointed.

Over the past two years the north side, on Reserve Road, has been undergoing repair. Finding suitable stone was harder this time, as the Queensland quarry was worked out. There was no other source of suitable stone in Australia, but a quarry in Vietnam was able to ship big blocks which are shaped and carved on site. (The same stone is being used by the same masons at Newman College and St Peter's, with some costs shared.) This north wall is nearly completed now but the scaffolding will be with us for a few years yet - we still have to tackle the east and the south walls, and, again, every single piece of Barabool stone must be removed and replaced. At the same time, the dome has been repaired and the opportunity has also been taken to repair and re-gild the statue on top of the cupola. We have now been able to take down the highest scaffolding around the statue, and we can now enjoy seeing it shining again in the sunlight - one of the iconic views in Camberwell.

LYNDEN PARK SCOUT GROUP, CAMBERWELL

Janine Johnston



Lynden Park Scout Group (LPSG) in Stornoway Road, Camberwell recently commemorated 100 years. Celebration and stories, pipes and pomp were among the highlights of the centenary events on 16 April 2016.

Over the course of the day, over 200 Group members, alumni and friends enjoyed activities on the oval and a display of memorabilia and digital photo stories. The formalities commenced with

the Scotch College Pipes and Drums Band leading a parade of LPSG members and leaders around the oval to the Hall. Special guests for the formalities included Graham Watt (MP); Scouting representatives including Brendan Watson (Chief Commissioner Scouts Victoria); Heinz Kreutz, Boroondara Council; and Michael, Joan and Wendy Baden-Powell. Councillor Kreutz presented the Group Leader, Johann Anderson, with a 'letter under seal' from the Mayor of Boroondara.

The success and longevity of any Group is dependent on a succession of enthusiastic and committed volunteers who have a vision for the difference that Scouting can make to the lives of young people. Two such volunteers were recognised. Daughters of former Group Scout Master Alan Stanley 'Sarge' Smith unveiled a plaque naming the hall in honour of their late father. Centenarian William 'Bill' Edwards



(project manager of the hall construction in the 1950s) cut the celebration cake with the Group's youngest youth member. Friendships were renewed and stories shared over afternoon tea in the recently refurbished hall.

The Celebration and Reunion Dinner, attended by 65 people, was also a great opportunity to reminisce about scouting experiences. The cake was cut by three of the Group's Queen's Scouts.



A 100 years of LPSG (2nd Camberwell Scout Group until 1943) is testament to 100 years of young people engaged in scouting in the local area, and all the parents and friends who have supported them. The LPSG family enjoyed an exciting and memorable centenary celebration. Here's to the next 100 years of adventure for Lynden Park Scout Group!

MEMORIES OF CAMBERWELL

Edna Crowe



Glenview Grocery Store Number 943 Toorak Road 1918 and house at number 945 built in 1880 with Doris Payne aged 18, Jean Young aged 2. A view of Radnor street can be seen on the left and a little of the house built by Leopold Charles Payne in 1880 can be seen on the right.

My grandfather, Leopold Charles Payne, owned all the land between Radnor and Bowen Streets in Camberwell. He built a house at 945 Toorak Road in 1880. He went on to build the Glenview Store at 943 Toorak Road in about 1918. The shop was a grocery store when I was a child and it had a dwelling behind it. It is now a florist shop called Viennawoods.

My grandparents Leopold Charles and Rachael Jane Payne moved to 100 Bowen Street in about 1936 with their unmarried daughter Doris. It was next door to a baby health centre, now the Bowen Street Community Centre (102 Bowen Street). When I was little I would run inside to look at all the babies. My great grandson, who lives in Denman Avenue, went to play sessions there. He will be attending Camberwell South Primary School next year, a school I briefly attended when I was about 8.

My grandfather died in about 1939 and my grandmother in 1944. My aunt Doris then moved into 93 Radnor Street. My uncle William Ide and his wife Ida and son Jack moved into 945 Toorak Road. I had many aunts, uncles and cousins in the area, all within walking distance. They all lived between Rowell Avenue and Peate Avenue. I had two uncles living in Peate Avenue, one at Number 3 and the other at Number 31. They had several tennis courts built stretching from Number 3 to Number 31, right along the backs of their houses. My uncle Alf Payne built a milk bar at the front of his house at Number 3 opposite Camberwell South Primary School, as there were no tuck shops at schools in those days.

When I was about 5, I stayed with my aunt and uncle in their lovely old red brick home in Rowell Avenue. I often stayed with my grandparents. I stayed with them while my parents moved from the country. I went to Sunday School at the Methodist Church in Toorak Road. The local doctor lived on the corner of Toorak Road and Staughton Road in a two-storey residence, and my eldest sister Jean was their housekeeper. They also had a full-time cook.

CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTION

Camberwell Historical Society welcomes donations of the following items relating to the former City of Camberwell: photographs and prints, documents, letters, diaries, maps, plans, books, pamphlets, and reminiscences of former residents and people who worked in the area.

REPORT OF MEETINGS

- Mar 22** **Professor Miles Lewis AM, FAHA** – The Melbourne Mansion.
The larger houses of nineteenth century Melbourne are mostly discussed in terms of the grand rooms of a few preserved examples, most of them in the eastern and south-eastern suburbs. Professor Lewis used photographs and illustrations to examine the servants' hall, the privy, the speaking tubes, the stables and the tennis court. The design of these houses, what did they imitated, and how they were financed were discussed. This talk surveyed the evolution of the Melbourne Mansion in that broader context.
- Apr 26** **Carolyn Landon** - Celia Rosser, botanical artist.
Celia Rosser's achievement in painting the entire genus of Banksia, took twenty-five years and led to international acclaim. Award-winning author Carolyn Landon spoke about her biography of Celia Rosser. Carolyn illustrated her talk with many examples of early botanical illustration and with many examples of Celia's work. Books were available for sale on the night.
- May 24** **Ron Killeen** - Melbourne's Forgotten Railway: The Outer Circle Railway
Ron Killeen spoke about the Outer Circle Railway. He illustrated his talk with many early photographs of the construction and the areas after the railway was decommissioned. He discussed the railway station by station. Copies of his documentary DVD were available for sale.



Carolyn Landon with Bill Mackie



Public Record Office Victoria, VPRS 12000 P1, H 5017

© State of Victoria

CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE COLLECTION

Donations were received from: Neville Lee - Wesley Chapel archives of the fight to save the chapel; Judy Goldberg - A history of 26 Prospect Hill Road; and Edna Crowe who sent the photo and the story of 943 and 945 Toorak Road.

A HISTORY OF 26 PROSPECT HILL ROAD, CAMBERWELL VICTORIA (an extract)

The complete article can be found on the CHS website at www.chs.org.au

Judy Goldberg

II. THE BEVANS

The house at 26 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, now re-named Chesney, is built on a block that is part of Crown Allotment (CA) 115. If you look at figure 2, Parish Map, County Bourke 1837 with additional information, you see the blocks put up for sale and who bought them at the first auction of land in Camberwell, held in March 1853.

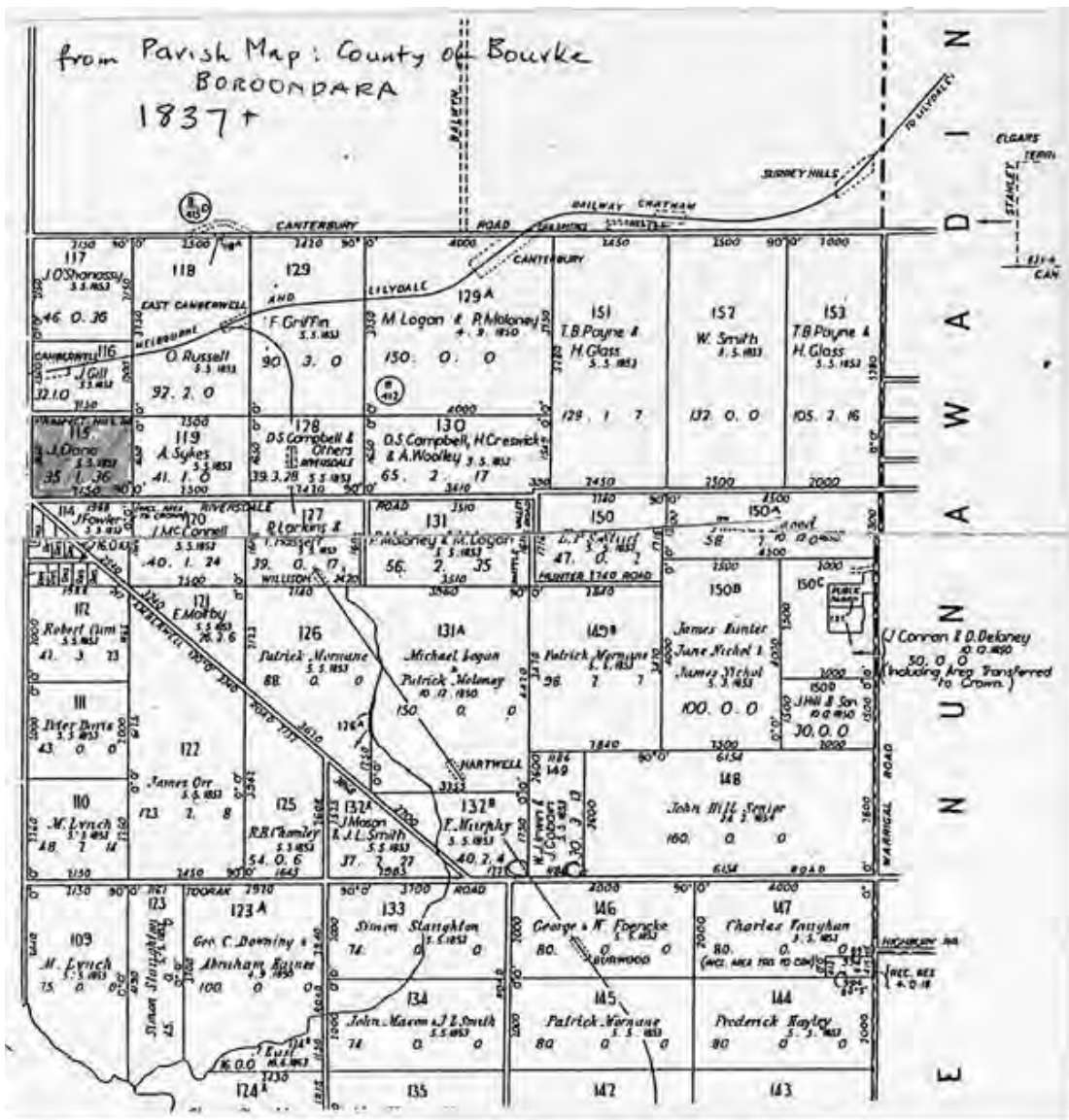


Figure 2: Parish Map, County Bourke, 1837

John O'Shanassy, later three times premier of Victoria, bought Lot 117 with frontages to Canterbury and Burke roads but did not build Tara there till the 1860s. CA115 went to John Dane (35.25 acres at £25 per acre) and 119 to Alfred Sykes (41.25 acres at £20 per acre). These are the two most relevant to our purposes. Some of the people already farming and grazing in this area bought their land, e.g. Moloney and Logan near Canterbury Station. Dane already

Thomas Bevan and his wife Louisa continued to buy blocks close by. By the end of 1869 they held a sizeable consolidated part of CA 115 to the west of Bevan's Road (with one half-block exception), and even more blocks facing it on the eastern side, all except a large block on the north-eastern corner of Fermanagh and Riversdale roads. In addition, they owned the portion of CA 119 up to and including what became Trafalgar Road, i.e. all the land that constituted the Riversdale Estate which was auctioned in 1882 following the death of Thomas in March 1879 and Louisa in August 1880.

One source of information about early residents is the street directories. The first appearance of the Bevans' name that I could find was in Bailliere's Victorian Directory for 1868. Thomas appears in Camberwell as "Bevin, Thos, farmer, Moloney's Rd" as does Murray, William, farmer. Copeland, merchant, is sited in Boundary Road (Burke) although his land ran eastwards (along Prospect Hill Road, far enough to be opposite the Bevans'. In the Sands and McDougall Gazetteer for 1871 he is named, but alphabetical listing is used without addresses; ditto for the years 1872 to 1874.

Where the Bevans lived before building the villa so fulsomely described in the Riversdale Estate Auction Notices of May 1882 is a puzzle. In the 1867 Camberwell Rate Book, the first, so far as I've been able to ascertain, Thomas Bevan is shown as paying rates on two separate blocks valued at £50 and £40. In the Rate Book for 1870-1871, in Bevan's Road we have Bevan, Thomas (£50/40); and in Carriage Road (i.e. Prospect Hill Road) Crutchfield, Henry (£23/20); Murray, William; and Fulton, Elizabeth. The 1871 and 1872 Rate Books are the first to take explicit notice of houses. No. 200, Bevan, is rated for "house and land". In 1875-6 Bevan paid rates on a house and 7 acres and on 2 acres (£60/30) and on 8 acres (£35). Crutchfield, Murray, Fulton and Copeland also had houses nearby.



Figure 4: Boroondara Shire Map, 1871

The Boroondara Shire Map of 1871 shows the Bevans' house as being opposite William Murray's house close to the border of CA 115 but on CA 119. Using the scale on the map, I make that to be about 175 yards from Fermanagh. Nevertheless, rate assessors always regard the Bevans as facing Bevan's Road. When on 1/2/1872 Thomas Bevan signed a lease of 5 acres west of Fermanagh to Samuel Dunne (for five years for £20 a year paid quarterly), for market gardening, it was described

In Memorial No. 099 Book 217 as "five acres situate opposite the residence of Thomas Bevan". All we can say definitely from this is that the Bevans' house (or houses) was on the northern part of his property east of Fermanagh Road. Since he bought this block first, and none of CA 119 till 1866, I think we can surmise that they had been building a new house there some time in the intervening period and that that is probably the house noted in the 1875/6 Rate Book. However, it might be that they had lived in an early house on CA119 and leased it from Luke

Chambers and then Colin Campbell, having failed to secure it from Sykes in 1854. This is made more believable by the fact that in Gwen Kemp's summary of the subsequent sales of blocks in CA 119, section 12821 carries the hard-to-decipher inscription "Ag & premis". This is the block the Bevans bought in October 1866. Still, as I said before, to say that something is "opposite the Bevans' residence" does seem a bit of a stretch at 175 yards – but perhaps not in a sparsely settled rural area.

A note on the Bevans. Gwen McWilliam, the pioneering local historian, told me that James, Samuel and Thomas Bevan were on the electoral roll for Red Gum Flat (Auburn) in 1856. According to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Thomas Bevan and his wife Louisa (daughter of James Derrick and born in Bristol in 1827) had five children born in Camberwell: Mary Ann in 1857, Emily in 1859, George in 1861, Ellen in 1863 and Thomas in 1866. She wrote:

"The Bevans had two houses at least in the vicinity in 1868, and Thomas Bevan probably lived on that [our] corner – highest spot, main road etc. There could be outhouses, underground water tank nearby, on your property. The family could have been inspired by Fairholme in the 1870s to rebuild.

"To be 1870s or early 1880s I would expect it to be low (even chimneys), symmetrical, be either cement-rendered or black/brown bricks, with narrow eaves and without much fancy decoration. However, as it was a fairly superior address in the 1890s, it could well have been extended and glamorized, as I believe Fairholme was."

This description of a pre-1880 house fits very well with the photos I took of the one that used to be concealed behind Dr. Craig's Edwardian house on the corner of Prospect Hill Road and Lorne Grove, and that I suspect was the Murray residence. Gwen McWilliam: "one changed his name to 'Bevan' and stands for Council, another builds the first shop I fancy on the Country Road corner (SBS24/12/1869)." I noticed that Samuel is described somewhere as a "gentleman". I have wondered about Louisa Bevan's will and to whom she left her estate. Presumably, it was divided among the children who would have ranged in age from 14 to 23. Or had Louisa already set in motion the sale of the rest of the property to Waters in consultation with her heirs?

To gain a sense of what was Camberwell like in the 1860s and 1870s I'm relying on Geoffrey Blainey's local history. Maintaining viable roads was a pressing problem. The most important in Boroondara were the east-west ones along which drays and carts carried timber and food produce to the city and water to the locals. The Boroondara District Road Board (covering Hawthorn, Kew and Camberwell) was set up in 1857 to deal with it. Among the first improvements were drainage work at Auburn Road, the building of a bridge over West Creek on Camberwell Road (at Hartwell) and the forming of 65 chains of road east of the Camberwell Inn on the "almost impassable" Riversdale Road. The Board's activities were financed from rates on property and some government grants, but mainly from tolls on bridges and roads. In the 1859 elections for this first form of local government in the area, quite a few representatives came from distant Canterbury and from Warrigal Road. This was much resented by the more densely settled Kew and Hawthorn who paid the most in rates. As a result, in 1860 Kew and Hawthorn seceded and, having sufficient population, became municipalities, leaving the sparsely settled and slow-growing Camberwell to deal with its own problems as Boroondara Shire. Boroondara's population in 1861 was 1,100 and grew by only a third by 1887.

The village of Camberwell clustered around the junction: meetings were held at the Camberwell Inn; there was Andrew Murray's butchery, two stores and a bakehouse and five other shop/houses. Other villages such as Hartwell, Canterbury and Norwood had their own pubs and facilities. Indeed, Camberwell Junction suffered from being too close to Hawthorn. Hartwell was far enough off to be a stopping place and had a school, church and flourishing community before Camberwell. In 1863 Camberwell village had a population of 140 people and 26 dwellings. Kew

and Hawthorn flourished because they were closer to the city and because a train line was laid to Hawthorn in April 1861. People from Camberwell rode to the terminus or caught the unreliable horse-drawn omnibus.

However, Canterbury Road was a fashionable rural retreat for city men: solicitors, bankers, auctioneers, a dentist, merchants and so on. As Blainey notes: "The vanguard of suburbia arrived

Advertisement for the Riversdale Estate "The Boroondara Standard" – 11 May 1882

THE BOROONDARA
STANDARD 11/5/1882

MURDER'S GIDGE, BURWOOD ROAD, HAWTHORN.

SATURDAY, MAY 13.
At Three O'clock.
On the Ground.

RIVERSDALE ESTATE.
The Very Pick and Choiceest Spot in
UPPER HAWTHORN.

All that Modern and Well-appointed;
BRICK VILLA RESIDENCE,
With 130ft Frontage to Fermanagh-road,
And
40 GRAND BUILDING SITES,
Having the Noble Frontages of 100 to 130, by
the Great Depths of 200 to 220 ft each to
16ft. Wide Rights-of-way
To
Riversdale, Prospect-hill, Fermanagh,
Waterloo, and
Trafalgar Roads,
Situate Within Five Minutes' Gentle Walking
Distance of the
Burke-road Railway Station,
Close to the Residences of
Sir John O'Shanassy, George Anthoness,
Esq., W. Murray, Esq., P. Fulton, Esq.,
Mrs Peppin, and Others,
Having Views of Surpassing Grandeur of
both Land and Sea, that quite
Baffle Description,
Overlooking
Hobson's Bay, the Shipping, the You Yangs,
Steiglitz Mountains, the Dandenong
Ranges, Malvern, Toorak, and
Surrounding Country,
Together with
That Prodigious Growth, that Stupendous
and Most Marvellous Monument of
British Pluck, of Modern Times, ex-
hibiting Energy, Enterprise,
and Progress, the develop-
ment of only some 30
odd Years, that
would do cred-
it to the
growth
of
Centuries,
that are almost
incredible for so short
a time,
The City of Melbourne and Suburbs,
with its Colossal Establish-
ments and Buildings, with its
Steeple, Spires, and Surrounding
Palaces, that are Most Astounding to
Visitors and Distinguished Tourists, without
doubt destined to become the London
and Paris of the Southern Hemi-
sphere, from which nothing can
intercept the Views from this
Grand Property, the
Riversdale Estate
being without
exception
the
Premier
Block now
available of all
that Truly Charming
and Lovely Suburb of Upper Hawthorn.
To Squatters, Merchants, Professional Men,
Builders, Speculators, Warehousemen
Investors, and those requiring large
sized and Healthily-situated Villa Sites.

G. W. TAYLOR and Co., having
been favoured with instructions, will
positively **SELL**, by **PUBLIC AUCTION**, as
above, on Saturday, 13th May, at 3 o'clock,
on the ground,
All that well-appointed Brick Villa Res-
idence, replete with every conven-
ience, erected on Lot 1 on the plan
of subdivision, together with
40 Superb Building Sites,
being without doubt
The Premier Block of Land in Upper Haw-
thorn,
subdivided with great care for drainage,
&c., so as to meet the wants of those
who require larger blocks than are
usually given at subdivision sales, on
which a gentleman may erect a mansion
if he chooses, besides which the land
being so
Rich and Undulating
in character, is eminently adapted for
gardens, to which the healthy fruit trees,
&c., now on the ground most abundantly
testify, so that with very little diligence
and application any person building
could within a year or two fairly reckon
upon a garden that would be simply per-
fect, and the admiration of every person
of taste, thus affording the fortunate
owner of such, in addition to the splen-
did-views obtained from the property of
the surrounding country, &c., a con-
stant and never-ending pleasure of a
most interesting and edifying character.

NOTE.—A stage is being erected on the
land for visitors to inspect.
The ground is pegged out, and each allot-
ment numbered according to plans of subdivi-
sion now ready.

Intending Purchasers
Are Respectfully Solicited not to Buy
Anywhere Else
Until they have inspected this Grand
Property,
And then Judge for Themselves.
Remember—There are 31 Trains per Day
between
Melbourne and the Property,
To Suit All Classes;
That Gas and Water are Laid On;
That the Property is surrounded by Man-
sions;
That you will have the advantage of Rural
and City Life Combined,
Being within only a few minutes' ride per
rail of Melbourne.

Remember—The Terms are Very Easy—
One-tenth cash deposit, balance to suit up to
12 months, with only 6 per cent. added.
Remember—The Title is a Crown Certifi-
cate, for particulars of which apply to M. H.
Davies, Esq., solicitor, 6 Collins-street west,
Melbourne.

Plans and further particulars from G. W.
Taylor and Co., landed estate, general mer-
chandise, and household furniture auction-
eers, 20 Collins-street west, Melbourne.

in the [18]60s but it consisted of city men who wanted a comfortable estate of ten or twenty acres. They built roomy houses and wide verandahs looking out on lines of pines or elms or oaks and were proud of their fruit trees and vines, their trim English lawns, kitchen gardens, and strawberry patches. They had a domestic servant or two and a gardener who put a cap on and drove them daily in the buggy to the city or the Hawthorn railway."

The Education Act of 1872 made education compulsory, free and secular. Camberwell already had a National School of 180 children and a private school. Lectures and readings were well attended, and there were various sporting, religious and cultural groups. The first Shire Hall stood on the site of the later one. The Post Office was in a newsagent's in the Council Reserve,

although there was no postal delivery till 1869 and then only to Burke Road. Water-carts formed a large part of the traffic. Houses had their own tanks and wells, but water often had to be carted for agricultural purposes. Water from Yan Yean Dam was first available in Hawthorn in 1868 from a standpipe at the corner of Auburn and Burwood roads. Pipes were not laid to Camberwell

till 1872, and to Hartwell in 1880. Carts with iron tanks paid for their load at the Junction standpipe and delivered to houses. When the Victorian Government forbade tolls in 1875, the Council's revenue was cut by a third, but there was some increase in government finance.

The Railway Construction Bill of 1876 led to a proposal for the extension of the line to Camberwell. The route was a matter of discussion for years. The station was finally opened 3 April 1882. The line involved a stiff gradient from Auburn with an inconvenient level-crossing at Burke Road. It was extended to Lilydale by 1883. It was the railway and the general financial euphoria of the time that led to the rapid growth of Camberwell. Much was genuine growth but in part the land boom was speculative, so while many houses were built on the many blocks sold in the 1880s, others remained vacant for years when the crash of the 1890s followed. The Palace Hotel (1889) and two shops were built. Gentlemen sold off some of their estates, sometimes, as with Tara, for amazing prices. Free transport and champagne fuelled the sale of the multitude of subdivisions. This prosperity brought gaslights to streets in 1884 and tree planting to main thoroughfares such as Riversdale and Canterbury roads. The Council's revenue leapt and financed the new town hall with its stucco clock tower. Blainey concludes that Boroondara also attracted potential residents because of "the commanding views of ranges and bay, views which have long ago been obscured by tall trees and houses on the hills". All of which make one sorry for the Bevans, who did not live to see their holdings change from market garden to suburb.

VALE: Helena Mary Cochrane Lee 15.9.1925 - 4.6.2016



Helena's was a life spent adapting to the lifestyles, ideals and needs of the family she loved. She raised four children: Jan, Gill, 'Mac' and Ian.

Helena's ability to adapt was demonstrated when in 1960 Neville announced to this young family woman with 4 children, the youngest being just 4 years old, that he was going to be Mayor of Camberwell, at the time the largest city in Melbourne. This would make her Mayoress, with all the time that that entailed.

Reluctantly Helena accepted this very public role. With help from her friends, she tirelessly worked for the community, including founding the Ashy Op Shop. This shop is still going strong and has raised in excess of 20 million dollars to benefit the elderly citizens of this area.

After the public and political life finished, Helena was able to return to her children and relative obscurity although she continued supporting Neville in all his community activities. Helena's husband Neville was a founding member of Camberwell Historical Society, proposing the establishment of the society while he was Mayor of the City of Camberwell.

She was devoted to her children, and subsequent grand and great-grandchildren, ensured that they missed out on nothing, and instilled in them her sense of adventure, love of life, and wonder at nature. Helena just wanted to 'do the right thing' and leave the world a better place than when she arrived.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members:
Chris Stueven, Mal Osborne-Smith and Vince Lazzaro

MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS FOR 2016

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

- June 28** **Ken James - Mechanics Institutes**
More than 1,000 buildings were established in Melbourne, its suburbs and country towns from the early part of the 19th century. Each Victorian township's mechanics hall or institute provided meaningful dedicated re-education to the local residents.
- July 26** **Peter Fitzpatrick - The Two Frank Thrings**
Peter Fitzpatrick's dual biography tells the story of two remarkable characters. It follows the lives of two men who did all they could to cover their tracks, and to conceal 'the self'. It's also the tale of a lost relationship — and of the power a father may have had, even over a son who hardly knew him.
- August 23** **Annual General Meeting**
- September** **Excursion - to be announced.**
- October 25** **Chris Long - Film of the 19th and 20th Centuries**
- November 22** **Jenny Brown - Strange Tales and True from Melbourne's History**

CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Reminder that the Society's financial year operates from 1st July to 30th June and subscriptions are due and payable on or before July 1st each year. Thank you to those members who have paid their subscriptions.

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

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

PO Box 1274 CAMBERWELL 3124 Tel: 9885 9927

Web address: <http://www.chs.org.au>

email address: enquiries@chs.org.au

President — George Fernando; Secretary - Adèle Fernando-Swart; Treasurer - Dermot Murray
Committee members — Bryony Cosgrove, Alister Bennie and Jennifer McArthur
Camberwell History: Editor — Adèle Fernando-Swart

The Society's logo is taken from an illustration by, and used with the permission of, Bill Beasley.
Camberwell History is printed in the office of Josh Frydenberg, MHR, Federal Member of Parliament for Kooyong