

CAMBERWELL HISTORY

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL
AND DISTRICT

Camberwell Historical Society



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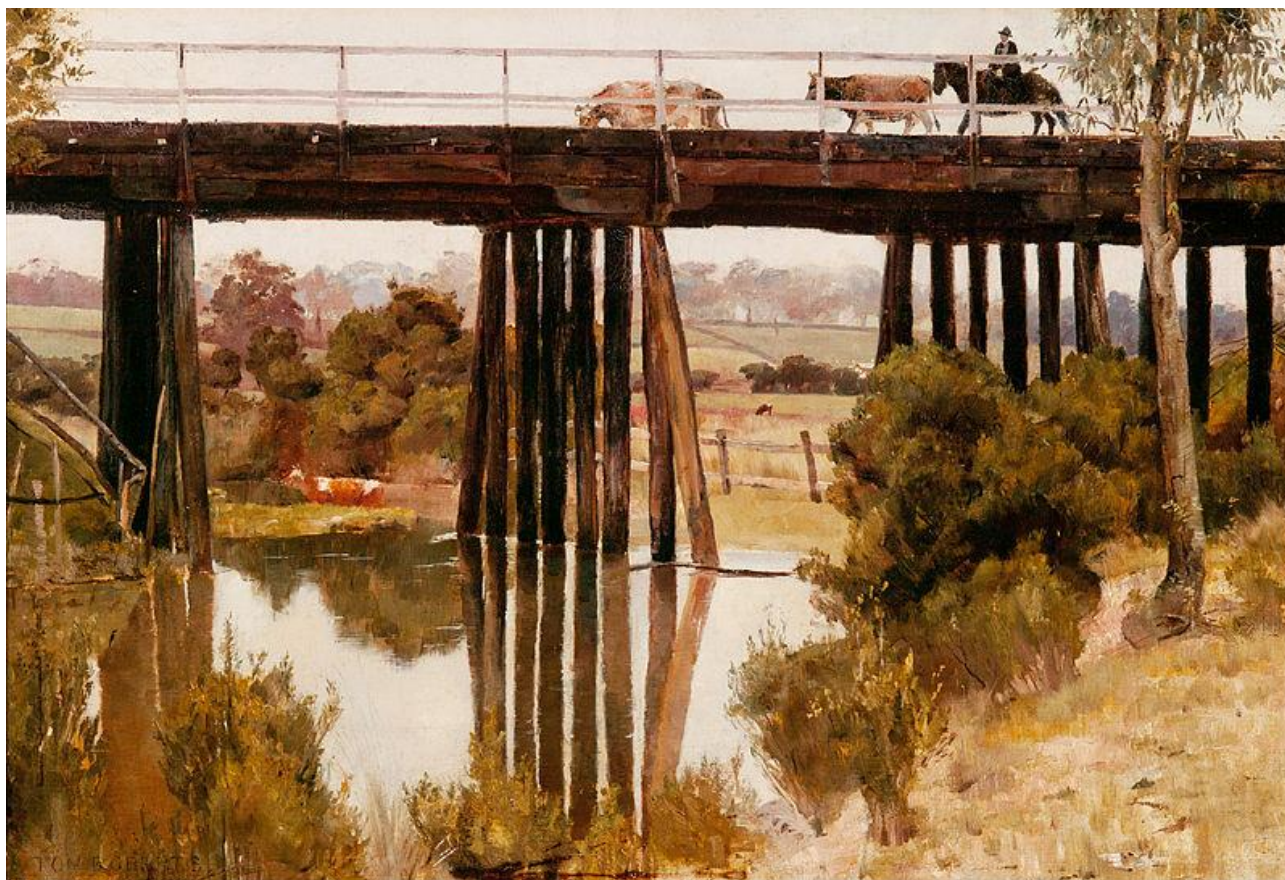
Principal Patron: Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have had a wonderful start to this year's meetings. On 24 February The Hon. Ted Baillieu, Chairman of Victoria's ANZAC Centenary Committee, made an inspiring presentation about the part historical societies should play in commemorating the 100th anniversary of WW1. A large audience of members and friends appreciated his guidance about how connections could be made between today's generations and those who served in WW1. The Gallipoli and Beyond's notice has been sent to members about the events to be held in April in Boroondara in commemoration of WW1.

George Fernando



Tom Roberts - *Winter morning after rain, Gardiner's Creek*
From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

JOHN GARDINER (5 July 1798 – 16 November 1878)

Neville Lee

John Gardiner arrived in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, from Dublin in 1823 and within a month was granted 800 acres. He didn't personally farm the property, preferring instead to be employed by the Van Diemen's Land Bank. This experience in the world of finance later became central to his lifestyle. However, in 1828, he resigned his employment and headed for the Macquarie River district in NSW where he opened and successfully conducted a general store. By 1834 he was on the move again, leasing a 5,250-acre property where he tried his luck at sheep farming. His next move was the result of the property he was renting being sold from under him.

Gardiner considered the grazing opportunities near Yass, but was discouraged by the severe drought then affecting NSW. Leaving his wife Mary and daughter Anna Maria in Sydney, by 1836 he was back in Hobart Town. Hobart was awash with stories of the opportunities opening up in the newly settled Port Phillip District. Port Phillip was rapidly expanding, with settlers bringing shiploads of sheep across from Van Diemen's Land. With his imagination now fired by these prospects, Gardiner visited Port Phillip where he learnt that John Batman's questionable purchase of much of the available grazing land had been countermanded by Governor Bourke from Sydney.

In Sydney, Gardiner bought 300 head of cattle from Joseph Hawdon. Hawdon still owned another 100 cattle and he, Gardiner, and a third 'Overlander', John Hepburn, drove the mob down to the Port Phillip District. Along the way they bumped into some of Major Mitchell's expedition returning from their epic journey exploring the land south of the Murray River. On arriving at Port Phillip, Gardiner laid claim to 15,000 acres at the junction of the Yarra River and Kooyong Koot Creek, later named Gardiner's Creek. Satisfied with his selection, he returned to Sydney and arranged for a further 200 cattle to be brought to the Port Phillip District.

In 1837 he sailed back to Port Phillip, this time accompanied by his wife and daughter, and built a house at Gardiner's Creek. Later that year, while searching for some stray cattle, he discovered the superior grazing potential of the land further up the Yarra River catchment. Abandoning the Gardiner's Creek property to, in his words, 'someone else's bees', he laid claim to 15,000 acres and established the property 'Mooroolbark'. He was joined at 'Mooroolbark' by a cousin, William Fletcher, with another cousin, Edward Atkyn Walpole, taking over the operation of the Gardiner's Creek run which he named 'Catalina'. Edward Walpole is remembered by Walpole Street in Kew.

By now Gardiner was more attracted to the urban life and spent most of his time in a home he built in Melbourne Town. In 1839 he sold his interest in the Gardiner's Creek run, and helped to found and became a director of Melbourne Fire and Marine Insurance Company. He was also a director of the Union Bank. He was next appointed manager of the Port Phillip Bank, resigned from the Union Bank, and built a new home in Bourke Street. The Port Phillip Bank sent him to London in March 1841 in a fruitless attempt to raise more capital for the bank, a need engendered by the looming financial crisis in Melbourne. While in London, he served on the committee which was pressuring the Secretary of State to authorise the separation of Port Phillip District from New South Wales.

On his return to Melbourne in September 1842, Gardiner discovered a town in the depths of a financial crisis. He resigned from the bank and lived at 'Mooroolbark'. The discovery of gold returned the colony's economy to prosperity. However in 1853 Gardiner sold all his Melbourne

interests and, leaving his family in Melbourne, returned to England. In 1863 his wife died and three months later he married a cousin, Sarah Fletcher. He died in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, in November 1878.

No. 90
 Gardiner and Fletcher
 Name of run—Gardiner's Run
 Estimated area—15,000 acres
 Estimated grazing capabilities—1,300 head of cattle
 Bounded on the E by a running creek called Ryrie's Creek; on the N by the Yarra River; on the W by Selby's old run; and on the S by the Corronwarrabul Mountain. The homestead is formed on a section of purchased land.

Gardiner and Fletcher's "Gardiner's Run" is extracted from the Government Gazette in the *Argus* in September 1848. The Corronwarrabul Mountain is Mount Dandenong. Ryrie's Creek is somewhere near Yarra Glen.



ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CAMBERWELL

Keith Dempster

In 1856 a twenty-year-old labourer, James Price, using the Book of Common Prayer, held church services in his house in Boundary or Glass Creek Road near Burke Road. Hearing of this, the Vicar of Christ Church in Hawthorn began to make regular visits to 'The Crossways' to conduct formal Church of England services and Sunday School in the Boroondara Roads Board Office adjoining George Eastaway's Camberwell Inn.

In 1862 a meeting was held in that office, 'to establish a school and preaching place in connection with the Church of England'. In 1863 a simple brick church was opened where St John's now stands. It had seating for 130 worshippers. A parsonage was built in 1868.

As early as 1869 part of the original church had to be demolished to make way for extensions on a more ambitious scale. Other grander additions were made, a bit at a time, until by 1924 nothing remained of the original church. In its place stood a large brick gothic revival edifice with a bell tower and spire, much fine stained glass, handsome wood carving, a large pipe organ, and with seating for 800 people. The reredos, or altarpiece, was one of only two painted by William Montgomery. The other is at St Paul's, Canterbury.

Except for the bell tower and spire, this grand building was destroyed by an arsonist in 1955. Within two and a half years, the present church was completed to a design by Louis R. Williams. Through the extraordinary dedication of the Vicar, Canon Tom Thomas, the building was consecrated free of debt in 1959. Later it was found that the bell tower and spire had been seriously damaged by the heat of the fire and they had to be demolished.

The building has been enhanced progressively by a splendid reredos mural and another mural at the west of the nave by Leonard Annois; a pipe organ by Hill, Norman and Beard with a third manual by Australian Pipe Organs Pty Ltd; stained glass by Taylor Kellock, Napier Waller, Alan Sumner, and Kim Lester; sculptures by Andor Meszaros, Anna Meszaros, Eva Schubert, Hans Knorr and Walter Langcake; and embroidery by Sir Ninian Comper, The Sisters of Bethany in London and parish embroiderers under the tutelage of Ethel Oates.

The choir was originally seated, by convention, in the stalls at each side of the chancel as if for antiphonal singing and leading the congregation's worship up to the altar in the eastern apse.

A lectern to the south of the chancel steps and a pulpit to the north denoted the reading and the exposition of the Scriptures at Matins and Evening Prayer. The font was originally in the south transept. To accommodate the liturgical developments of the time, the chancel was re-modelled in 1991. A nave altar was installed and the front pews angled to face it to increase the sense of intimacy.

Priests' and Deacons' desks were removed and replaced by chairs for the President, Deacon and Sub-deacon at the Eucharist. The choir stalls were removed and the choir now sits behind the nave altar. More recently, the font was moved to the west end of the nave.

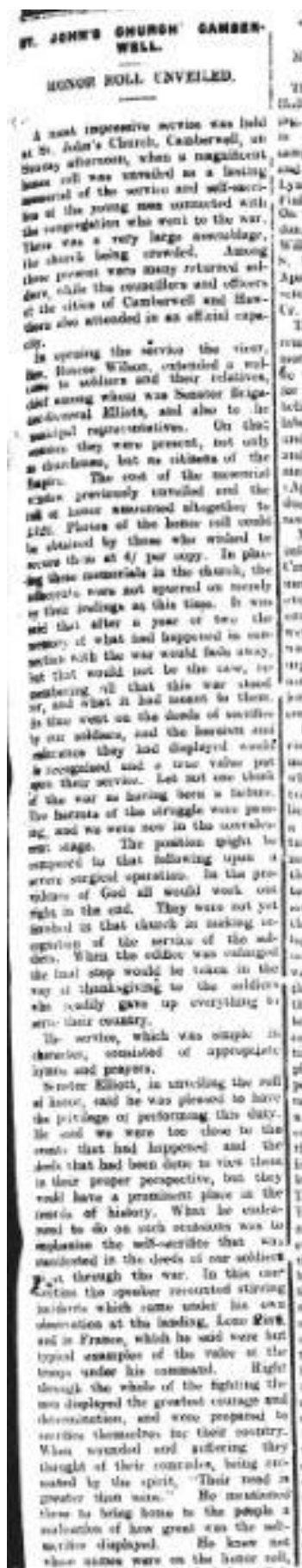
The first parish hall was built in 1896 and later enlarged. It was replaced in 1963 by a much larger parish centre which incorporated the caretaker's flat and many amenities to serve the community social functions of the day. Society, however, was changing and within thirty years, the building was underutilized and too expensive to maintain. The land was leased for commercial development and a more modest suite of meeting rooms and offices was opened in 2000 adjoining the church and directly accessible from it.

St John's is open every day to the public, and formal services are held every day except Saturday. The congregation includes people from many different backgrounds, and includes a large and active Indonesian component.



St. John's Anglican Church Camberwell Honor Roll photo by George Fernando

'Hawthorn and Camberwell Citizens' Friday 24 August 1920



Transcript of the newspaper article

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CAMBERWELL

HONOR ROLL UNVEILED

A most impressive service was held at St. John's Church, Camberwell, on Sunday afternoon, when a magnificent honor roll was unveiled as a lasting memorial of the service and self-sacrifice of the young men connected with the congregation who went to the war. There was a very large assemblage, the church being crowded. Among those present were many returned soldiers while the councillors and officers of the cities of Camberwell and Hawthorn also attended in an official capacity.

In opening the service the vicar, Rev. Roscoe Wilson, extended a welcome to soldiers and their relatives, chief among whom was Senator Brigadier-General Elliott, and also to the municipal representatives. On that occasion they were present, not only as churchman, but as citizens of the Empire. The cost of the memorial window previously unveiled and the roll of honor amounted altogether to £420. Photos of the honor roll could be obtained by those who wished to secure them at 4/ per copy. In placing these memorials in the church, the adherents were not spurred on merely by their feelings at this time. It was said that after a year or two the memory of what had happened in connection with the war would fade away, but that would not be the case, remembering all that this war stood for and what it had meant to them. As time went on the deeds of sacrifice by our soldiers, and the heroism and endurance they had displayed would be recognised and a true value put upon their service. Let not one think of the war as having been a failure. The horrors of the struggle were passing, and we were now in the convalescent stage. The position might be compared to that following upon a severe surgical operation. In the providence of God all would work out right in the end. They were not yet finished in that church in making recognition of the service of the soldiers. When the edifice was enlarged the final step would be taken in the way of thanksgiving to the soldiers who readily gave up everything to serve their country.

The service, which was simple in character, consisted of appropriate hymns and prayers.

Senator Elliott, in unveiling the roll at honor, said he was pleased to have the privilege of performing, this duty. He said we were too close to the events that had happened and the deeds that had been done to view them in their proper perspective, but they would have a prominent place in the records of history. What he endeavored to do on such occasions was to emphasise the self-

through the war. In this connection the speaker recounted stirring incidents which came under his own observation at the landing, Lone Pine, and in France, which he said were but typical examples of the valor of the troops under his command. Right through the whole of the fighting the men displayed the greatest courage and determination, and were prepared to sacrifice themselves for their country. When wounded and suffering they thought of their comrades, being animated by the spirit, "Their need is greater than mine." He mentioned these to bring home to the people a realization of how great was the self-sacrifice displayed. He knew not whose names were on the honor roll, but he knew that they had done their duty fearlessly.

When the flag was drawn aside the honor roll was revealed. It occupies a conspicuous place in the northern transept of the church, and is a unique memorial of its kind, consisting of beaten copper, or repousse work. It was executed at the Swinburne Technical College, and reflects credit upon that institution. The cost was £120.

The record of names is as follows:—

P. H. Aplin, A. Aldred, J. Alway, B. Avent, A. J. W. Bailey*, N. H. Bailey, W. H. W. Bailey, A. L. Barnet, I. W. Barnet, S. L. Barnet, S. J. Barnet, R. R. Benson, G. F. Benson, G. G. Berthon, A. V. J. Bolton, H. Bown, J. Bomford, C. Brand, C. S. Buckley, R. G. Buckley, A. Burt, J. S. Butterworth*, C. Collis, L. Cook, F. C. J. Denton, S. R. Dickinson, E. C. D'Ombrain, R. O. Duncan, I. Earles*, G. A. Fielding, E. T. Francis, D. J. Francis, E. J. Francis, F. L. Francis, D. J. Grey-Smith, E. J. Gunnersen, A. S. Hall, T. M. Hall, J. C. M. Harper, A. Hood, E. Hood, L. Hughes, G. C. Hunter, N. A. Hunter, R. Hunter*, A. D. Henderson*, K. Henderson, R. H. Henderson*, H. H. V. Hodson, N. R. Hodson, F. Ireland, T. V. Kempf*, A. J. Lambert, G. Langrell, J. B. Langrell, R. Langrell, C. B. Laughner*, S. W. Laughner, C. Livermore, S. Livermore, C. Loosh, R. Loosli, J. G. Maddicks, A. M. Macarthur, T. R. Mappin, C. Michael, H. Michael, J. Michael*, V. H. Millard, F. E. Moore, W. Moore, T. F. E. Moore, A. J. Naylor, J. Osbourne, W. R. H. Phillips, F. R. Pritchard, A. L. Read, H. W. Reilly, W. S. Richards, J. Riley, W. Riley, J. F. Rocho, J. T. Rodman, R. C. Rodman, V. V. Rodman*, A. Rodda, C. P. Russell, V. Russell, O. Robinson, J. Saban, E. A. Scott, W. A. Simmons*, K. Snodgrass, P. Snodgrass, J. I. Snowball*, A. C. Smith, A. P. Smith*, Walter Spiller, William Spiller, S. Symonds, R. Treacy, L. L. Turney, P. J. Tyers*, R. U'Ren, E. G. Wade, H. B. Wade, T. H. Wade, L. A. Walker, R. E. Walker, W. G. Wiseman, W. T. White, R. C. Wilson, H. C. Wilson, R. A. Willimott, H. T. Woods, H. H. Wood, L. M. I. Brown (nurse), H. R. Lawrence (nurse). At the foot are the words, "God proved them worthy."

The service closed with the Benediction and "The Last Post."

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The service closed with the Benediction and "The Last Post."

MEETING REPORTS 2015

February 24 **Ted Baillieu 'Victoria's WWI Commemorations'**

Ted Baillieu talked about his work as the Chairman of Victoria's ANZAC Centenary Committee and its focus on the sharing of stories to preserve our ANZAC legacy for today's and future generations, to honour the sacrifice of our war veterans and those who loved them, and to make and mark the connections between those ANZAC veterans and their descendants.

Ted showed some amazing film clips from the time, looked at the names of people in the audience and those who went to war, at streets in Camberwell and who went to war from the streets and showed the databases available for people to research family members and their war experiences. Many people in the audience had family members who went to war. Kay Johnston shared the story of her father. Tanya Warms talked about the work of the Gallipoli and Beyond committee and the events planned to commemorate WWI in the Boroondara area.

MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS FOR 2015

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.

- March 14 The Shrine of Remembrance 2pm**
This guided tour of the Shrine of Remembrance takes about an hour and the Shrine recommends allowing another hour before or after the tour to view their exhibitions in the new wing. Please meet at The Shrine gift shop.
- March 24 Ken James 'William Swan Urquhart, Surveyor' 8pm**
William Swan Urquhart was a surveyor for the Victorian Government, whose skills were recognised by Superintendent La Trobe. Settlements laid out by Urquhart in the period up to 1853 include Ballarat, Carisbrook, Castlemaine, Elphinstone, Lockwood, Malmsbury, Sunbury and Taradale. Most of these towns have an Urquhart Street in recognition of his work as is Hawthorn's Urquhart Street.
- April Please see the Gallipoli and Beyond pamphlet.**
- May 9 The Australian National Aviation Museum, Moorabin Airport**
This collection is one of the largest and most varied in Australia. There are nearly 50 aircraft in all and numerous engines and other artefacts, including uniforms and models.
- May 26 Dr. John Carre Riddell 'ANZAC then and now' 8pm**
This talk outlines the present meaning of Anzac Day to our nation, based on the war letters of his father, Consett Carre Riddell D.S.O, R.A.E. Consett was stationed at both Gallipoli and the Western Front.
- June 23 Jenny Davies 'James Fawcett' 8pm**
J.W. Fawcett and H.P.C. Ashworth were the winners of a competition held for the detailed design of Melbourne's Flinders Street Station, but James didn't live to see the completion of his design in 1910. James built a house in Camberwell.

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 and diaries, maps and plans, books and pamphlets
Reminiscences of former residents and people who worked in the area.

CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY - DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTION

Dolores San Miguel, who wrote the feature article in the December Issue No 19 of *Camberwell History*, has kindly donated a copy of her book, *The Secret Love Letters; A Family History*.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members: Dermot and Margaret Murray.

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.

CHS COMMITTEE CHANGES

Ralph Cooray was Acting Treasurer from February to December 2014. We thank him for fulfilling this role during this time. Dermot Murray has been appointed to the position of Treasurer of the Society from December 2014.

CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

ABN 79 935 200 741 Incorporation No A0041541 Y
Affiliated with The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Inc

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President — George Fernando; Secretary - Adèle Fernando-Swart; Treasurer - Dermot Murray

Committee members — Bryony Cosgrove

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