

CAMBERWELL HISTORY

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL
AND DISTRICT

Camberwell Historical Society



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Principal Patron: Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Fernando

This year marks the final year of the 100th anniversary commemorations of World War 1. We are fortunate to have Dr Ross McMullin talk about his latest book, *Pompey Elliot at war: in his own words*. Dr McMullin has previously written a biography of Pompey Elliott, this time he gathers evidence from General Elliott's diaries, letters and reports capturing Elliott's character in a better light.

In this newsletter, John Maidment draws our attention to the demolition of an outstanding Federation-style house in Crescent Road off Trafalgar Road, Camberwell. The *Progress Press* article of August 1997 highlights this same issue. Jennifer McArthur has written about the Dillon's Building, built on the site of George Eastaway's Camberwell Inn. Information is included from the exhibition, *Mapping Boroondara's History*, which was held in conjunction with the other historical societies of Boroondara last year.

I am pleased to announce that the position of Treasurer has been filled by Peter Huggan. The Treasurer's position had been left vacant since our previous treasurer Dermot Murray retired.

Please note the change of dates and times for the April, May, June and July meetings. These can be found on the back cover of this newsletter.

DEPLORABLE DEMOLITION AT 9 CRESCENT ROAD, CAMBERWELL

John Maidment



I was greatly saddened to see in early January the demolition of what was one of the largest timber houses in the area. This appears to have been bulldozed between Christmas and the New Year, by which time it was just a pile of rubble consisting of timber and smashed terracotta tiles - even some delightful green glass pressed with flower patterns.

Left: August 2017



This was a magical property with an expansive garden including a number of slim and very tall palm trees and other mature trees and shrubs, all hiding behind a high fence. The house, of late Federation style, incorporated an attic and verandah and appears to date from shortly after 1910.

Its first owner appears to have been John Foot, who is recorded in the 1915 and 1920 Sands & McDougall municipal directories. Foot died on 13 August 1927 and his wife Amelia on 18 August 1950. There was no sign of the house in the 1904 MMBW plan (held at the CHS office) and a later plan cannot be located at the State Library of Victoria.

Some of the detailing, particularly the eaves brackets and the verandah, with dentil moldings on the arches, was reminiscent of the work of Ussher & Kemp, renowned local architects, although it is unlikely it was their work. It was crowned by a massive roof; the roofing tiles, of Marseilles pattern, were made by the City

Brick & Tile Works, Hawthorn.

The recent heritage gap study, alas, didn't even examine any buildings in this street, so its significance would not have been recognized in this way. The property also has two adjacent semi-detached wooden houses, of no particular merit, which were auctioned last August and have been spared the wrecker's ball for the moment.

It would have been wonderful to have had an opportunity to explore and photograph this property, which appears not to have been auctioned. It had a remarkable feel of originality and appeared to have been in the same ownership for many decades; it didn't even have off-street car parking. There was a repoussé copper nameplate next to the front door which has probably been destroyed..



I was fortunate to have taken three photographs of the property last August when the fence line was moved across into the demolished property and some large trees sawn down. This represents an appalling loss for local heritage, yet the property seems to have been unrecognized and unsung. Was a permit granted for the demolition? If so, on what grounds?



DILLONS BUILDINGS, CAMBERWELL JUNCTION

Jennifer McArthur

The north-east corner of Camberwell Junction was originally bought by George Eastaway in 1853. The junction reminded him of Camberwell Green in London, so he called the building he constructed the Camberwell Inn. Thus, the name of the area was created, although it was not formally proclaimed as a town until 1906. The Camberwell Inn was used for local meetings, including the Camberwell Road Board and the Ancient Order of Foresters. It was licensed in 1857. It was renamed the Camberwell Hotel in 1861.



Eastaway sold the business in 1867 and there was a variety of other licensees until it was bought by Annie Dillon in 1912. The building ceased to operate as a hotel in 1920 after the Local Option Poll, which made the district a dry area. The Camberwell Hotel was demolished, and a new commercial building called Dillons Buildings was erected. This still stands today and the sign Dillons can be seen from the Riversdale Road side.

Above:

Camberwell Hotel in the 1890s

<https://burwoodbulletin.org/topic/history/>

Right:

Camberwell Junction, 1939.

Photographer: C. Stuart Tompkins. | Image Source:
City of Boroondara Library Service Collection.

<https://camberwellshopping.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Camberwell-Junction-1939.jpg>



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Council concedes it is powerless to save old houses

Council powerless to save old house

■ From Page 1.

Cr Kirby said that with demolition rumors circulating, council made a last-ditched appeal for State Government intervention but was rejected.

He said council was trying to negotiate protection with the owners of other A and B-grade historic houses to save them from the same fate.

But owners of the demolished Camberwell bungalow "always held significant doubts" about the building's heritage value, a company spokesman said.

Thomas Macdougall chief executive Ted Sent said various consultants also doubted the house's historical significance.

"The Heritage Council proceedings... vindicated that view that the house was of far less significance than some have claimed and it was highly debatable whether there was any significant justification for preserving the house at all," he said.

Mr Sent said his company had acted within its legal rights to demolish the house and the council heritage grading was based on poor research. The 18-month delay cost the company \$100,000.

The 1991 Camberwell Conservation Study described Warringulla as a "fully developed Californian Bungalow ... which influenced contemporary house builders".



Before, during and after: The 1918 bungalow was bulldozed on August 1, despite attempts to save it.

Going, going, gone

by KAMAHIL DOGDON

MANY of Boroondara's best historic houses are at the mercy of developers, the council has conceded.

The admission follows council's failure to stop the demolition of a noted 1918 bungalow-style home in Camberwell to make way for a \$5 million aged-care complex.

Planning committee chairman Nigel Kirby said council was powerless to save 30 historic homes on its A-list and more than 100 houses on its B-list.

The houses were graded in a recent council heritage survey but the classi-

cations will carry no protection until at least next year when amendments to the local planning scheme heritage provisions are passed.

"We are really reliant until that time on the goodwill of developers and that is a hopeless reliance I must say," Cr Kirby said.

"Properties will continue to be lost," Warringulla, the former home of famed architect Marcus Barlow, the main responsible for much of Melbourne's historic streetscape, was bulldozed on August 1.

The Hunter Rd property's owner, Collins St developer Thomas Macdoug-

all Ltd, took its dismayed opponents by surprise when it bypassed traditional channels to get private sector demolition approval.

State Government deregulation of council services in 1994 opened the way for private building surveyors to join council officers in issuing permits.

Cr Kirby said private surveyors had 14 days to notify council of permit approvals, which meant buildings could be demolished before council was even aware of the plan.

Hunter Rd resident Sandra Blaney likened the demolition to vandalism.

"This is just another form of vandal-

ism by developers," she said.

"Developers don't live there and have little concern for the area."

The levelling ended a conservation fight which included an A-Grade council heritage classification after the 1991 Camberwell Conservation Study, and failed appeals for protection from Heritage Victoria and the State Government.

The heritage body's officers recommended the property be listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, but the advice was dismissed by a Heritage Victoria panel after objections from new owners Thomas Macdougall.

Continued on Page 4

Article donated by Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

MAPPING BOROONDARA'S HISTORY

Boroondara Historical Societies Association

15 October – 30 November 2017

A combined BHSA exhibition was held to coincide with History Week 2017 in the Camberwell Library Gallery. This following information from the exhibition represented Camberwell's contribution.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, Shire of Camberwell & Boroondara Detail Plan No 1845 - 1904

Following the extension of the railway to Camberwell in 1882, the area developed quickly from market gardens into a town. Many of Camberwell's major buildings are constructed after this time: Camberwell Post Office, 1890, Camberwell Town Hall, 1890, the Commercial Bank 1889 and the Palace Hotel, 1888.

This map covers Prospect Hill Road which climbs steeply from Bourke Road where the crest of the hill was considered the ideal site for prestigious houses. On the eastern corner of Fermanagh Road is *Chesney* at 26 Prospect Hill Road. On the western corner of Fermanagh Road stood *Crendon* at 24 Prospect Hill Road.

This map shows the extent of building in Fairholm Grove, Fermanagh Road, Waterloo Street and Riversdale Road. Many of the houses are listed by name and clearly show the buildings' outlines.

Chesney, 26 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, c1967



A land boom took place following the extension of the railway to Camberwell in 1882 and in the subsequent 'bust' of the 1890s in properties often changed hands. Louisa and Thomas Bevan bought land from 1853 onwards. By the end of 1869 they had extensive holdings. The house and a portion of land was sold to Edward Waters, a Hawthorn real estate agent and businessman in 1880.

In 1883, Alexander Ross, a Melbourne real estate agent, bought it and subdivided the land. In 1887, the house and its shrunken block were bought by Richard Curr, Elizabeth Pennefather's brother, who transferred the ownership of the house to her on 25 June 1895. It was sold again in 1909 to Robert Purvis.

In October 1918 it was bought by Florence and Phillip Salmon, whose family was to own it for 43 years. After first Phillip and later Florence Salmon died, the house was left to their daughters, Phyllis Rayner and Florence Baird. Phyllis and Jack Rayner became the owners in September 1952. Sam and Judy Goldberg owned it between 1967 and 2004.

***Crendon*, 24 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, c1953**



A building boom followed the extension of the railway to Camberwell in 1882. The crest of Prospect Hill Road was the ideal site for grand houses. The grandest, *Fairholme* (1873) is still standing.

Crendon was built in 1887 for Joseph Frederick Walker, who died in 1909. The

architects were Dalton and Gibbins. In 1920 *Crendon* was sold to the draper William T Hattam, and upon his death in 1929 it passed to his widow, Amelia Hattam. A portion of land was subdivided on the western side for a house for Wallace and Olive Hattam, and another on the southern side for Amelia's daughter Gwenneth and her husband Frank Thomas, who built a house there in about 1963.

The Goding family bought the house in 1953 for the sum of £7125 and they lived at *Crendon* from 1953 to 1963. It was then sold to the Exclusive Brethren who demolished *Crendon* a year or two later.

**Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, Shire of Camberwell & Boroondara
Detail Plan No 1858 - 1904**

The extension of the railway in 1882 caused rapid urban development in Camberwell, and over the next two decades, the population grew from 1,400 to 6,000. Development came to a virtual halt with the land crash of the 1890s.

This map of 1904 shows the Camberwell and Box Hill Railway and the East Camberwell Railway Station, which were originally part of the Outer Circle Railway.

Large estates were broken up after the introduction of rates on unimproved land values. One of the features of the suburb is brick housing, mandated by Council bylaws for many precincts from the early twentieth century.

Many of the buildings from this period in Kingsley Street and Moorhouse Street still stand today. *Smythesdale* and *Ardenlea* are two examples in Moorhouse Street, while *Stanage* in Kingsley Street had to be demolished.

***Smythesdale*, 6 Moorhouse Street, Camberwell**



Smythesdale was built in 1889. The double-fronted brick Victorian was one of the first houses on the street. It was owned and possibly built by Samuel J. Welsford, a successful merchant and importer, who built several houses in the area. By 1905, the name of the house had been changed to *Lysberrin*. From 1912, it became the premises for Miss E. Gearing's Girls' Business College and remained so for several years.

In 1950, the widowed owner of *Lysberrin*, Emma Mary Dickens, set up the property as a boarding house with two sleepouts and a kitchenette. The large block of land, with rear lane access, had room for fruit trees, a vegetable patch and a chicken shed. In the early 1970s, the owners commissioned architects Morris and Pirrotta to design a striking modern extension and a black and yellow colour scheme. The current owners have repainted the house in softer, more traditional colours, and it is once again a family home.

***Ardenlea*, 12 Moorhouse Street, Camberwell**



Ardenlea, a double-fronted Victorian timber home, was built in 1892. The name refers to the fields of the Ardennes in Belgium. George Main had purchased the land in 1891 and resided at the property until his death approximately four years later.

Several of the techniques and materials used in building the home created a distinguished character, including the block-fronted appearance, the painted marble-

effect timber fireplace and wrought iron lacework celebrating Queen Victoria's Jubilee (1887).

Throughout the home's history, it was owned by many women, including Mrs Adams (1903 - 1905), Mrs L. Purser (1925-1930), Mrs F. Smith (1938-1943), Mrs M. Fulton (1956-1957) and lastly by Mrs U. Friedrich (1960-1995) whose son was an opera singer.

The house retained its original Victorian features throughout this time but the house and garden were neglected and overgrown. The current owners have retained the original Victorian features and sympathetically renovated their home and garden complete with beautiful old apple and peppercorn trees.

Stanage, 23 Kingsley Street, Camberwell



Following the building of the railway to Camberwell in 1882, this property was purchased by photographer and auctioneer David Edelsten, at an 1883 subdivision sale. A double-fronted timber house was subsequently built. From 1889, Charles Langford resided there, naming the house *Stanage* after the Welsh castle in which he had worked. By 1900 Charles had extended the house to accommodate his family of ten.

The Langfords' neighbour, Mary Dean, acquired the property in 1934. For the following 75 years the house was tenanted and fell into decline. The facade was altered to a California bungalow style, and the house was divided into flats, possibly by Harold Hollow who purchased the house in 1949.

In 1969 the property was sold to Teresia Kleiner. Teresia's daughter sold the house to the current owners in 2009. Despite Kingsley Street's heritage overlay the house was deemed non-contributory. Beyond renovating, it was demolished, and a modern slate-roofed single-storey house was built to blend sympathetically with the surrounding streetscape.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, Municipality of Camberwell Detail Plan No 2000 - 1927

This MMBW plan shows the 33-acre *Belmont* estate of Robert Reid. It was subsequently divided when he gifted 4 acres to each of his daughters when they married. The Belmont Stables, *Larino*, *Maleela* and *Myambert* were designed by Reid's son-in-law Edward Bates. Robert Reid died in 1904.

This plan was drafted in 1927, after the 1926 subdivisional land sale of Belmont land. Sixty-eight sites were auctioned in 1926, when 1800 people are reported to have attended. Building took place quickly as can be seen by the number of houses on the southern and eastern sides of this plan.

Larino was sold in 1939 and demolished in 1961 and *Maleela* was sold about 1946, demolished 1980-81. *Myambert* (not named on the plan) was built for Arthur Reid in 1911. It was sold after Arthur died in 1953. It is currently undergoing extensive renovation after its recent sale.

Belmont, Whitehorse Road, Balwyn Image c 1950

Belmont was built by Robert Reid MLA, one of Australia's leading importers. Robert, his wife Mary and two of their ten children settled on about 33 acres fronting Whitehorse Road around 1871. It extended from Reid Street to Parkside Avenue and along Mont Albert Road from Salisbury Avenue to the east side of Camberwell Grammar School.



Belmont was built in 1891-1892. The stables housed horses and vehicles, as well as coachman's quarters in the tower. The north-facing archway accessed a courtyard with a clock. Similar gates opened to Oakdale and Crest Avenues with carriage access from Mont Albert Road.

In 1913 Mrs Reid donated 7 acres to Camberwell Council for Belmont Park, with the stipulation that the gums trees be preserved. The estate was subdivided in 1926 with the area

around Belmont and the coach-house retained. Belmont's last owner, Mary Lydia Reid, died in 1955; subsequently the property was further subdivided, and *Belmont* was demolished.

***Larino*, now 23 Maleela Avenue, Balwyn**

Larino was built on part of the Belmont estate. Robert gave both his daughters Ethel and Catherine (Kate) 4 acres each on which to build homes. Ethel married Edward Bates and Catherine married his brother Will.

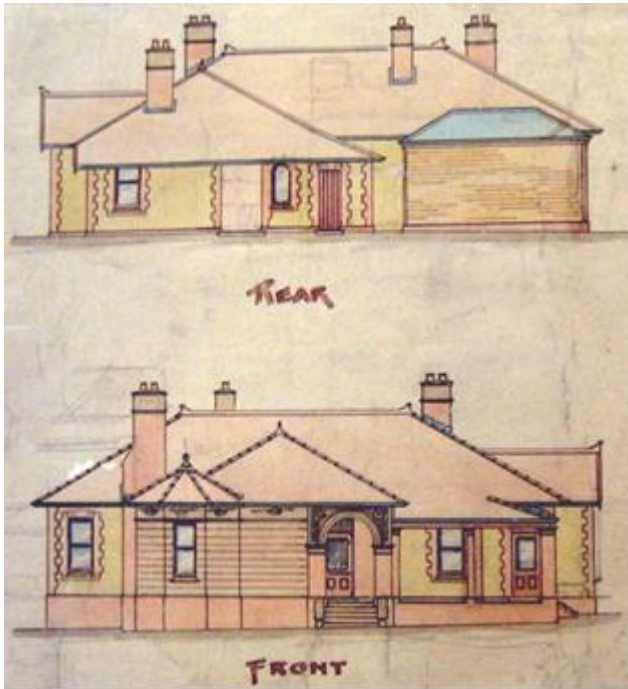


Edward was an architect and partner with Bates, Peeble and Smart (later Bates, Smart and McCutcheon). Edward designed the *Belmont stables*, *Maleela* (Edward and Ethel Bates), *Larino* (Catherine and Will Bates) and *Myambert* (built in 1911 for Arthur Reid but does not feature on the MMBW 1904 map). This photo from 1937 is a view of the north face of *Larino* with its lily pond and garden constructed after the two-storey addition was built in the 1920s.



Larino was sold in 1939 to the Australian Jewish Welfare Society and became a home for refugee children. It was renamed *Frances Barkman House* in 1948 and was demolished in 1961. The new brick building was sold to the Victorian Department of Social Welfare in 1964 and became a children's home named *Illoura*. *Balwyn Manor* now stands on this site.

Left: *Myambert* built in 1911



Left: Maleela

CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTIONS

This is a reminder that the Society's financial year operates from 1st July to 30th June. Subscriptions are due and payable on or before July 1st each year.

CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATION RECEIVED FOR THE COLLECTION

Picture of a house at 96 Through Road, Camberwell donated by Lindsay J. Ruddle
Newspaper cuttings from 1997 and 1998 from the Leader from SHNC collection.
A collection of Camberwell crested glassware from Southern Sherbrooke Historical Society.

NEW TO CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

96 Through Road from Lindsay Ruddle



This photo was taken around 1942 and is a typical example of wartime construction. It was the residence of Mr Benjamin E. Davis (19.3.1911 – 19.3.1985) and Mrs Mary G. L. Davis (26.6.1913 – 29.10.2009) who lived there for 42 years. The house has been replaced by two modern homes on the wide but shallow block of land.

REPORT OF MEETINGS 2018

Victor Franco and Sarah Groves Taylor - Camberwell Green: a proposal for a park 27 February 2018

The Camberwell Junction Residents Association proposes the establishment of a major new park, featuring cultural and recreational facilities on poorly utilised and fragmented parcels of existing Crown Land and open space in the heart of Camberwell Junction. This will dramatically enhance the long-term vibrancy and appeal of the area. This vision is a simple, feasible and cost-effective solution to enhance the liveability of our suburb and respond to community demands for high quality open space.



Owned by the State Government and managed on its behalf by the City of Boroondara, this Crown Land is currently labelled as a short-stay public car park. The children attending the adjacent Camberwell Primary School, where student numbers have increased in recent years from around 400 to about 700, despite having a restrictive enrolment zone, face increasing safety hazards due to insufficient play space.

The City of Boroondara and the State Government have designated Camberwell Junction a Principal Activity Centre and are committed to increasing residential density in the Junction and ensuring that new residential developments are of at least three levels,¹ as well as reinforcing the commercial and distinctive retail character of the area. This has resulted in booming development and population growth. Yet there are no community playgrounds and there is a shortage of green open space in and around Camberwell Junction, where almost two-thirds of residents live in apartments or townhouses, compared to just a quarter for Greater Melbourne.



The Camberwell Junction Residents Association will soon be launching a public campaign, calling on the City of Boroondara and the State Government to work together to create a major new regional park – Camberwell Green – in the civic heart of Camberwell, surrounded by historic buildings and linked to the commercial and retail opportunities at Camberwell Junction. camberwellgreen@outlook.com.au

Bryony Cosgrove, Sarah Groves-Taylor and Victor Franco

¹ Camberwell Junction Structure Plan (Adopted by Council on 27 October 2008 and updated 28 December 2011).

MEETINGS FOR 2018

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Meeting Room, Camberwell Library, 340 Camberwell Road, Camberwell at 8.00pm.

Tuesday March 27 2018	(8pm meeting)	Dr Ross McMullin: Pompey Elliott at war: in his own words
Tuesday April 10 2018	(8pm meeting)	John Maidment: Lost Pipe Organs of Australia
Tuesday May 15 2018	(8pm meeting)	Dr Brenda Niall: Can you hear the sea?
Saturday June 23 2018	(2pm meeting)	Dr David Smith: Documentary film making
Saturday July 21 2018	(2pm meeting)	James Nicolas: The mystery of Fairylands, Kew
Saturday August 25 2018	(2pm meeting)	AGM
Tuesday October 23 2018	(8pm meeting)	Dr Sue Taffe: A White Hot Flame: Mary Montgomerie Bennett
Tuesday November 27 2018	(8pm meeting)	TBA

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.

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

CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

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Camberwell History: Editor — Adèle Fernando-Swart

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