

# CAMBERWELL HISTORY

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL  
AND DISTRICT  
Camberwell Historical Society



No. 39

December 2019

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Principal Patron: Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC  
Patron: Her Worship the Mayor of Boroondara, Cr Cynthia Watson

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### George Fernando

I am pleased to announce that Cynthia Watson, following her appointment as the Mayor of Boroondara, has accepted our request to be a patron of our Society. We wish her well for her forthcoming term of office and thank her for accepting the role of our patron. I would like to thank Cr Jane Addis for her support during her time as Mayor of Boroondara.

Our 2018-19 Boroondara Annual Community Strengthening Grant, funded by City of Boroondara and the Rotary Club of Balwyn, has been successfully completed. The grant was for digitisation and preservation of our collection of early maps of the Boroondara area and for work on oral history. We are grateful to Council for their support.

Boroondara Historical Societies Association has continued to meet to work towards joint projects with another project planned for 2020. The close links between the BHSA members, Camberwell, Balwyn, Canterbury, Hawthorn, Kew and Surrey Hills, is very encouraging.

I thank all those who helped make this year a success for CHS. Thank you especially to our committee and all those who gave their help throughout the year. Thank you also to the membership for your continuing support. I look forward to another good year in 2020 and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## A HUNDRED YEARS ON FROM THE SPANISH INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918/19

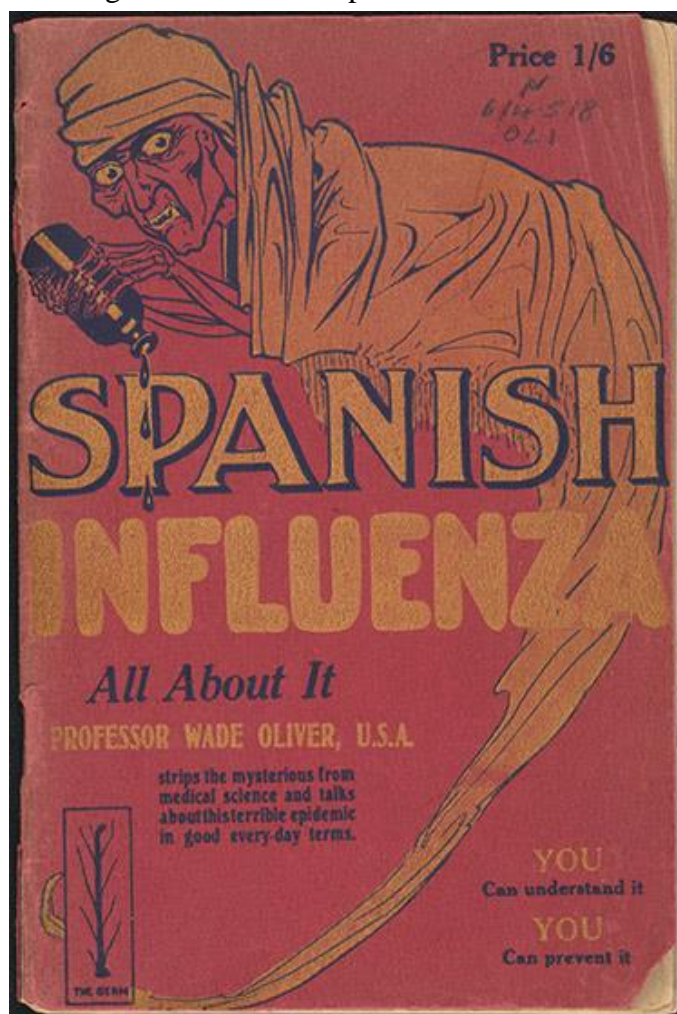
### Bryony Cosgrove

Spanish influenza did not originate in Spain but outbreaks were first reported from there because the country was neutral during World War I and therefore not subject to military censorship. Some theories claim the United States was the point of origin, where it first broke out in March of 1918 at Fort Riley in Kansas among soldiers stationed there. Others place the origins of the outbreak in a troop staging and hospital camp in Étaples in France. The virus, which was identified as pneumonic influenza, caused a devastating outbreak in Spain in May and June of 1918. As the sickness spread into the general population, it became more deadly, striking with amazing speed and overwhelming the body's natural defences, causing uncontrollable haemorrhaging that filled the lungs. People who were healthy in the morning could be dead by evening. The virus targeted not only the very young and the elderly but also people between the

ages of 20 and 40 – the age group that saw the most deaths among young men during the war. Estimates of the total number of deaths vary greatly from 50 to 100 million worldwide – more people than the number killed in World War I. It remains the most devastating pandemic in recorded history, killing more people than the Black Death.

The massive troop movements of World War I allowed for the rapid spread of the virus. Because of its remoteness from Europe, however, Australia had some months to prepare. The Australian Quarantine Service implemented maritime quarantine on 17 October 1918. The first infected ship to enter Australian waters was the Mataram from Singapore, which arrived in Darwin on 18 October. Of vessels intercepted over the next few months more than a third carried the infection. A national influenza planning conference was held in Melbourne on 26-27 November 1918 where it was agreed that the Federal Government should take responsibility for organising land and maritime quarantine. The States were to be responsible for establishing emergency hospitals, vaccination depots, ambulance services, medical staff and public awareness measures.

The first cases of pneumonic influenza appeared in Melbourne in early January 1919, but confusion as to whether it was Spanish flu or a seasonal flu virus delayed confirmation, thus allowing the infection to spread to New South Wales and South Australia by the end of January



1919. As the *Sydney Morning Herald* noted on 28 January 1919: 'Australia must now face the fact that the scourge which has taken so heavy a toll from the rest of the world has invaded its own frontiers.' New South Wales was the first State to officially proclaim an outbreak on 27 January, quickly followed by Victoria. Theatres and schools were closed. Many church services were held in church grounds rather than indoors. The border between Victoria and New South Wales was closed. Public meetings of more than 20 people were banned and loitering on the steps of Flinders Street Station in Melbourne, underneath the clocks, was discouraged. Travel in long-distance trains was restricted, and people were encouraged to wear masks in public. Carts sprinkled the disinfectant phenyl on the streets of Melbourne's CBD. The Melbourne Exhibition Building was converted into an emergency hospital between February 1919 and August 1919 to cope with the great number of people taken ill, with bed numbers quickly reaching 2000.

Above: image from the National Museum of Australia Collection

Thousands of ordinary Australians, many of them women, rose to the challenge. Church groups, civic leaders, council workers, teachers, nurses and organisations such as the Red Cross stepped in to staff relief depots and emergency hospitals, deliver clothing and food, and care for victims who were critically ill or convalescent despite the risks posed to their own health.

Folk remedies such as wearing a garlic clove around the neck, or camphor balls, were popular as well as taking Clements Tonic to purify the blood, and a couple of Nicholas Aspro tablets. The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories was established during World War I and in 1918 it developed its first experimental vaccine to combat the spread of the Spanish flu, producing three million free doses for Australia troops and civilians. During the epidemic local doctors did implement a program of inoculation at local centres however there was not a universal acceptance that inoculation was a means of preventing infection or restricting its progress. At the time, the medical profession had not identified the cause of the virus, making inoculations seem like an experiment rather than a necessity.

By the end of 1919 the Spanish flu pandemic was over. The estimated death toll in Australia was 15,000, of which nearly 30% were Victorians. Up to 40% of the Australian population had been infected, and in some Aboriginal communities the death rate was as high as 50%.

The City of Boroondara Influenza Pandemic Plan (2011) references the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 in outlining current procedures and health risk management on a local, state and national level. Vaccination programs are now prominent in the containment of flu outbreaks, and increasingly, people of all ages take advantage of these programs.

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Dr Peter Hobbins, 'Centenary of Spanish Flu Pandemic in Australia', University of Sydney, 21/1/2019

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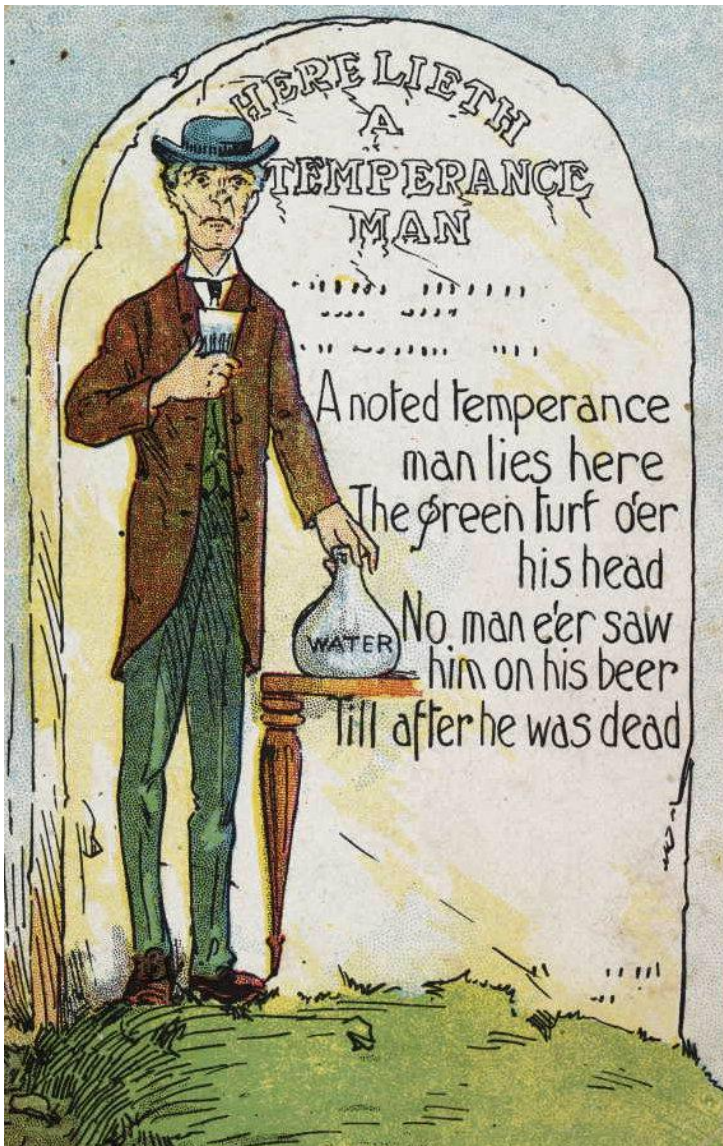
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## **THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT AND THE CAMBERWELL DRY ZONE**

### **Adele Fernando-Swart**

After separation from New South Wales in 1851, Victoria's liquor laws and trading hours changed many times. Trading hours were restricted as early as 1854. The Wines, Beer and Spirits Sale Act 1864 introduced a wide range of licence types and allowed publicans to trade from 6am until midnight.

Temperance organisations appeared in Australia in the 1830s, initially with the aim of moderating excessive alcohol consumption in society. By the turn of the century the temperance groups generally campaigned for total abstinence from all alcoholic beverages.



**Left: Image from the State Library of Victoria Collection**

The Temperance League of Victoria was established in 1857 by the 'fervent believer in temperance' and Victorian Member of Parliament for East Bourke, Richard Heales. Mr Heales had been active in the Total Abstinence Society. The rapid influx of gold-seekers to Victoria dramatically increased beer and spirit consumption; drinking peaked along with the economy. Mr Heales set up the Temperance League to co-ordinate the work of the existing temperance societies. Over the next few years, the temperance movement in Victoria grew large enough to influence the public debate about alcohol. In 1878, with a total population of just under 880,000 people, Victoria 'boasted 4,320 hotels, 334 licensed grocers, 113 wine saloons, 500 spirit merchants and 104 brewers.'

The Victorian Alliance group was formed in 1881. James Munro, the Member for Carlton, chaired the inaugural meeting with Alfred Deakin, the Member for West

Bourke, and future Prime Minister of Australia. The economic boom years of the 1880s saw the opening of temperance hotels, or 'coffee palaces'. Mr Munro was prominent among the coffee palace developers. He was involved with many temperance establishments, notably the Federal, the Victoria and The Grand (renamed the Windsor Hotel in 1920).

Temperance groups started all around Victoria and many churches took a prominent role in the promotion of abstinence. The Methodists, Congregationalists, Baptists and Quakers were actively involved in the movement. The Blue Ribbon movement, also known as 'gospel temperance', issued blue ribbons to those who took the pledge and committed to being abstainers. A lead children's temperance organisation, the Victorian Band of Hope Union, was set up in Melbourne in 1884 to coordinate the efforts of existing groups based in Church Sunday Schools. Friendly societies such as the Independent Order of Rechabites and the Independent Order of Good Templars were also strongly in favour of the temperance cause.

Women became heavily involved in the temperance movement, at first by contributing to the women's committees of existing temperance groups and later creating their own organisations.

Temperance organisations were very supportive of women's suffrage, anticipating the advantages for the temperance movement if women gained the vote.

Temperance advocates experienced a measure of success for their local option campaign with Parliament's introduction of the Licensing Act 1885. Several petitions were presented to Parliament. The largest was a petition in favour of the proposed local option legislation, signed by 44,501 women and presented in the Legislative Assembly by Alfred Deakin on 8 September 1885.

The liquor industry actively lobbied for amendments to a proposed licensing Bill introduced in 1906 and won some concessions, including the postponement of the local option provisions until 1917. This was further delayed until 1920, when Camberwell and Nunawading were the only districts that voted to close all their hotels and became 'dry' areas). The Licensing Act 1906 established the Licenses Reduction Board, with powers to reduce the number of hotels in the licensing districts and award compensation from a new fund. From 1907 to 1916, the Board closed 1,054 Victorian hotels for a compensation amount of £540,851. Hotel closing times had been fixed at 11.30pm by the Parliament in 1885. Six o'clock became the general closing time for metropolitan shops in Melbourne, effective from early March 1906.

Events outside Victoria impacted on the public debate about alcohol. It was reported that the Czar of Russia had abolished the sale of vodka, and that a growing number of states were declaring prohibition in the United States of America. King George V banned all wines, beers and spirits from the Royal household in April 1915. The King's example of abstinence was quickly echoed by many in Australia, including the Governor-General and several state Governors.

The Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restriction) Bill 1915 was introduced with a proposal to change hotel opening times from 6am to 9am, and the closing times from 11.30pm to 9.30pm, it eventually passed and came into force on 6 July 1915. The Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restriction) Act 1916 commenced operation on 25 October 1916. In December 1916, Victoria was divided into 217 licensing districts with each one overseen by a licensing inspector. The local option voting was postponed until after the war.

On 21 May 1918, a 'Strength of Empire' movement was launched at a meeting at the Melbourne Town Hall, following the lead of similar organisations overseas, with their objectives being 'prohibition and purity'. William Edgar, the Member for East Yarra, chaired the meeting and the Member for Boroondara, Edmund Greenwood, was prominent among the other church and temperance society speakers. Mr Greenwood said the movement stood for federal war-time prohibition and permanent state prohibition. This was extended in 1919. Six o'clock closing was to remain in place in Victoria for another 50 years. Tasmania legislated to change its hotel closing times back to ten o'clock in 1937 and New South Wales did the same in 1955. However, Victoria's early closing hours endured.

Following the first Victorian local option vote conducted in 1920, which created two 'dry' areas, Camberwell and Nunawading, only two more rounds of local option voting took place (in 1930 and 1938). The provision for further local option polls was removed from the Act in 1946.

The 1950s ushered in a period of growing economic prosperity. The influence of the temperance movement declined and attitudes towards alcohol became more relaxed. In Melbourne the shift

in attitude was assisted by a post-war surge in European migrants who opened new styles of cafes and coffee bars. The Licensing (Amendment) Act 1953 removed restrictions on the number of liquor licenses and created a single licensing district for the entire state. The permits that had allowed drinking with meals until 8pm were extended until 10pm, with limited hours on Sundays and public holidays. The government was still 'pro-restriction' regarding the sale of alcohol but began to focus on the task of 'civilising Victorians' drinking habits'.

When it was passed in December, the Licensing Act 1965 introduced theatre and cabaret licences and it finally extended the opening hours of hotels in Victoria to 10pm. Ten o'clock closing came into force on 1 February 1966. Blood alcohol testing (with a 0.05 limit) was introduced at the same time by the Motor Car (Driving Offence) Act 1965.

The following areas of the Cities of Whitehorse and Boroondara are dry areas:

- east of Burke Road to Middleborough Road
- bounded to the north by Koonung Creek
- bounded to the south by Gardiner's Creek, Warrigal Road and Riversdale Road (as extended through the Box Hill Golf Course).

Map from the *Herald Sun* (will you include this, Adele?)

Locally, there are no pubs or clubs, and alcohol purportedly cannot be sold in restaurants and cafes in the dry zone encompassing Ashburton, Glen Iris, Camberwell, Canterbury, Balwyn, North Balwyn, Mont Albert, Mont Albert North, Box Hill, Box Hill South and Box Hill North. However fully licensed premises have proliferated. The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation reports that there are 143 restaurants and cafes with liquor licences in the dry zone, compared with just 42 in 2010.

## References

Madeleine Heffernan, End of the dry: Melbourne's only alcohol-free zone now teems with licensed venues, *The Age*, February 16, 2018 (On-Line)

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## **ASTOLAT - 630 Riversdale Road, Camberwell**

In October Astolat was open as part of the Open Gardens Victoria program. The current owner gave permission for this information to be included in this newsletter.

Astolat was built circa 1882–1884. The name is derived from Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*. Mr Thomas Plumley Derham Jr, a solicitor, built the residence and lived there until the property was sold in 1895. Several short-term owner occupations followed until the Martyn family purchased the property in 1916. In 1985 the Tilley family bought the estate and carried out major restoration of the residence.

The residence is typical of late-nineteenth century Italianate architecture of the upper middle class of Melbourne with its asymmetrical building form, return cast-iron verandah, refined cement render detailing, intact fenestration, chimneys and slate roof.



The garden was developed soon after the completion of the mansion and is recognised as a typical nineteenth-century suburban villa garden. It features an oval lawn formed by the carriage drive, a tennis court with the original pavilion built in 1890, the elaborate timber picket fence and well-established tree and shrubs species of the era.

From 1985 the garden underwent many changes as a result of new owners. Australian native species such as *Acacia* species (wattles) and *Hymenosporum* (Native Frangipani) were introduced, and many tree 'weed species' were allowed to flourish. Structural additions such as urns, a small circular temple, the recessed seating area west of the court, and new additional buildings at the rear of the mansion diverted from the original design and changed the Victorian feel of the garden.

In 1995 the present owners bought the property and have proceeded to slowly rejuvenate the garden and return it to its original Victorian glory. A tree replacement program has been implemented and is slowly removing self-sown and inappropriate tree species, replacing them with species of the Victorian era.

Garden renovations have created seven specific themes within the garden. The themes include a fern garden, tropical garden, cherry walk, woodland garden, hot perennial border, grey border, and a winter border. These gardens act like 'rooms' that encourage exploration. The addition of the themed gardens helps generate interest throughout the year from texture, form and colour.

## CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS

Camberwell Historical Society would like to welcome the following new member: Maya Coltman.

## REPORT OF MEETINGS 2019

### 2 October 2019      HMAS Cerberus

On Wednesday 2 October an intrepid number of CHS members and friends met at 8am for a trip to HMAS Cerberus. Our trip was to include a tour of the museum, lunch and a RAN band performance. Thank you to Hugh Waldron for his work in organising this visit.



HMAS Cerberus is the Navy's premier training establishment. About 6000 personnel are trained there annually. It is 70km from Melbourne near Crib Point on Hann's Inlet, Western Port Bay. It comprises numerous training and recreation facilities, two chapels, a small marina and attractive grounds.



The primary role of HMAS Cerberus has always been Navy personnel training. With the establishment of four tri-service schools over the last 13 years, this role has been extended to training Army, Navy and Air Force personnel.

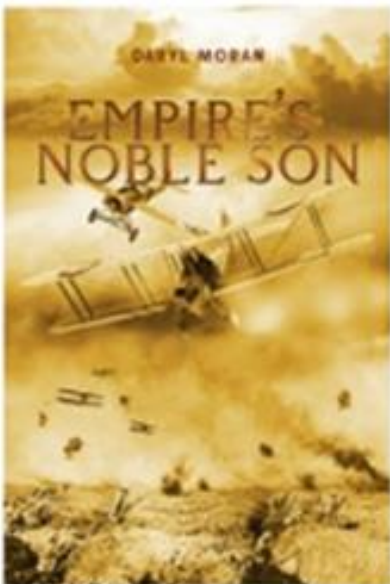
HMAS Cerberus has an historic presence, with heritage buildings, chapels, sports facilities and gardens. The site was purchased in 1911. The first sod was turned in 1913. The old wharf and hospital were erected first, followed by A, B and C Blocks. The Wardroom, Warrant Officers' Mess, Captain's and other Officers' residences were built between 1915 and 1917. The Drill Hall, Gunnery School and Torpedo School were established in 1917 at the height of building activity. The power house and other residences were built between 1918 and 1920, when the base was officially opened.



Royal Colours were first presented to HMAS Cerberus, on behalf of His Majesty King George V, in 1927. They were the first Royal Colours to be presented to an Australian Naval Unit. The Queen's Royal Colours were presented in 1954 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The present Royal Colours were presented by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1986.

The outbreak of World War II found the facilities inadequate to deal with the needs of wartime recruits who were passing through Cerberus at the rate of 400 a month. The Roman Catholic Chapel, Our Lady Star of the Sea, was opened in 1948, followed by St Mark's Chapel in 1954.

## 22 October 2019      Dr Daryl Moran      Empire's Noble Son



Dr Daryl Moran was a school teacher who taught at every level from prep to university. He is a former Head of the Junior School at Caulfield Grammar School in Wheelers Hill and at Haileybury College in Brighton. He holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Melbourne. He is also greatly involved in the work of Rotary International and is currently the District Governor Nominee for District 9810 in outer Melbourne. This book was started in 1992.

Some 600 young Australians served with the British Army's Royal Flying Corps (RFC) during the Great War, many losing their lives. The attitude of those enlisting was for God and King and Country. It was an opportunity to see the world and be back in time for Christmas. This was reinforced through sport. Football was seen as, 'having value in developing the character of the Australian Soldier.' Sport was used as a means of recruitment for the AIF.

One young fighter-pilot from Melbourne who gave his life was 2nd Lt Lyle Buntine MC. The eldest son of the Principal of Caulfield Grammar School, Lyle tried to enlist on the first day, but was persuaded to finish some studies first. He joined the army medical corps and sailed in 1915 with twelve Melbourne University medical classmates.

While in England, Lyle went to an airfield in Hendon and went up in an aeroplane. It was a lifechanging experience. Captivated by flying, Lyle transferred from the AIF to the British Army and to the Royal Flying Corps, the oldest in the world. The six months of officer training was done in five weeks – such was the need for officers. In June 1916 he was in active service in Northern France and joined the Battle of the Somme. He was shot down six times, received the Military Cross and was sent home to Australia wounded, to recover.

Lyle was one of the very few Australian Airmen who returned home. He was interviewed and the article was reproduced in many newspapers. He attended and spoke at a school assembly only three years after being a student there himself. These days he would be recognised as having PTSD. The medical board declared him unfit for three months, a second board declared him unfit to fly for a further three months. On Anzac Day, while at Windsor Castle, he met the King who, on discovering that he had not had an official award ceremony, insisted on personally re-presenting him with Lyle's own Military Cross.

Lyle's tragic accidental death, shortly before he was due to be discharged, was notable for the fact that his family preserved every letter, newspaper article, photograph and artefact associated with his life and active service. Lyle's letters traced his voyage to and travels around England, his life as an officer in the British Army, his training adventures on primitive RFC aircraft and his combat experiences on the Western Front, including surviving being shot down six times!

## **26 November 2019 Barry Gomm Ginger Meggs: Australia's iconic comic character**



Following retirement Barry joined Golden Days Radio, becoming a program presenter twelve months later. His program is heard on Thursday evenings from 8pm to 11pm. One of Barry's hobbies is maintaining what is recognised as the world's best collection of the iconic Australian comic character Ginger Meggs; and another is restoring and driving veteran and vintage cars.

Ginger Meggs is a 98-year-old boy, going on 12. Ginger Meggs was a creation of Jimmy Bancks. He grew out of the cartoon called Us Fellas and was originally

named Ginger Smith. Unfortunately, after six months, Jimmy ran out of ideas. Instead Ginger Meggs started with his character based on a boy called Charles with whom Jimmy went to school. Ginger proved to be popular with both adults and children. He has featured in 108 newspapers in 54 countries throughout the world.

Five artists have drawn the well-known character of Ginger Meggs. Jimmy Bancks, his creator, drew him from 1921 to 1951, Ron Vivian took over from 1953 to 1973. It is hard to tell his work from Bancks'. Lloyd Piper who drew from 1973 to 1982 was not paid well. James Kemsley then

took over from 1983 to 2007. The current cartoonist, Jason Chatfield, took over from 2007 and is still drawing new Ginger Meggs cartoons. These days the character is drawn on a computer.

Ginger Meggs was released in The Sunbeams Books from 1924 to 1959 but there was no release in 1951, the year that Jimmy Bancks died. After this, five Ginger Meggs books were released at irregular intervals between 1985 and 1997. These were numbered as part of the original series. Ginger Meggs has featured on stamps, in Little Golden Books, on handkerchiefs, as figurines, mugs, sets of china, as a pin, on moneyboxes, on a clock and even on Wedgewood. A song was created about him, but recordings are rare.

Examples were shown of Ginger Meggs comic pages over the years as well as audio features, pictorials and movies showing how much and why Ginger became such a firm favorite.

## **SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL for the year ending 30th June 2020**

The Secretary, Camberwell Historical Society Inc., PO Box 1274, Camberwell, 3124.

Subscription Rate:	Ordinary membership:	\$30.00	Membership:	\$_____
	Family membership:	\$40.00	Donation:	\$_____
	Corporate membership:	\$40.00	Total:	\$_____

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Details for direct or internet banking:

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Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000, Account No 142260678

**Thank you to all members who have renewed their subscriptions for 2020**



**Camberwell Historical Society is on a Local Matters jar at Grill'd Camberwell.**

Grill'd provide sponsorship to local groups through tokens being placed in a jar by patrons. This month is our turn to receive some extra support and increase awareness in the local community.

## **DATES FOR MEETINGS 2020**

Evening meetings are held at Camberwell Library Meeting Room,  
340 Camberwell Road, Camberwell

Afternoon meetings are held at 25 Inglesby Road, Camberwell

**Tuesday 25 February 2020 8pm**     **Richard Broome et al.**     **Mallee Country**

**Tuesday 24 March 2020 8pm**     **Richard Allsop, a biography of Geoffrey Blainey**

**Tuesday 28 April 2020 8pm**     **Ross McMullin**     **WWI**

**Tuesday 26 May 2020 8pm**

**Saturday 20 June 2020 2pm**

**Saturday 25 July 2020 2pm**

**Saturday 22 August 2020 2pm**     **AGM**

## **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 SUBSCRIPTIONS RENEWALS 2018**

Camberwell Historical Society's financial year operates from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June. Subscriptions for the 2019 – 2020 financial year were due and payable on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Single \$30 Family \$40. Camberwell Historical Society, BSB 633-000 Account No 142260678 Cheques to Camberwell Historical Society, PO Box 1274, CAMBERWELL 3124

## **CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC**

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Committee members — Bryony Cosgrove, Alister Bennie and Jennifer McArthur

*Camberwell History*: Editor — Adèle Fernando-Swart

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*Camberwell History* is printed in the office of The Honourable Josh Frydenberg, MHR, Federal Member for Kooyong, Treasurer of Australia, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party