

CAMBERWELL HISTORY

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CAMBERWELL
AND DISTRICT

Camberwell Historical Society



No. 63

December 2025

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Principal Patron: Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Blainey, AC
Patron: His Worship the Mayor of Boroondara, Cr Wes Gault

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Fernando

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

I thank all those who helped make this year a success for CHS. Thank you especially to our committee. Thank you to the CHS membership for your continuing support. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas. Best wishes for a successful 2026.

HERITAGE IN BOROONDARA:

At the recent Urban Planning Council meeting, it was decided to cost a heritage study of bluestone in Boroondara. The Draft Plan for Heritage in Boroondara was passed. This is important for our progress with heritage and for the historical societies in Boroondara.

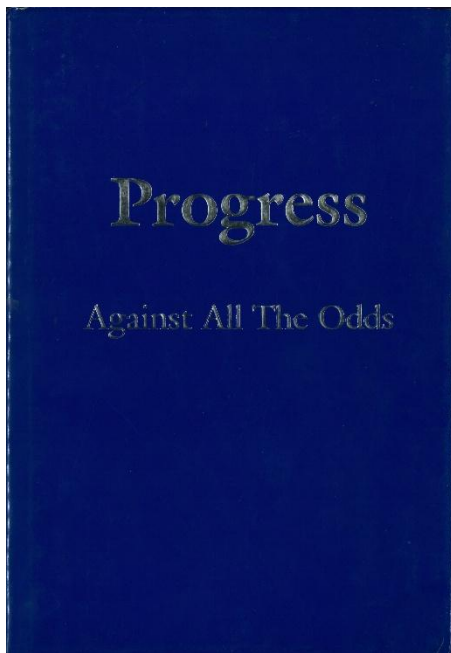
We remain highly concerned about most of the majority of Boroondara's built heritage which is placed in the new densification zones, Housing Choice and Transport Zones. 70% of our heritage housing in Boroondara is in these zones. There are 8 Activity Centres / zones: Camberwell, Hawthorn, Kew, Glenferrie, Auburn, Riverdale, Ashburton, and Willison. There will be tick box planning applications which could allow 4 to 6 story building in these residential zones. It is becoming obvious that heritage places could be partially demolished and blocks of flats build behind or next to the heritage buildings. If current legislation in State Parliament goes through, third party rights of objection will be removed.

DONATION TO CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

Progress: Against All Odds by Dallas Swinstead and John Monks 1998 signed by Ken Heyes and Progress Press Ceramic Pen Holder donated by Elinor Scambler

Old Hartwell: the life and times of the village that lost its name by Volkhard Wehner was donated by Don Hirst

A Year in the Life of Boroondara 2024 by Camberwell Camera Club two copies donated by the Camberwell Camera Club



Objects connected with the history of Progress Press, Glen Iris/ Camberwell (from business memorabilia of Gordon Kenneth Scambler, 1925–2012)

(1) Book, *Progress: Against All the Odds*. Dallas Swinstead & John Monks, 1998. Published by PMP Communications, Hawthorn, Vic.

Signed on frontispiece by Ken Heyes:

*Dear Gordon,
I hope this book will bring back many memories of a company you helped so much in its early years.
Ken Heyes*

(2) Ceramic pen holder

1960s-1970s style, hexagonal, olive green, max width ~75mm, height ~85mm. With 3-D “Progress Press” and Progress Press logo on one face. Potter/producer not known – presumably made to promote the company and given to clients and associates.

Kenneth Ward (Ken) Heyes (1926–2012) joined journalist Charles Vincent (Charlie) Holloway (1915–2000) at Progress Press in 1958 and was instrumental in its development from a small local newspaper to one of Australia’s largest commercial printing companies. Ken Heyes was also a past president and a life member of the Rotary Club of Camberwell, which he served for over 50 years.

Gordon Kenneth Scambler (1926–2011) was appointed in 1954 as senior audit clerk in the firm L. G. Norman & Cartledge, which began his early involvement with Progress Press (see pp. 33–34 of Swinstead & Monks 1998). As a Chartered Accountant and partner in later versions of the firm, Gordon continued a long-term business and personal association with the Progress Press principals.

Scambler family connections with Camberwell

In 1939, when Gordon was 14, he moved with his widowed mother, Annie, and older sister, (Dorothy) Jean, from Richmond to 26 Moorhouse Street, Camberwell, a large house divided into self-contained flats. Jean (aged 38) had never married and worked as an examiner at the Pelaco

factory in Richmond. The Scamblers attended Camberwell Church of Christ and at age 19 (1944) Gordon was received into the congregation by minister E. Lyall Williams (who had played football for Camberwell in the 1930s). Living in the neighbouring street Brinsley Road, and attending the same church, were Harry and Hannah Cocks and their large family. Hannah died in 1941, and Harry and family moved to 26 Moorhouse Street. In 1943, Jean and Harry were married in Camberwell by Jean's uncle Thomas Henry ('T.H.') Scambler, Principal of the Churches of Christ theological college (College of the Bible, Glen Iris). During the 1940s two cousins of T.H. (sisters Janet Scambler and Sarah Maria Barge Scambler) also briefly lived at No. 26. Annie died in December 1947 and in 1948, Gordon moved to Brunswick and the Cocks family moved to Malvern.

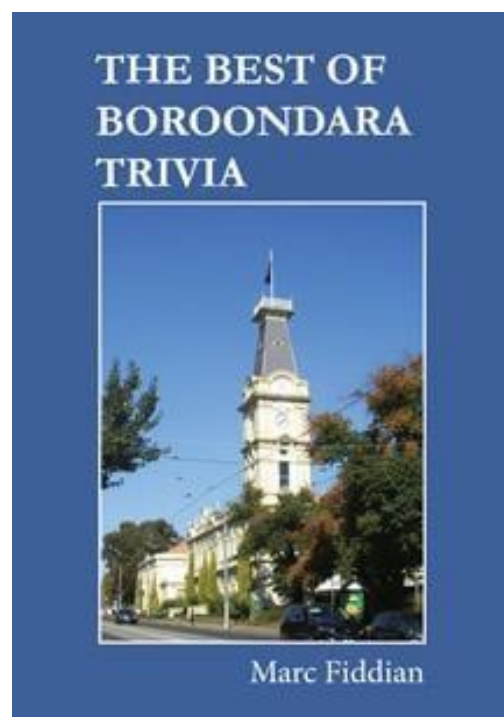
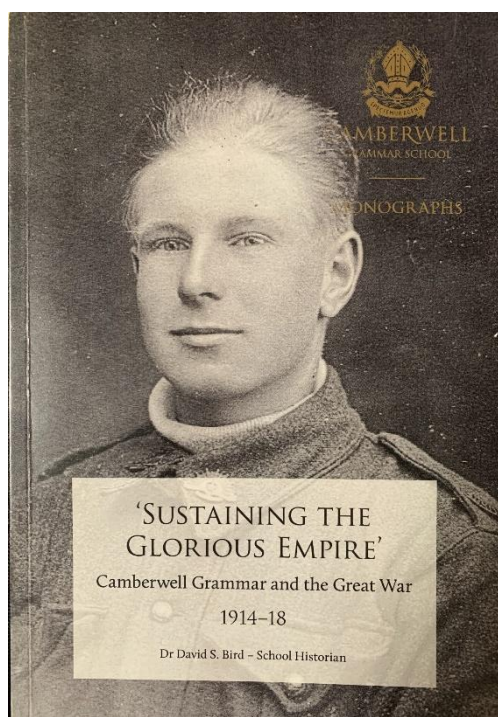
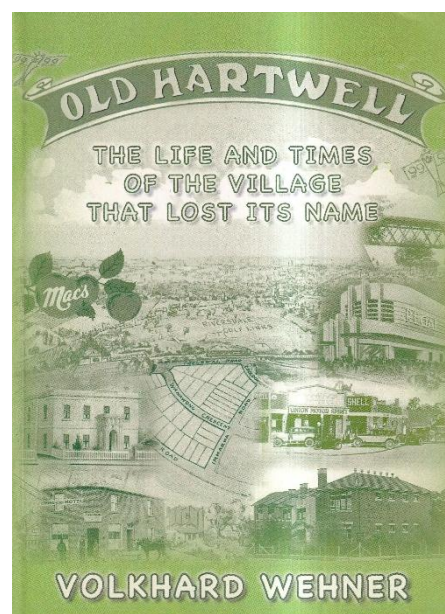
ADDITIONS TO THE CHS COLLECTION

A Year in the Life of BOROONDARA



CAMBERWELL CAMERA CLUB

2024



REPORT OF MEETINGS 2025

23 September 2025 Robert Baker

Australian Fashion and Design



Robert Baker is the Archivist of the Kew Historical Society and Collection Convenor of one of the largest and most significant collection of costumes held by an historical society in Victoria. The collection includes costumes and textiles, archives, audio visual recordings, library works, maps, mounted works, more than 2,500 objects and over 3,000 photographs.

Kew had no industries as the council voted against allowing industry into the suburb, although there was one brickworks. There were few fashion designers in Kew although there was a dressmaker in Surrey Hills.

The collection originated from the Coombs family (1869 – 1900) from Studley Park. In 1961 they donated 8 dresses. Dione McIntyre (1920-1990) donated 40 costumes. The McIntyres were members of the Kew Historical Society management committee and at the forefront of saving Kew Court House. The Weir family (1891-1937) moved to Kew in 1916 and in 2017 gave the collection 11 christening gowns dating from 1899 – 1910. In 2023 KHS gained possession of the Henty family collection of 18 costumes. The Henty family (1842-1910) owned 4 great mansions in the area. They were descendants of Francis Henty of the Western District, the second European in Victoria.

Various eras of fashion were discussed using dresses from the KHS collection to illustrate the styles.

1840-1870 crinoline cage

1870-1901 lobster tail bustle

1900 – 1914 ball gown and tea gown



1918-1939 World War I changed the world. Women took the place of men in the workforce. Hemlines were raised. Pictures of a pink flapper dress, a wedding dress with dropped waist and a 1929 bias cut wedding dress

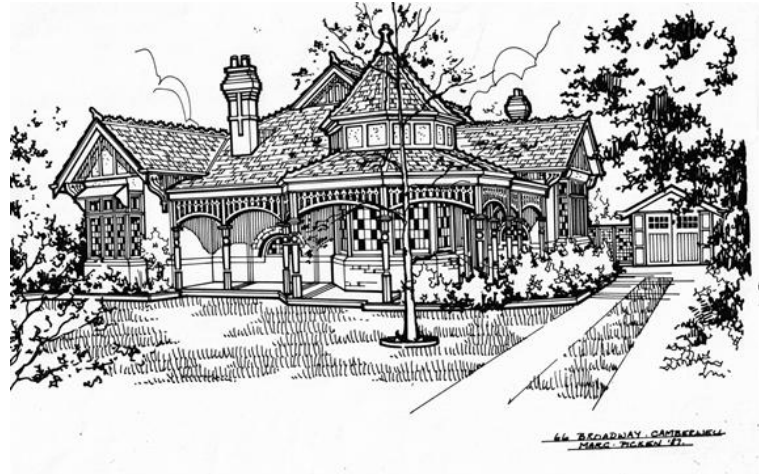
1950-1970 everything changed after the war. Pictures of a 1950s silhouette, a Christian Dior swing dress, an A line dress and coat, a Veronica Syme wedding dress 1949, a ball gown 1954 and Prue Acton and the youth market

1970-2000 Paris end of Collins Street and Melbourne designers were featured.

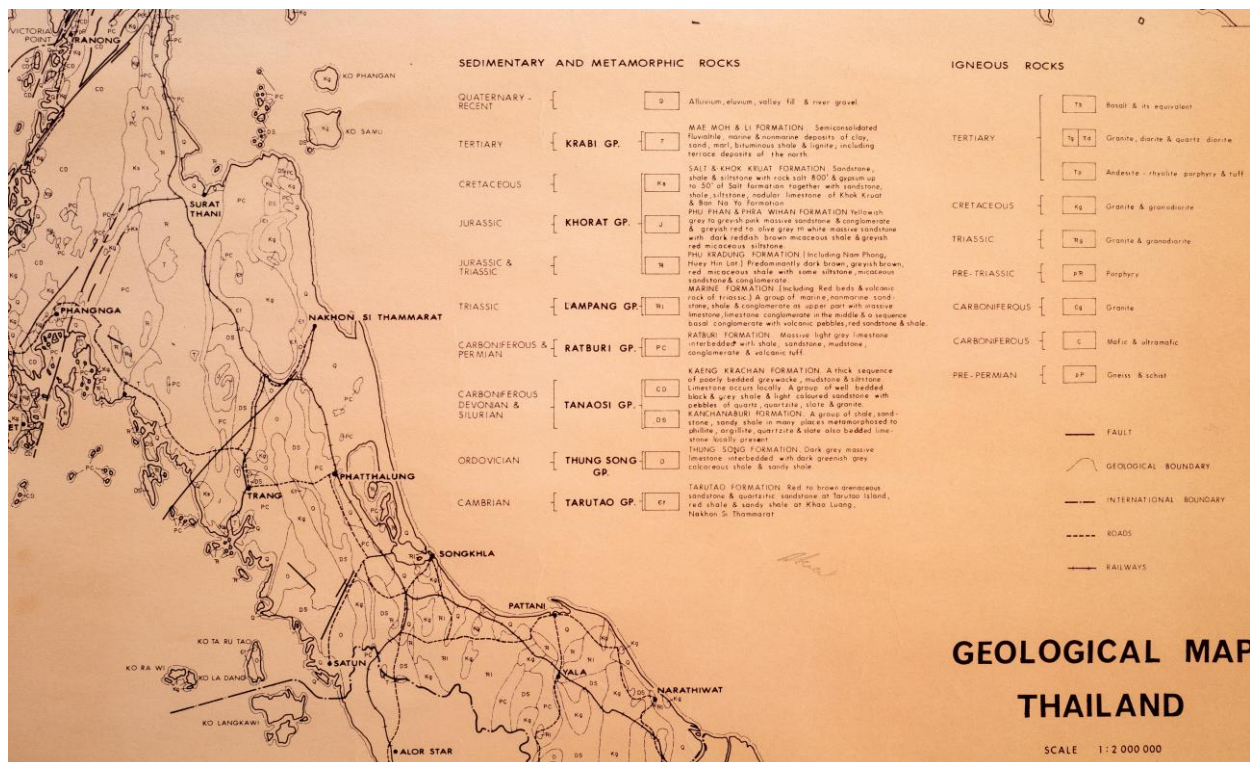
28 October 2025

Margaret Picken

Local Commercial artist



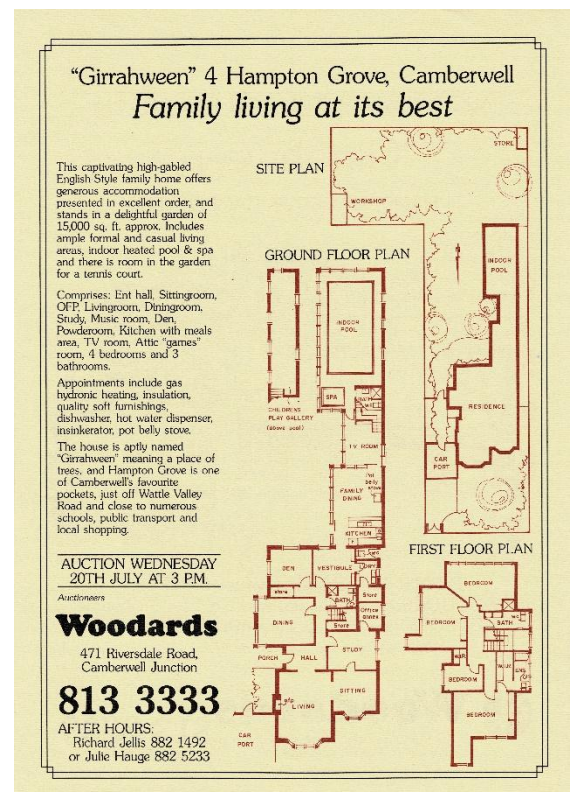
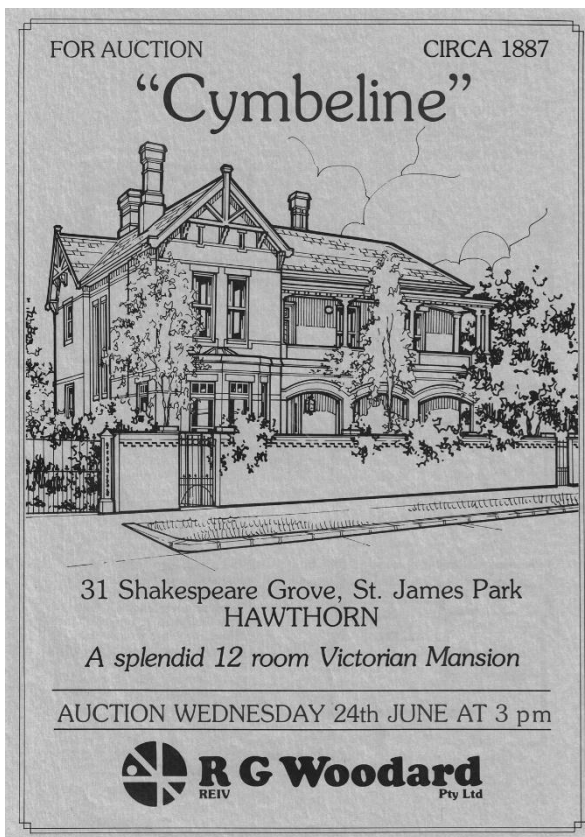
Margaret Picken started as a cartographer and worked until she had a family. Her second career started after she was looking for employment while a young mother. She began illustrating real estate working for another artist who also had a young family. After a short time, Margaret went into business for herself as she was able to work from home and work her own hours. She created a range of drawings for local real estate agents in Melbourne between 1983 and 2005. Changes in advertising are reflected in her drawings – floor plans, side views, ariel views. Eventually photography took over as the preferred advertising method. In 2020, Margaret donated her work to the local historical societies including Camberwell, Hawthorn, Kew, Surrey Hills, Canterbury and Balwyn. Margaret talked about her career before she became a local real estate artist and her career post real estate sketching: cartography, calligraphy, art practice, drawing and painting. All images shown this article belong to Margaret Picken.



An example of cartography



Left: Property sketch & catalogue for house sale
Marg Picken - c1990



Above: Floorplans and site plans
were added. An appointment had to
be made to enter the house and
property.



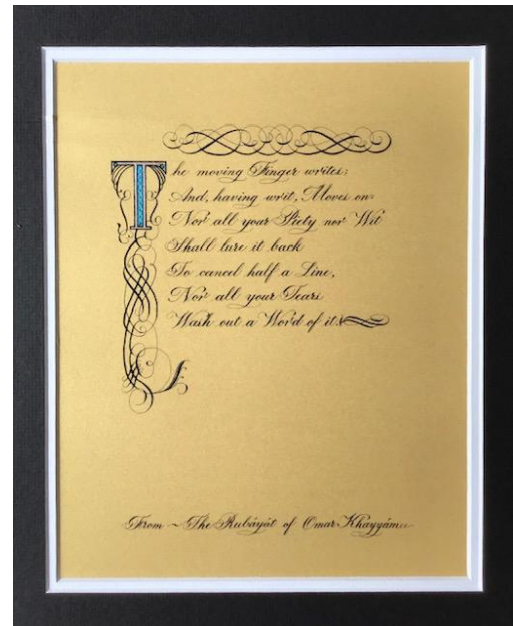
Left: 1996 Aerial sketch for
Woodards Real Estate



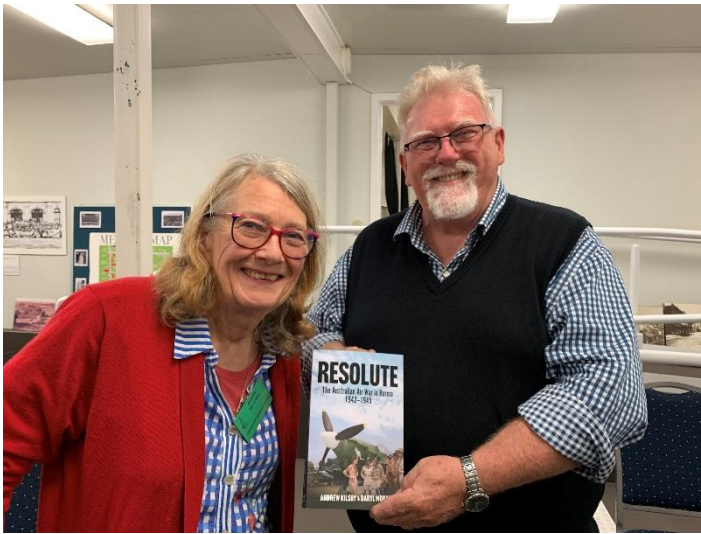
Left: 1999 "Argyle" Real Estate Agency advertisement sketches Margaret Picken

Below: Calligraphy Marg Picken 2005

Entry for Royal Melbourne Show - 1st place 'Craft, Calligraphy & Lettering Arts - Novice'



Above: Final distribution to the Historical Societies June 2020



Daryl Moran is a former educator, Head of School and Rotary International District Governor. He holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne and is the author of *Empire's Noble Son* and editor of *In the fight*.

Resolute, researched and written by Andrew Kilsby and Daryl Moran — both sons of World War Two RAAF veterans, reveals the triumphs and tragedies of Australia's forgotten air war in the Burma theatre. It features the first comprehensive Nominal Roll of RAAF personnel who served in the Burma

Campaign, along with a detailed record of deaths, decorations, and awards.

Australians know very little about the Burma War despite thousands of people serving there. Their service and sacrifice are forgotten, indeed it was as if no one knew that they were there. There was no acknowledgement when they returned home, no banner for ANZAC Day. Burma had the third highest number of casualties of Australians in any war in which we have participated. In 1942 the British were kicked out of Burma and retreated to India. Australians were in Burma shortly after Pearl Harbor December 1941. The official history of Burma before the research done by Andrew and Daryl was only 32 pages. They spent three years researching the Burma war, found many contacts.

Conditions were harsh, living in the heat and the humidity in grass huts and tents. Tropical diseases, no home leave, no Australian Uniform, no agreed tour of duty or advancement in rank and pay. The forces were diverse, coming from all over the Commonwealth and the Allies. Monsoon rains meant that air transport was very dangerous or had to be suspended between May and October. Burma was of strategic importance and was the longest land campaign of World War Two, running from December 1941 to September 1945. It had the biggest supply lift of the war. Over 650,000 tonnes were sent to China, flying over the Himalayas. Flying over the mountains was very dangerous with many aircraft crashes, wreckage of which would create the flight path to China. Over 600 planes and crew were lost. Burma was the biggest defeat of the Japanese Army in their history.

More than 1,700 Australian airmen were engaged in the air war across the Southeast Asian theatre. Integrated into Royal Air Force (RAF) squadrons centred on the Burma campaign, they were joined by other Australians serving directly within the RAF. These airmen flew a wide range of aircraft across one of the most challenging and diverse combat environments of the war.

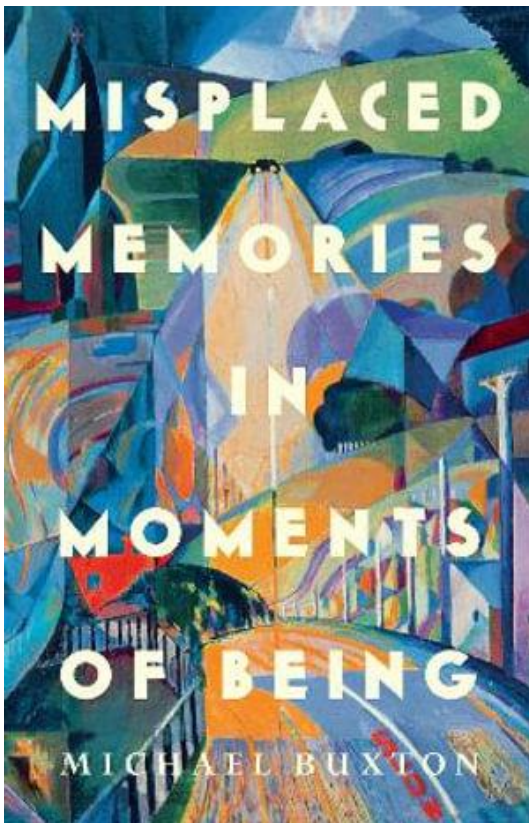
They undertook perilous sorties over 'the Hump' (the Himalayas) into China, dropped agents into Burma, Thailand, Malaya, and Indochina, and conducted bombing raids and ground attacks on targets throughout Southeast Asia. They delivered vital supplies to forward troops and flew anti-submarine patrols and convoy protection missions across the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. More than 245 Australian airmen lost their lives during these operations.

Air War had four key advantages: mobility, close air support of ground troops, reconnaissance and integration between land and air forces. The Japanese only carried nine days supply. If the

allies could resupply via air drops, they could outlast the Japanese. Wounded could be evacuated for medical treatment. Ground transport was nearly impossible through the jungle and the mud.



FIRST MEETING FOR 2026



Tuesday 24 February 2026 7.30pm

Emeritus Professor Michael Buxton

Misplaced Memories in Moments of Being

Professor Buxton will talk about his new book of short stories which traces the rise and unravelling of the suburban dream. Starting with post-war Melbourne, it follows the lives of ordinary people.

DATES FOR MEETINGS 2026

25 Inglesby Road, Camberwell

Tuesday 24 February	7.30pm	Emeritus Professor Michael Buxton - <i>Misplaced Memories in Moments of Being</i> This book of short stories traces the rise and unravelling of the suburban dream. Starting with post-war Melbourne, it follows the lives of ordinary people.
Tuesday 24 March	6.30pm	Anna Welch (Rare Books, State Library of Victoria) Women Writers Fund Initiative – Combined Hawthorn Historical Society and Camberwell Historical Society event to celebrate Women's History Month
Tuesday 28 April	7.30pm	Gary Adler - The Chocolate Box & the story of the people behind it
Tuesday 26 May	7.30pm	Dr Zachary Gorman – The Menzies Legacy: Ideals, change, procession, 1960s and beyond.
Saturday 2 June	2pm	Pam Morris - Camberwell Camera Club

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 SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS 2025 - 2026

Camberwell Historical Society's financial year operates from 1 July to 30 June. Subscriptions for the 2025 – 2026 financial year were due and payable from 1 July 2025. 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

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

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President — George Fernando; Secretary & Public Office - Adèle Fernando-Swart;
Treasurer – Siobhan Barker
Committee members — Alister Bennie, Jennifer McArthur, George Demetrios and Isabel Kelly