

# 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 Sophie Torney

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### George Fernando

I am pleased to announce that Cr Sophie Torney, 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 Lisa Hollingsworth for her support during her time as Mayor of Boroondara.

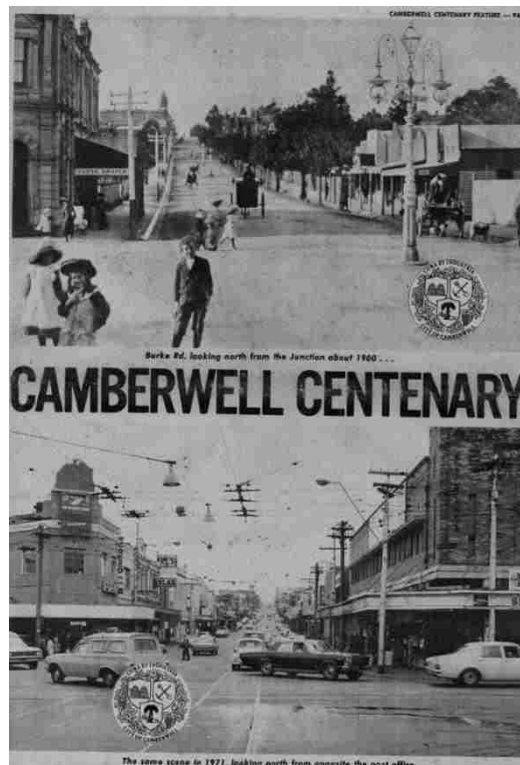
I thank all those who helped make this year a success for CHS. Thank you especially to our committee. Thank you to the CHS membership for your continuing support. I hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas break. Best wishes for a successful 2025.

CHS has purchased two glass display cabinets to exhibit items from our collection. My thanks to George Demetrios who helped put them together. We recently applied for a PROV grant to conserve recent donations to our collection.

## CAMBERWELL CENTENARY

Donated by Surrey Hills Historical Society.

Scans of some of the pages from the *Camberwell Centenary* 1971 are included on the following five pages.



# ANTI-LIQUOR FIGHTS — FROM PAGE 3

The prohibitionists won only two of the 214 licensing divisions in Victoria; Borondara and the adjacent division of Nunawading, and that's why there are no hotels in Camberwell or Box Hill municipalities.

In Borondara, 63 per cent of the votes were for prohibition and in Nunawading division, 85 per cent. In both divisions, more than 70 per cent of the people voted for reduction or prohibition.

The City of Camberwell in 1920 had seven hotels, two wine saloons, and one spirits licence. By the end of the year all were closed, the seven publicans collecting 5,400 pounds compensation.

Camberwell Hotel, which had replaced Camberwell Inn at the corner of Burke Rd. and Riversdale Rd. was demolished, and there is now a milk bar on the site with no possibility of a licensed restaurant upstairs.

Camberwell developed as an almost-entirely residential area, predominantly Protestant, and solidly opposed to hotels.

Even now, with a network of licensed grocers making it easy for residents to obtain their supplies, the mention of liquor puts Camberwell Council on its guard, even to the extent of a few months ago refusing to back a licence for a restaurant in Dillon's Building.

ings, in Camberwell Junction, at the spot where Camberwell Inn stood.

This Inn gave its name to the district. This touchiness on the subject of liquor is the more surprising because Camberwell has a bunch of grapes in its official crest, reflecting the area's commerce of 100 years ago.

There was a time when Borondara, as Camberwell was then known, was likely to become a centre of the wine industry. The suburb name,

Balwyn, is made up, supposedly, of a combination of the Gaelic word "bal" and the Saxon "wyn", giving a meaning of "home of the vine".

It was the name Melbourne's chief vigneron, Andrew Murray, a handsome Scots son of a clergyman, gave to his house. Fintona Girls' School, in Balwyn Rd., Balwyn, stands where the original Balwyn house stood, where Murray crushed his grapes when Melbourne had more grape vines than Adelaide.

## ACADEMIC HONORS

Murray left Glasgow with academic honors at the age of 26, and went to Adelaide where he edited and owned newspapers and planted vines in his spare time.

Coming to Melbourne, he edited the Argus, and two of his own finance journals, the Economist and Murray's Prices.

But country life interested him, too, and he

bought a farm on Elgar's old survey, and built the house, of large clay bricks, dried in the sun, that he called Balwyn.

He planted three rows of blue gums and grevilleas to shield his vines from the north winds, and built a paling fence and hedges to keep out other people's cattle.

His vines were entered for the Argus gold cup for the best managed vineyard in 1880, and the judges commended the variety of his grapes.

The gold cup, however, went to Castella's mature vineyard at Yering, and De Dolton's vineyard at Gardiner's Creek received an honorable mention.

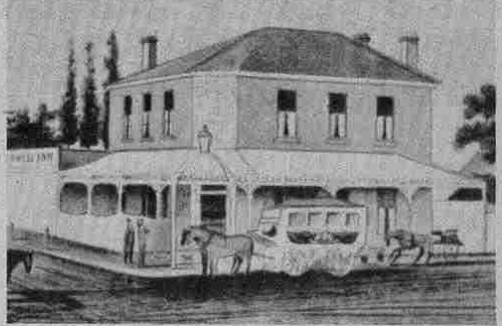
As Murray's vines matured, and his early vintages were praised, he planted more acres.

## Camberwell histories

Much of the material in this centenary supplement comes from Prof. Geoffrey Blainey's most readable story, "A History of Camberwell" published in 1944 and J. Alexander Allan's duplicated "History of Camberwell (Victoria) 1841-1959," which is obtainable at the Camberwell City Library.

Progress Press is indebted to Camberwell Council, and its officers, Mr. Len Cheffers, Chief Administrator, Mr. Colin Bock, Assistant Town Clerk, and the Chief Librarian, Mr. Tom Woodrow, for their fullest assistance in presenting this thumb-nail history of Camberwell.

# Named Camberwell



Camberwell Inn, built by George Eastaway on the corner of Burke Rd., and Riversdale Rd., gave its name to the village that grew up around it.

## STRONGHOLD OF LOYALTY

Loyalty to the British Empire was always strong in respectable, home-loving Camberwell, and Empire Night used to be marked by having Canterbury Gardens lit with thousands of Chinese lanterns.

Ten years later, grapes were fast disappearing, presumably due to phyloxera, and had almost vanished by 1890.

The Council was always strong in loyalty to the Throne, but Glen Iris rebel, Edward Dillon, dissented from the council's address of condolence on the death of Queen Victoria.

Camberwell kept up its observance of loyalty by holding Commonwealth Youth Sunday Marches to the Camberwell Sports Ground, with Scouts and Guides and other youth organisations turning out, long after the British Empire disappeared.

Dwinding attendances made a change of pattern necessary, and youth rallies are being held in the City Hall on a Sunday near the old Empire Day, Queen Victoria's birthday, on May 24.

Loyalty to the Empire, loyalty to the Church, became associated in Camberwell, and the

Council observed Sunday as closely as any nonconformist Church. Five men were convicted, under an Act of Charles II for hawking milk on the Sabbath in Camberwell in 1833.

Public entertainments were not allowed if they clashed with church or Sunday school hours, and Sunday sport was barred until 1959 when ratepayers voted two to one in favor of non-commercialised games being played on Sundays.

It took years of campaigning by several councillors after that for football matches to be played on some Sundays by the Victorian Football Association on Camberwell Sports Ground even though the Camberwell Football Club became almost bankrupt through poor attendances at Saturday games.

In neighboring Hawthorn, Sunday sport is still barred.

## Burwood was Ballyshanassy

The Irish patriot, Charles Gavan Duffy, was Minister for Lands in 1857.

The story goes that he wished to name two towns after himself and his colleague, John O'Shanassy, the Premier.

A village in Duffy's Western District electorate became Ballyduffy, and Burwood became Ballyshanassy.

He was then in his four-year term as president of the Borondara Road Board, and the district

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# Struggles before becoming shire

Farmers who came into the eastern areas of Melbourne in the 1850s had to contend with shocking roads — "beyond Camberwell Inn absolutely impassible even for empty drays" — and the diggers riding out to the goldfields at Warrandyte didn't improve them.

A Central Road Board, set up in 1853, was to construct and repair Victoria's main roads and bridges.

In Boroondara, it built road bridges and foot bridges, laid saplings in the bogs and stones in the mud, dug out stumps and filled potholes, diverted stormwaters and erected mile posts.

The Act setting up the Central Road Board also allowed owners and occupiers of land in a district to elect their own road boards to manage minor and cross roads, and to press their claims for main roads before the central authority.

The district board could raise money by erecting turnpikes and levying rates on property.

In July, 1854, Sir Charles Hotham, Lieutenant-Governor, proclaimed the Boroondara Road District — the 23 square miles now occupied by the cities of Camberwell, Hawthorn and Kew.

Dr. J. F. Palmer, who lived in state in what is now Invergowrie, inspired the idea of electing a road board to administer the road district, but when an amendment of the 1853 Act gave district boards power to levy unlimited rates, he withdrew hurriedly.

Without a roads board, Boroondara's roads became worse, and the settlers complained that they received nothing from the 400,000 pounds voted for roads and

bridges in 1855-6 and not even their share of the 6,000 pounds raised at the toll-gate near Hawthorn bridge in Bridge Rd.

In September, 1856, settlers met at the Governor Hotham Hotel.

Dr. Palmer argued that nine-tenths of the traffic on the roads consisted of wood drays from the back country, and the settlers would be financing firewood for Melbourne.

He suggested an ad-

journalment for six months, but the farmers wanted action, and Palmer was cried down.

The Board was established, and occupiers of Crown pasture lands had to pay a quarter-farthing an acre, occupiers of private pastures one farthing an acre, and of cultivated lands 3d. an acre. On houses and gardens, the rate was 3d. in the pound on the actual annual

rental or valued annual rental.

With less than a thousand pounds for the work in hand, nine men — four from Hawthorn, three from Camberwell and two from Kew — were elected to the first road board.

From the Camberwell area were John Affleck, who farmed at Hartwell, David Stobie who had a farm near Warrigal Rd. and Thomas Brooks who lived near Camberwell Junction.

Boroondara received a couple of thousand dollars a year from the Central Roads Board, but had a good source of revenue from the turnpike on the River Yarra.

Every dray had to pay a shilling, and so many used it that the foundations of the bridge became shaky, and the structure had to be chained to trees on the bank as a safeguard against floods.

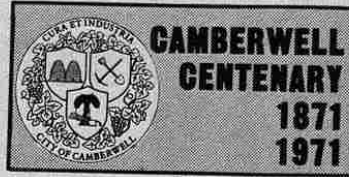
By November, 1856, it carried as much traffic as Prince's Bridge, the only bridge downstream from the one at Richmond.

In 1859, when the road board took over the toll-gate from the Government, it received two thirds of its total revenue from it.

In August, 1857, a hundred people protested against their first assessment from the board, which was accompanied by a pre-emptory letter giving them 14 days to pay.



William Blanksby, devout Methodist lay preacher and blacksmith, who was chairman of the Boroondara Roads Board 1860-61 and president of the Shire Council, 1872-6 and 1883-4.



1871

1971

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• Cont. Page 6



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# Struggle before becoming Shire - from Page 5

# CAMBERWELL IN 1882

Only one of them objected to Dr. Palmer's denunciation of the Board. Three days later, the road board apologised, sent out new notices, and sued those who would not pay. Dr. Palmer paid the second highest amount, 11 pounds 5 shillings, and stirred up the district in readiness for the second annual election at the Sir Robert Nickle Hotel on October 3, 1857.

There the crowd refused to nominate



**CAMBERWELL CENTENARY**  
1871  
1971

auditors or even members of the road board, and the meeting dissolved in merriment and confusion.

But the electors didn't realise that the old board would stay in office until they elected a new one. The board had only a few pounds, with a bank loan falling due, and its only employees, the secretary and surveyor, resigned.

In June, 1858 it received 4,000 pounds from the Government and called a public meeting to discuss spending it.

It had successfully sued a ratepayer named Johnson for rates, and Johnson tried to get his revenge by moving that the board be entrusted with no more public money.

The board was told to carry on by 61 votes to 23. The winter without a road board had persuaded electors that a road board was necessary, and there were 19 candidates at the next election.

The remote area of Camberwell had strong representation on the new board through Michael Logan, a Canterbury Rd. farmer; William Blanksby, blacksmith from Toorak Rd.; Ballyshanassy; and Irwin the publican.

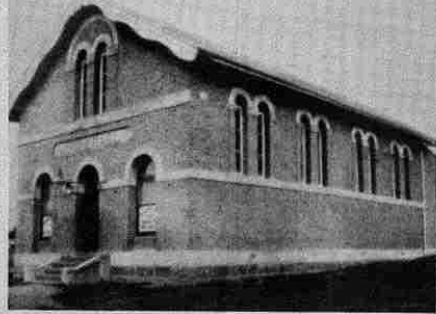
James Hunter of Wattle Valley Rd. joined the Camberwell bloc in 1859, giving Camberwell more power than its population or development merited.

Hawthorn grumbled that it paid most of the rates and turnpike fees, but the money went on the outlandish roads of Camberwell.

By 1860, Hawthorn was the only large suburb which was not a municip-



Camberwell from the railway station in 1882, 11 years after it became a shire.



Councils first permanent home, the old Shire Hall on the site of the present Civic Centre. The old town hall, now the headquarters of the Council library was built in 1891.



Palmer's Punt, in a drawing of about 1840, near present Bridge Rd., Richmond, opened the way for the development of Boroondara, which included Camberwell, Hawthorn and Kew.

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The road board set up its office in Eastaway's Camberwell Inn, and the devout Primitive Methodist and Blacksmith, William Blanksby called for order at fortnightly meetings.

Significantly, in dry Camberwell, its first local civic leader was a teetotaler.

All but two of the first board came from the southern part of Camberwell, and settlers near Riversdale Rd. and Toorak Rd. paid almost half the total rates.

The board had two officers — Edwin Brown on five pounds a month as part time surveyor, and the part time secretary, James Toon, on seven pounds a month.

James Toon, a native of London, preached in the Wesleyan Church and campaigned for the Total Abstinence Society.

He drowned himself in the Yarra in 1882.

O'Shanassy's ministry reshaped local government in 1863. The Municipal Corporations Act laid down the law for Victoria's 56 boroughs, and the Local Government Act created shires and recast the con-

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stitutions of the road districts.

But Boroondara could not become either a shire or a borough. Its thirteen square miles made it too large to become a

borough, which had to be less than nine square miles; and the minimum area for a shire was 100 square miles.

But the Shires Amendment Act of 1870 ruled

that a road district with property of a net annual value of 12,000 pounds could become a shire, and Boroondara, just qualified, becoming a shire on November 17, 1871.

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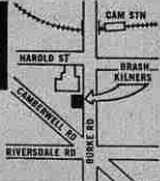
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# A good residential

Camberwell started developing as a respectable residential suburb as far back as the 1850s when the gentlemen of Melbourne chose its picturesque hills and winding river in preference to St. Kilda's sea breezes.

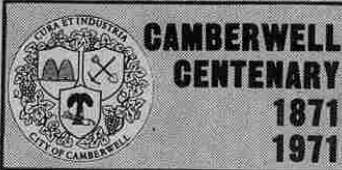
Both residential areas were about the same distance from the bustling town whose population had gone up from 23,000 to 126,000 in ten years.

William Howitt in "Two Years in Victoria", told of the start of commuting: "On all sides, hundreds and thousands of clerks and men of business are marching in in the morning, or out in the evening bound for the numberless rural dwellings which stud the vicinity for miles around. All seem to cling to their English habits of getting out of the city as soon as the counting-house stool is abandoned and breathing the air, and enjoying the quiet of the country."

The Hawthorn punt was replaced by a wooden bridge in 1853, and the village of Hawthorn spread along two roads. The northern road went through Kew and Doncaster to the gold diggings at Warrandyte, and the other went east towards Camberwell and the bushlands of Burwood. In the first two miles of this Burwood Road were the Queen's Arms, Fitchie's, Hawthorne, Governor Hotham, Sir Robert Nickle and British Crown Hotels.

Burwood's name came from the home of Dr. James Palmer, physician, conical-maker, squatter, wine merchant, and early Mayor of Melbourne. This mansion is now Invergowrie Homecraft Hostel, 31 Coppin Grove. Early homes - "Thornton", where gold broker Edward Khull lived, and "Auburn Lodge", the home of Irish patriot Charles Gavan Duffy, gave their names to the suburbs between Hawthorn and Camberwell.

As inner-suburban land prices rose, land buyers came to Camberwell, and in 1853 an auction of land on both sides of Burke



Rd. from Canterbury Rd. to Gardiner's Creek brought up to 40 pounds an acre, forty times more than Elgar had paid only 12 years before for land north of Canterbury Rd. This price of 40 pounds an acre was not for small blocks, either; the 14 lots auctioned on the Camberwell side of Burke Rd. ranged from 15 to more than 100 acres.

It was in the spring of the same year that George Eastaway bought land from John Dane on the north-east corner of Camberwell Junction and built a hotel of corrugated iron.

The three roads which make up the Junction

were busy enough then to make it worth while to have a hotel on the corner, and the way the roads converged reminded George Eastaway of Camberwell Greens in his native London.

So the hotel became Camberwell Inn, and the light in the doorway became a beacon to Camberwell's vegetable farmers on their way to market in Melbourne and the axemen who went through from Burwood.

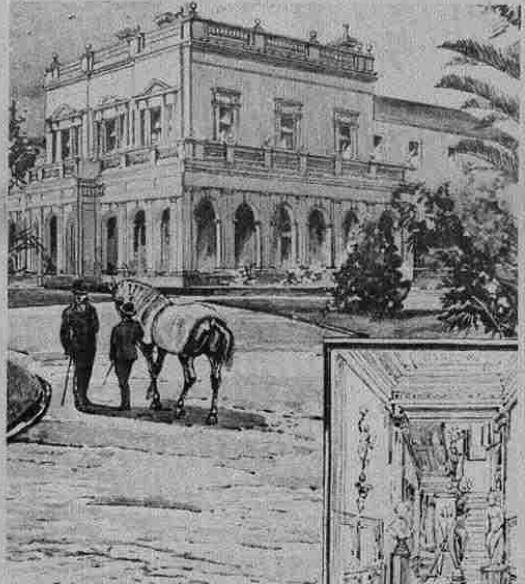
The inn attracted a store and a blacksmith, and the settlement became known as Camberwell. The Premier, John

O'Shanassy bought 46 acres in Burke Rd., not far from Charles Gavan Duffy's lodge in Auburn Rd. for 1200 pounds in 1853, but he did not build his great white mansion, "Tara", now Broughton Hall home for elderly people in Berwick St., for another ten years.

By 1883, Boroondara had little to offer in the way of shops. At Camberwell Junction, Eastaway had the inn and garden, William Murray his butchery and Great Eastern Hotel, Nevell a store and Beaumont a general store and bakehouse. There were at least five other shops, each with a house at the rear, but there was only one shop away from the road to Burwood.

Camberwell was only the village at the Junction, and when Boroondara became a shire in 1871, it had only 140 people and 28 dwellings.

In the sixties, city men moved into Boroondara on comfortable estates of ten or 20 acres.



Sir John O'Shanassy

"Tara", now the Broughton Hall home for elderly people in Berwick St., in its heyday. It was built by the Premier of Victoria, Sir John O'Shanassy.

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# suburb from 1850s

They built roomy houses with trim English lawns reached from wide verandahs. They had their kitchen gardens and strawberry patches with servants and a gardener who would drive them daily in the buggy to the city or the Hawthorn railway.

In summer, there were croquet parties on their lawns for the select ladies and gentlemen of Canterbury Rd., then called Delany's Road in honor of the local publican.

Canterbury Rd's "golden mile" of today was a fashionable country road as early as 1888.

With homes along it were Snowden and Arthur Manton, solicitors; Alexander Goodlett, the auctioneer; Ernest Carter, dentist member of the road board; and Alfred Priestley, banker. David Syme, owner of the Age, rented a small house in Canterbury Rd. in 1961, but later moved to Kew.

Elsewhere in Boroondara were merchants and brokers, and such people as Andrew Murray and W. J. Wallis, publishers; Copeland of the Star Life Assurance Company; and Leverett, saddler of Bourke St.

John O'Shanassy built "Tara", not far from Canterbury Rd., overlooking the city lights, and he added iron gates that now are at the Church of Assumption in Hawthorn, to his rough fence of post and rail. He entertained ac-

ording to his station — a knight of Queen Victoria and Pope Pious IX, governor of the colonial bank, and three times premier of the colony.

O'Shanassy died in 1883, when the Melbourne land boom was about to hit Camberwell, and the gentlemen of the landed gentry era were to see building blocks snapped up at ridiculously high prices by middle-class people who wanted to live in a "good" suburb.

In the building boom of the 1880's, Camberwell gained many mansions.

Of 1600 inhabited dwellings — according to the 1901 census — 600 had five or six rooms; another 600 had seven to nine rooms, and 144 had ten rooms or more.

Such streets as Prospect Hill Rd., Broadway, Balwyn and Canterbury Rds. were favored by men of property.

In this area lived W. L. Baillieu, the auctioneer that was becoming the nation's most famous industrialist; A. S. Baillieu, who for years

sat on Camberwell Council; Benjamin Fuller, the theatre owner; E. C. Percival, the rubber manufacturer; J. D. Law, the general manager of the Bank of Victoria; David York Syme, of the Melbourne Steamship Co.; Sir Aaron Danks, and many other leaders in finance and industry.

But how did the small houses on tiny blocks of land near the Camberwell Town Hall get there? They were built as homes for the working men of the quarries and brick-yards in Hawthorn.



"Warrawee", 116 Riversdale Rd., Camberwell, typical of the "good" homes that were built when Camberwell's popularity as a residential suburb was at its peak.

## A LITTLE GOLD IN CAMBERWELL

Almost all the gold that's ever been in Camberwell has been in middle-class bank accounts, but there were two real gold strikes.

Near the present Hill Rd. in North Balwyn a long quartz reef two ft. wide jutted above the grass, and in 1858, two Cornish mining engineers, R. Manuel and J. Teague sank a shaft.

They saw antimony and specks of yellow copper but gold was scarce.

In those booming days of gold strikes, they failed to float their Woodfield Boroondara Gold Mining Company.

The windlass, miners' huts and blacksmith's anvil vanished — as did the shaft, only to reappear in the middle of suburban street just a century later.

The other excitement was when the Outer Circle Railway was being built in 1888.

Navvies digging gravel in a cutting near Shenley, just north of Canterbury Rd., washed specimens of gold, but nothing more came of the find.

Camberwell roads were made even worse than they would have been otherwise by the constant travelling of miners' carts between Melbourne and the diggings at Warrandyte.

The Council hit on the idea of putting up a toll-gate to get some money to improve White Horse Rd., but by the time they got round to it, Warrandyte gold had petered out and there weren't any miners' carts.

But it was the gold content in the general prosperity of Melbourne that benefited Camberwell enormously, enabling it to become the residential suburb of the more successful.



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**\$17<sup>95</sup>**

30c WEEKLY

Tremendous value for this oven-proof dinner set complete for 8 persons. You can choose from 2 decorative patterns — don't miss this — first thing tomorrow!



30-pce. DINNER SET

**\$6<sup>50</sup>**

6 each dinner and tea plates, coupes, cups and saucers, in assorted patterns. Top value!



20-pce. 'BROADHURST'

**\$6<sup>95</sup>**

First quality English ironstone dinner set — complete for 4 persons! Ass'd. patterns.



15" BARBECUE

**\$2<sup>99</sup>**

Great save! 'Dalson', chrome revolve top!



CUTLERY SET

**\$3<sup>95</sup>**

24-pce. setting for 6, 80-pce. for 8, \$12.95



'OLD FOLEY'

**\$1<sup>25</sup>**

English cup, saucer and plate. Assorted!



BIG SAVING GROUP

**\$2** EACH

Gaily coloured soiled linen basket! A roll-top bread box — attractive tones. 'K&A' 11in. sponge squeeze mop — rustproof! Strong plastic 3-tier veg. tidy!



761 Burke Rd., Camberwell. Ph. 82 2355.

## AN EDWARDIAN COLLAR BOX AND ITS WAR MEMORIES

### John Maidment

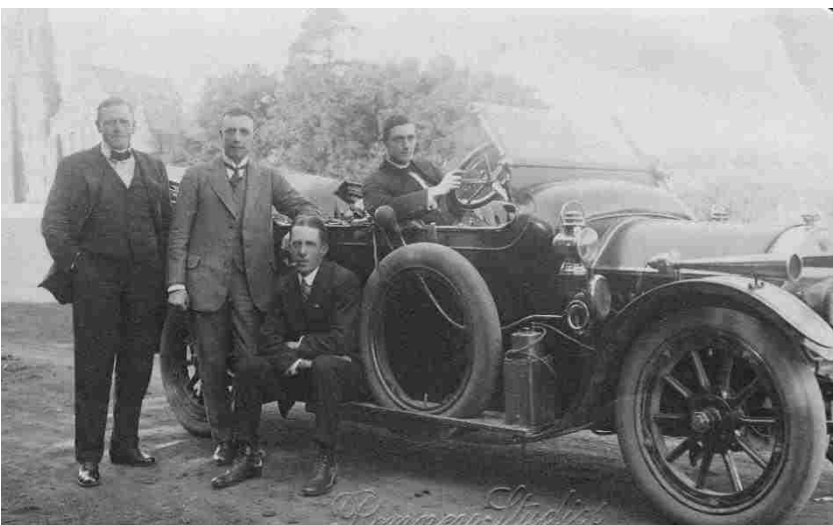
*John Maidment gave a presentation on this subject after the 2024 Annual General Meeting and has compiled the following account.*



I have at home a leather Edwardian collar box, used for storing detachable shirt collars. It has an engraved silver plaque attached with the initials ELD.

ELD was Edward Lonsdale Duckett, my maternal grandfather, born in 1887 and died in 1968. He was the grandson of Edward Duckett, who founded a flourishing hardware business in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne and the son of Albert Duckett, who lived in Armadale Street, Armadale. Albert's brother, also Edward, lived at 'Riversdale', Hawthorn, a large property on the river, which was subdivided in the late 1930s. ELD lived at 'Winston Court', 5 Fermanagh Road, Camberwell, in the 1940s, before moving to Parkdale after his second marriage to Sara Amelia Coppel, an artist, who had studied with Max Meldrum.

Below: Ted, driving, at Terang



ELD was interested in motoring for much of his life and I have a photograph taken around 1910 shows him driving a FN (Fabrique Nationale) car parked outside Thomson Memorial Church, Terang. He volunteered for war service in 1914 and was deployed to Egypt where he was a transport sergeant with the First Australian Stationary Hospital.





Photograph Album and some of the photographs in it.



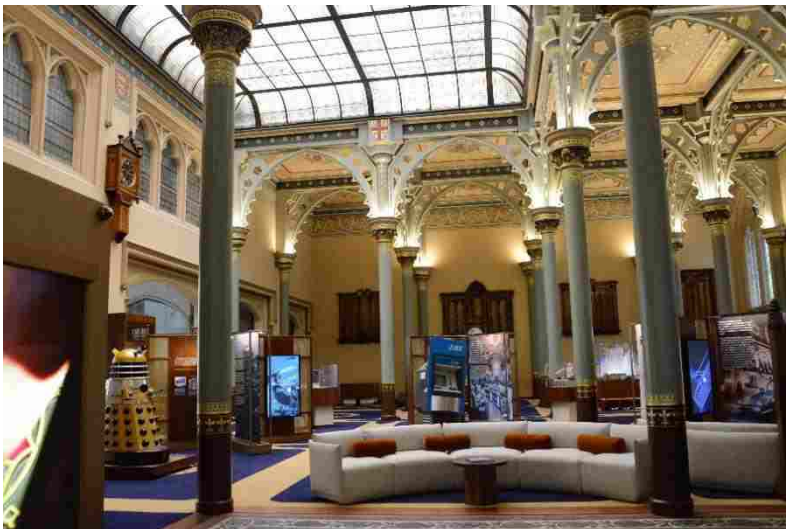


Ambulance



## REPORT OF MEETINGS 2024

24 September 2024 ANZ Bank Museum tour



ANZ's Gothic Bank first opened for business on 31 May 1887, a period that marked the boom era in Melbourne's history and the evolution of banking institutions in Australia. The building was designed by architect William Wardell – a renowned leader of the Gothic Revival movement – and remains one of Australia's most historic buildings. It was originally built for the English, Scottish and Australia Chartered Bank, as well as the adjacent former Melbourne Stock

Exchange. Following a two-year restoration and refurbishment program ANZ's Gothic Bank has re-opened as an ANZ Specialist Hub with a new banking museum.

Members and friends of the Camberwell Historical Society toured the ANZ Branch and Museum. We started with a short welcome and brief rundown on the history of the building, then a guided exploration of the museum on the ground floor.



Followed by a specially guided tour of the Verdon Chambers upstairs. This was the residence of the governor of the bank and has also been refurbished. It contains an impressive art collection and the original charter for the bank.



## 12 October 2024      Riversdale Road History Walk

A group of CHS members and friends walked along historic Riversdale Road, starting at Riversdale Station car park on Wandin Road. Astolat, an historic mansion and heritage garden, was visited. Warrawee and Wanganella and other interesting homes were looked at as well as historic styles of houses and other local features.





**22 October 2024      Libby Wilson      Huguenot Ancestry**

1 in 6 people with British ancestry are descended from French Huguenots. The word 'refugee' came into the English language in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when thousands of French Protestants fled to England, Ireland, Holland, Germany, even South Africa and the American colonies. Libby Wilson discovered her Huguenot forebears had fled on horseback with their four small children concealed in horse panniers with vegetables covering them, from their manoir in the Loire valley to Basel in 1685. Eventually some of Libby's ancestors found their way to Ireland.

Here in Australia, Chauvel, La Nauze, Cazaly/Cazalet, Dumas, Cordner, Bellett, Boyer, Bonyng, Bartel, Lansell, Latreille, Le Pine, Joubert, Touzel, Olivier, Rivett, Perdriau, Mercy, Gambier, Collette, Vautier are surnames which are believed to be of Huguenot origin.

It is unknown where the name Huguenots came from. The name reformè was used from 1560s onwards. 1685 Rêfugeès was the beginning of the word refugee. Huguenots were French protestants who followed the teaching of John Calvin. In 1440 the invention of the Printing Press led to the reformation as it allowed the spread of ideas. Religious persecution led to widespread deaths and the protestant population leaving France.

Beginning in the reign of François I, Protestants faced state-backed persecution in France. This persecution continued under his two successors, Henri II and François II, the latter of whom died young in 1560. Catherine de' Medici, regent of Charles IX, proposed the Edict of January (or Edict of Saint-Germain) with the hopes that providing a measure of toleration to Calvinism would help France avoid further chaos of the kind that had engulfed the south-west of the country.

The Massacre of Vassy was the murder of Huguenot worshippers and citizens in an armed action by troops of the Duke of Guise, in Wassy, France on 1 March 1562. The massacre is identified as the first major event in the French Wars of Religion.

The Saint Bartholomew's Day massacre in 1572 was a targeted group of assassinations and a wave of Catholic mob violence directed against the Huguenots (French Calvinist Protestants) during the French Wars of Religion. The massacre started a few days after the marriage on 18 August of the king's sister Margaret to the Protestant King Henry III of Navarre. Many of the wealthiest and most prominent Huguenots had gathered in largely Catholic Paris to attend the wedding.

The massacre began in the night of 23–24 August 1572, two days after the attempted assassination of Admiral Gaspard de Coligny, the military and political leader of the Huguenots. King Charles IX ordered the killing of a group of Huguenot leaders, including Coligny, and the slaughter spread throughout Paris. Lasting several weeks in all, the massacre expanded outward to the countryside and other urban centres. Modern estimates for the number of dead across France vary widely, from 5,000 to 30,000.

1598 Edict of Nantes - signed in April 1598 by King Henry IV and granted the Huguenots, substantial rights in the nation. While upholding Catholicism as the established religion, it granted religious toleration to the Protestant Huguenots.

1685 Edict of Nantes revoked October 1685 - Louis XIV, the grandson of Henry IV, renounced the Edict and declared Protestantism illegal with the Edict of Fontainebleau. This act, commonly called the '*revocation of the Edict of Nantes*,' had very damaging results for France. Intense persecution of Protestants took place. All Protestant ministers were given two weeks to leave the country unless they converted to Catholicism and all other Protestants were prohibited from leaving the country. The renewed persecution – including many examples of torture – caused as many as 400,000 to flee France at risk of their lives. Most moved to Great Britain, Prussia, the Dutch Republic, Switzerland, Denmark, South Africa and the new French colonies and the Thirteen Colonies in North America. This exodus deprived France of many of its most skilled artisans and industrious individuals.

**26 November 2024 Dr Daryl Moran and Jacqueline Dinan  
In the Fight: Australians and the War in Burma 1942-1945**

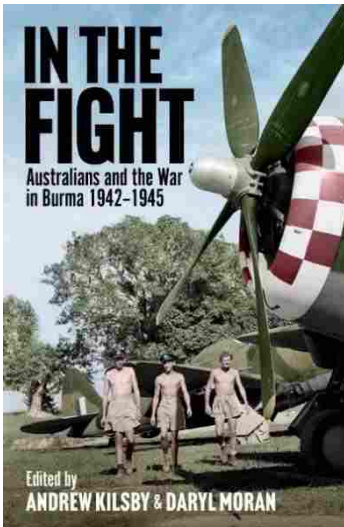


Left to right: George Fernando, Jaqueline Dinan and Daryl Moran.

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* the biography of an Australian World War I fighter pilot. His special interest in the Burma Campaign was aroused during his time as an educator in India when he came across the graves of RAAF members killed in the conflict. *In the Fight* reveals the forgotten involvement of Australians in a forgotten WWII campaign – Burma 1942-1945.

Jacqueline Dinan is a writer with an interest in women in war. Her other publications include *A Woman's War: A Mother's homefront battle* (2010) and *Between the Dances: World War 2 Women tell their stories* (2015). Jacqueline conducted several oral history interviews with former 'Wasbies' and their descendants. Notes from these interviews contributed to the fiction book *The Last Reunion* - by Kayte Nunn (2021). In 2024, Jacqueline contributed the chapter, 'Women at the Front: The Wasbies' to *In the Fight*.

## Daryl Moran: Burma 1942 - 1945



*In the Fight* tells the compelling stories behind the involvement of Australians in what became one of the great sagas of the war against the Japanese in South-East Asia. It is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWII in 2025.

Army, Navy, Airforce were in Burma. Many Australians were involved in other services. Burma Volunteer Service had 6 tiger moths. Australians have seen active service in the Indian Army since mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. They joined from British regiments. Between the two wars they had double the salary and scope for promotion.

Burma was the longest land campaign of the war. The British were not prepared. The Burma theatre of war included Ceylon, India, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam and China. 8 Australian airmen killed in Ceylon and buried in Trincomalee. Planes were grounded by the monsoon from May to October. The monsoon claimed more lives of airmen than anything else. RAAF had no one combat ready for the war in Burma. Australia forgot that many Australians fought in Burma under other services.

Australian War correspondents – Peter Holmes, Wilfred Burchett (persona non grata) Douglas Wilkie, George Johnson (The Argus) Thomas Healy, Henry Standish, Harry Clunes.

War artists were commissioned by the War memorial to record the war and send the works back to Australia. Over 100 works were in the Australian War Memorial. December 1944 William Dargie was digging a trench when he was told he won the Archibald prize for the first time. He won 8 Archibald prizes in total. 34 paintings and drawings of his are in the archives. Other artists included: Anthea Gunn, Frank Norton (maritime), Roy Hodgkinson (works are like boys own adventures)

27 July 1941 – 48 Australian soldiers 8<sup>th</sup> Division travelled to Burma and joined a secret British operation (Tulip Force) to provide technical training to Chang Kai Chek and the National Army to keep the Japanese troops away.

17 July 1942 – drove along the Burma road - 25 days 3500 miles to western China to train Chinese guerrillas. Chinese war lords wanted equipment not training.

8 October 1941 Australia sent support. VAD - volunteer aid detachment to free doctors and nurses Sportsmen -cricket - prominent players, Don Bradman, Ross Gregory and Football -Ted Regan who was shot down.

Burma changed the face of the war. Supplies had to be dropped from the air.

Prisoners of War names were not published. Their families had no idea where they were or if they were alive. They were treated with harshness and cruelty.

## **Jaqueline Dinan: Women's Auxiliary Service (Burma) WAS(B)**

The Womens' Auxiliary Service (Burma), WAS(B) or simply, the Wasbies, recruited many women, including Australians to operate mobile food canteens for the armies of South East Asia Command (SEAC) in Burma during World War 2. This invaluable service was often conducted close to the battle front and operated in the most trying weather conditions and in very difficult terrain.

Women were assisting with clerical tasks, food, drinks and tending wounded when the capital fell in March 1942. The mobile canteens were behind the front lines. Static ones were set up in railway stations and airfields. In 1943 there were 8 canteens (trucks) and 53 workers helping with food drink and other support services. In 1945 there were 14 canteens. The workers were often expat women who knew the conditions or wives and daughters of serving men. Australia did not want to send support services as women were required at home helping keeping industry and agriculture running. The women had to be physically suited and fit for the rigorous conditions – the monsoon, humidity, malaria, mosquitos, rats and 3ton Chevrolet vans. 30 Wasbies ended up mentioned in dispatches, 3 received British medals. 1947 Commandant Ninian Taylor asked for medals for the Wasbies but it didn't happen.

## **7th December 2024 Prospect Hill Road Walk: Fairholm to Moorhouse - mansions, villas and gardens of the 1800s**

The walk was planned and run by Camberwell Historical Society members Bryony Cosgrove, Christina Branagan, Nerida Muirden and Elizabeth Golding. The group explored the historic streets in the Prospect Hill Road heritage precinct. An area within the precinct of is comprised of intact 19th Century housing - mansions, villas and cottages, some designed by the famous architects of the day. The history of mansions such as Fairholm, interesting architectural detail and notable past residents were spoken about. The walk finished at Moorhouse Street.



## **DATES FOR MEETINGS 2025**

Meetings are held at 25 Inglesby Road, Camberwell

<b>Wednesday 12 February 10am</b>	<b>Supreme Court library. Numbers strictly limited.</b>
<b>Tuesday 25 February 2025 7.30pm</b>	<b>Prof Michael Buxton. Urban Planning and heritage protection</b>
<b>Sunday 23 March 2025 11am</b>	<b>Brig-Gen Harold ‘Pompey’ Elliott Memorial Ceremony at Burwood Cemetery conducted by Friends of 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade</b>
<b>Tuesday 25 March 2025 7.30pm</b>	<b>Prof Richard Broome. Laneways of Melbourne</b>
<b>Tuesday 29 April 2025 7.30pm</b>	<b>Vince Lazzaro. Family History research</b>

## **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 2024 - 25**

Camberwell Historical Society’s financial year operates from 1 July to 30 June. Subscriptions for the 2024 – 2025 financial year were due and payable from 1 July 2024. 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**

**PO Box 1274 CAMBERWELL 3124 Tel: 0448296258**

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

**email address: [enquiries@chs.org.au](mailto:enquiries@chs.org.au)**

**President — George Fernando; Secretary & Public Office - Adèle Fernando-Swart;  
Treasurer – Siobhan Barker**

**Committee members — Alister Bennie, Jennifer McArthur and George Demetrios**