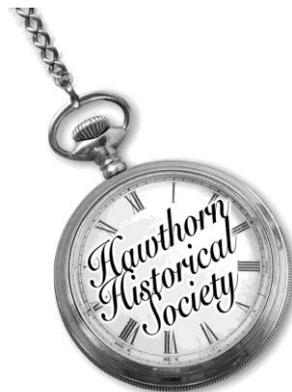


# Hawthorn Historical Society



## *Newsletter* • August 2015



*Local Member for Hawthorn, John Pesutto, MP, at the Local History Room recently with HHS members John Torpey, Elizabeth Yewers and Barbara Woodward*

*Photo: Elizabeth Love*

## *Contents*

<i>Welcome</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Recent Events</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Ruth Dwyer</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Federation Celebrations in Hawthorn - Ruth Dwyer</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Wurundjeri Garden Group</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>Website &amp; Facebook Musings</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Research Queries</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Forthcoming Events</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>History Show &amp; Tell- CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS</i>	<i>Page 10</i>

# Hawthorn Historical Society

Hawthorn Historical Society is affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

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<b>LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE</b>	TBC	

## Hawthorn Historical Society Publications

**Faint traces: Chinese in Hawthorn before the Second World War**  
Diane Nicholas & Mary Sheehan, \$15

**Hawthorn streets index**  
Gwen McWilliam, (reprinted 2004) **OUT OF STOCK**

**Street Walks**  
Village Walk (revised 2015) - \$7.50  
Other Walks by Gwen McWilliam, \$5 per set

**Publications can now be purchased on our website. Prices include postage**



We can now send out your newsletter by email!

[hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

If you would like to receive future newsletters this way.

## Hawthorn History Walks

Discover the history of Hawthorn with a series of self-guided walks produced by the Hawthorn Historical Society.

Sets for the walks are available from Hawthorn Library for \$5.00 each.



## Welcome

Dear Members and Friends

**The Local History Room** at the Hawthorn Library has continued to be a good place for members to connect with one another and to pursue their research interests. We are there each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 11am to 1pm and on Wednesday 22nd July we were delighted to welcome **John Pesutto MP, Member for Hawthorn**, there to meet with members. He takes a keen interest in local history and was interested in our projects and plans for the future. We also discussed our perspectives on urban planning and how we can best balance preservation of our heritage with urban growth.

We have enjoyed some interesting events over the past couple of months as well as the Wednesday get-togethers; **Celebrating our ANZACs**, a joint event with St Columbs Anglican Church looking at the research of the WW1 soldiers from that church, our **New Members Welcome Drinks** at the Glenferrie Hotel, a fun visit to the **Fabulous Miss Phryne Fisher** exhibition at Ripponlea and a fascinating presentation of **Hawthorn in 1910** by Albert Isaacs. Each of these events were occasions for renewing of friendships and opportunities for reflection about how far the society has come and where it might go in the future.

We welcome **Ramona De Niese** to our committee. Ramona's family history includes several connections with Hawthorn and we are looking forward to engaging with her enthusiasm for the place and its stories.

Your committee has been coming to grips with Heritage Places Nominations prompted by the new Boroondara Planning Scheme and been in discussion with the Council's Strategic Planning body. We are investigating the possibility of new print runs of the **Hawthorn Street Index** by **Gwen McWilliam** and **Life in the Valley** which are both now out of stock and still in demand.

We have started an audit of the **Heritage Plaques** which were erected in 1985 and may need replacement. Also of the historic signage in the **Fritsch-Holzer Reserve**. Also, member **Dennis Day** has come up with the fine idea of erecting signage in the vicinity of Glenferrie Oval concerning the history of the area. We plan to approach Boroondara Council with a proposal to restore or create new plaques. We also have a number of other ongoing projects which members may be able to assist with. If you have a little or a lot of time, please let a committee member know.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Hawthorn Historical Society:

John Akritidis  
Connie Fung  
Jason Goodger

Elizabeth Yewers  
President

**REMINDER** – Annual subscriptions will be due and payable for the 2015/2016 financial year on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. Your subscription notice and notice of Annual General Meeting will be mailed to you.

## Recent Events

### Members Welcome Drinks – 14<sup>th</sup> June

What better place than the historic Glenferrie Hotel (established 1889) to cool your thirst with fellow Hawthorn history enthusiasts. It was a great turn out for our inaugural new members drinks and it went off so well we think we should do it again next year. We welcomed a number of our new members and also reconnected with some others we hadn't seen for a while.



New and old members Margot Dorum, Oriel Flewell- Smith, Jim Love & Bernice Hammet



The chat was lively and social but the highlight really was the opportunity to hear about people's interests and to think about future projects. All who attended enjoyed a sense of companionship and a number admired the old hawthorn photos on the wall dating back to the late 1800s.

L to R: Elizabeth Yewers, Dennis Day & Rob Gray

### Phryne Fisher – 16<sup>th</sup> June

An enthusiastic group of members and friends enjoyed beautiful Ripponlea House and the garden under its winter mantle, whilst viewing the recent Phryne Fisher Costume Exhibition. The opening of the exhibition coincided with the start of the ABC's third series of Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries and the bohemian heroine's exquisite wardrobe was on glorious display. The award winning designer Marion Boyce revealed her attention to detail in the styling, intricate beading, and the selection and dyeing of fabrics, The designers selected a separate colour palette for each episode to coordinate gowns and accessories. Costumes ranged from floaty silk ensembles for daywear, to exotic evening gowns and nightgowns but one of my favourite ensembles was this elegant but cool tennis outfit. The exhibition runs til the 30<sup>th</sup> September.



## Hawthorn in 1910 – Albert Isaacs 19<sup>th</sup> July

Albert based his entertaining talk around the illustrations and information obtained from two historic publications *History of Hawthorn and Book of Reference* by Colles and Dew, in Jubilee Year, 1910 and *The Victorian Municipal Directory of 1910*.

In 1910 Hawthorn had a population of 25,226, living in one of 3572 dwellings around the Municipality. The Mayor was David Henry Dureau, a broker who lived at 25 Riversdale Road. Another seven of the twelve Councillors had previously served as Mayor, including Percy Joseph Russell, Robert Balfour and James Scoular Riddell.

George Swinburne, who had been instrumental a few years earlier in 1908, in the creation of the Eastern Suburbs Technical College represented the electoral district of Hawthorn in the Victorian State Parliament. The technical college grew and later honoured his name in its title as Swinburne Technical College and then Swinburne University of Technology.

A generous handout was available and it was fascinating to see images of old Hawthorn and hear the tales of early settlers, prominent citizens and their family connections.

## Vale - Ruth Dwyer

The Hawthorn Historical Society was saddened by the passing of Ruth Dwyer, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Ruth was our friend, colleague and long-standing committee member who made a significant contribution in numerous capacities to the Society over many years, until recent ill health prevented her participation.

Ruth was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1941 in country Victoria and spent her childhood on a farm near Dimboola. She trained and worked as a primary school teacher before embracing historic research. As a researcher her main interests were in the decorative arts, the non-British population in nineteenth century Victoria and the history of Hawthorn. She and her husband Peter had three children, who grew up in Hawthorn with the family living at 75 Wattle Road, Hawthorn for more than 40 years. No doubt this association sparked her long-term interest and research into the early settlement of this area once known as "German's Paddock".

Ruth was a fine researcher, a keen historian and freelance writer. The articles she wrote for our newsletter were always extremely well written, precise and accurate, yet contained lovely anecdotes, which brought history to life for the reader. We are pleased to be preparing a compilation of these articles to present to her family.

Our thoughts are with her family and loved ones.

We are pleased to reprint here an article written for the May 2001 edition of the Hawthorn Historical Society Newsletter.

## **1901 – Federation Celebrations in Hawthorn**

**By Ruth Dwyer**

A Continent for a Nation, and a Nation for a continent, born without war or bloodshed, or external pressure, but of the spontaneous desire of a people who longed for the lasting bonds of brotherhood.

The Hawthorn & Camberwell Citizen of 5 January 1901 informed local residents of the ceremony in Sydney on the first day of the New Century -

*The swearing in of the Governor-General - Victoria's former governor - was as imposing in its character as could well have been conceived. In the centre of that great natural amphitheatre of the centennial Park under a pure-white canopy, almost dazzling in its brightness, and surrounded by thousands upon thousands who stood under the broader canopy of Heaven, emblematical of the freedom of a Constitution unequalled throughout the world. Lord Hopetoun signed his name and took his oath at the table on which Her Most Gracious Majesty [had] signed the Royal Assent to the Act, empowering the Federation of the Australian Colonies.*

The city fathers from Hawthorn council were not invited to these celebrations. Councillors from some small municipalities were in attendance. Enquiries as to why an invitation had not been forthcoming were set in train. The explanation was that invitations had been extended only to representatives of the oldest bodies in Victoria. Did not Hawthorn qualify in that the Council was formed in 1860? The local paper then congratulated the sister city on the brilliant manner in which the ceremony had been carried out, with only a few minor hitches, which were excused in such 'a grand conception . . . carried out with greater éclat than could have been imagined by the promoters'. Sour grapes? Elsewhere the paper outlined the position of Melbourne in the new Commonwealth.

Of the Hawthorn & Camberwell Citizen of the same date -

*...we find that Melbourne, the sprout, the despised of the jealous Sydneyites, takes the lead of Federated Australia as 'the principal city' in our young nation, having 494 000 inhabitants, while its mother town Sydney, has "489 000 souls, or 5,000 less. It has taken only 66 years to achieve this grand result. Who can say what the next 50 years will do, while it must not be overlooked that Sydney has been in existence for over 150 years, and where is the writer who would be bold enough to compare one with the other, or even draw a comparison with these facts staring them in the face, an achievement that no other city in the world has ever accomplished.*

*Did not the Commonwealth Parliament sit first in Victoria on 9 May 1901? And continue so until 1927?*

Most of the celebrations in the Hawthorn Municipality involved the children, the future fathers and mothers of Hawthorn. A gigantic picnic for the State School children was to be held, for which the Council was willing to contribute £200 - insufficient according to the paper – one hopes it was increased, and also a flag raising ceremony, the Union Jack to be hoisted aloft on 14 May 1901 at 12.50 pm. Mr. Dew of the local paper also sponsored a competition.

The Hawthorn & Camberwell Citizen' 11 May 1901 –

*. . . we who are still children in many things know what was the most dear to our hearts at the same age - it was the outside feast in the open air. The gambol over the sunny sward with*

*a bun in one hand, fruit in the other, some lollies in the pocket, and with accompanying shouts to our companions to join in some game or other, the world to us was a real Paradise indeed.*

The hoisting of the Grand Old Flag, the Union Jack, was to take place at Hawthorn schools at 12.50 pm. after a signal from the Duchess of Cornwall and York, a signal which was flashed simultaneously throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth. At Glenferrie Central School, Board of Advice members, Cr. Barbour MLA, and several councillors were present. The cadets fired a feu de joie, the National Anthem was sung, and with enthusiastic cheering, the flag was unfurled by Miss Elsie Billing, this honour conferred by ballot of all the scholars. A commemorative medal was presented to each child.

The Hawthorn & Camberwell Citizen of 18 May 1901 carried the following detail of a Prize Essay, another competition for the scholars -

*The proprietor of the 'Citizen' offers Prizes for the best Essay written by Boys, on the object of 'Hoisting the Flag in Hawthorn Schools' , and for Girls on 'The Visit of the Duke and Duchess' ... 'To be sent to Mr. M. Dew care of the 'Citizen''*

Patriotic essays resulted; the Boy's Prize of a watch was won by the thirteen year old Albert Henry Ferris of Glenferrie Central School. Ethel M. Fordyce, of the same age, a scholar at the Auburn school, was the recipient of the Girl's Prize, a gold brooch. A selection of Essays, including those of the winners, were published in The Hawthorn & Camberwell Citizen'

For the whole community, it was proposed in 1901 by councillor Percy Russell that a clock be placed in the Town Hall tower ... an estimate of £400 was given for a first class article with a heavy bell denoting the hour. It was not until 1911 that such a clock was put in place. The whole work was carried out by the Hawthorn resident, Mr. J Friedrich W Ziegeler, born Hanover c1856 and died in 1936 at the age of 80. The clock we still hear strike the hour today as a reminder of our local Federation Fathers, intent to provide something of lasting value for our community. May it still strike in 2101.

## Wurundjeri Garden Group

**The Wurundjeri Garden Group** is celebrating 25 years since its formation this year and we are hoping to organise a visit before the end of 2015. With apologies, the following report from **Ellie Bastow** was missed in publishing our earlier editions of the HHS Newsletter.

The Wurundjeri Garden group has had another energetic year tending the steep riverbank, it is now almost twenty five years since the garden was established. We remain a small consistent group, along with a couple of new and most welcome workers, and meet monthly along with the garden's founder, Dorothy Sutherland.

Over the years we have valued the support of Council, and until recently Andrea Dennis and Paul Birch from Maranoa Gardens have been a wonderful practical presence. In the last three months we have been joined by Council Worker, Peter Tucker, his experience with indigenous vegetation will be a great asset to future plantings on the site.

The steep and dry garden has created a challenge to us in re establishing and nurturing those indigenous plants that were important food sources for the Aborigines as well as a variety of plants that were used as tools and aids to their everyday life. The Yarra River forms a natural corridor on the garden's boundary and enhances the opportunity of strengthening the natural habitat of plants and creatures across this part of Boroondara. The garden is well recognized as a community asset for the reminder that it is the place of an earlier aboriginal life.

## Website & Facebook Musings

Our facebook presence continues to grow and we are connecting with people with a wide & varying range of interests. We have made a number of new links and had facebook dialogue with other historical societies as well as the City of Boroondara, Ephemera Society, State Library of Victoria, Boroondara Arts Centre, The Hawthorn Rowing Club and more. Some of our 185 (and rising) followers spent their early years in Hawthorn and even if they have moved away still make valuable contributions by posting their recollections and old photos. The discussions are diverse; the list includes old houses, Hawthorn icons, the tramways, the Wurundjeri people, corner shops, school photos, football and churches.



We encourage you and your friends to “like’ us on facebook so we can continue to strengthen the historic and cultural fabric of our community.

A recent investigation of historic videos available on You Tube led to some fascinating viewing. In keeping with Albert Isaacs talk on Hawthorn in 1910 I came across Marvellous Melbourne 1910 – Some scenes of the City of Melbourne, Australia. WDTV LIVE42

And another trip down memory lane also available online– this time more a little more recent. Titled *The Best Years of our Lives – Growing Up in the 1900s* this is an episode from the 1999 TV series *Our Century*, hosted and narrated by Ray Martin.

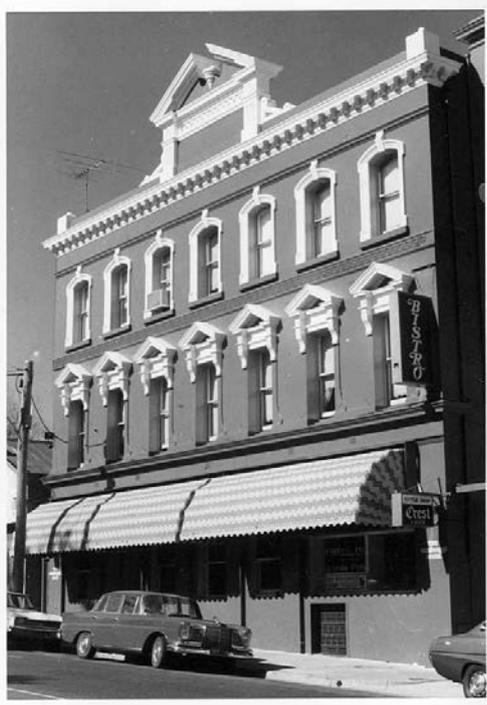
## Research Queries

Some recent research queries. If you can add any information, photos or anecdotes please contact the Society.

- ❖ Irelands dairy – Myrning Grove. Does anyone have any photos?
- ❖ The RADFORD family who lived in Lennox Street
- ❖ “DINGALWA” – 17 Denmark-Hill Road and the COLLINGS family: Harold Vernon COLLINGS & Jeremiah COLLINGS. How were these connected to John COLLINGS, the rate collector?
- ❖ John & Alice KELEHER of “St Elmo”, 16 Findon Street
- ❖ Herbert Leslie BATEMAN – seeking enrolment records for Swinburne Technical School in 1921
- ❖ Information about the sports clubs in Hawthorn, particularly the Hawthorn Rifle Club
- ❖ SAWYER family – Mary Sawyer born in Hawthorn in 1863. Record of baptism found at Christ Church, Hawthorn

RESEARCH QUERIES - continued

- ❖ Gordon ELLIOTT – farrier in Burwood Road
- ❖ Hawthorn Amateur Football Club Hawthorn Districts FC/Hawthorn Citizens FC/ Kooyong FC
- ❖ Query about the location of “Upper Hawthorn”
- ❖ Ercildoune
- ❖ Old dance venues in Hawthorn
- ❖ William Macmichael SHIELDS , Architect, Clifton Road East Hawthorn
- ❖ STIDSTON & ROWDEN families – St Columbs Street
- ❖ Bellara Tennis Courts – Camberwell/Hartwell
- ❖ Precinct 24 – This area bounded by the Yarra River, Church Street & Barkers Road has been subject to a change in zoning. A residents’ group is seeking information about the area’s history in support of an appeal.



### Lorna Hunter & the Finemore Family

The Hawthorn Historical Society was contacted early this year by the family of Lorna Hunter seeking information about the Glenferrie Hotel and a property at 59 Mary Street, Hawthorn where Lorna had grown up. Lorna’s grandfather Charles Finemore was the publican at the Glenferrie Hotel in the mid 1920’s.

Her mother ran the Oval Cafe on the corner of Grace Street for a number of years also.

We’ve had lots of discussions since our first contact. Lorna is now 93 and her family has had produced a short film where she talks about her life and memories of growing up and of the people she remembers.

We want to thank the Hunter family for letting us have a copy of Lorna’s personal story.

## Forthcoming Events

### Dates for your diary

Local History Room – Hawthorn Library 11am to 1pm

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

**Committee** meets – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7pm in the Local History Room

**Discover the Original Hawthorn Village**

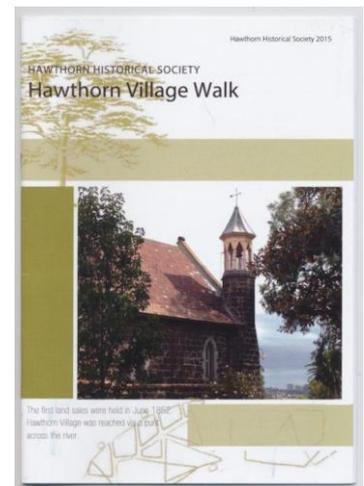
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 2 pm**

Meet at the corner of Denham and Wood Street outside Christ Church hall and hear about how Hawthorn Village was planned and how it developed. This walk of a little over an hour will take us as far as the Power street and Burwood road intersection, where we will stop for a cuppa. Dress for the weather.

Queries: Elizabeth Yewers 9819 1218

Free for members. Guests \$5

Copies of the extended Hawthorn Village walk will be available for \$7.50



**Look What I've Discovered! - Hawthorn History Show and Tell**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Hawthorn Community Precinct, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

A special event during History Week in October. This will be an entertaining mix of short oral and visual presentations that capture some unique aspects of our history – informative and eclectic presentations, that include how-to information as well as some hidden treasures or unusual aspects of Hawthorn. We are seeking contributions from our members

**Hawthorn Historical Society - Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Elizabeth Rushen, historian, writer and past President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

**LOOK WHAT I'VE DISCOVERED !**

A Celebration of People's Stories.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!**

Do you have an intriguing story to tell?

Could you speak for 10 minutes about something you have discovered?

Perhaps you have some dolls, toys or games you played with as a child.

Have you found a skeleton in your family closet? (One you could share)

Have you learnt about an area of interest while doing your family research?

Could you lend a photo or object for display for an afternoon?

Maybe you have some photos which bring back memories.

We are looking for photos & objects from any era, particularly games, toys & dolls, newspapers or early magazines

Still not sure?

Talk to Elizabeth Love (Libby) 9889 7498

or Elizabeth Yewers (Liz) 9819 1218