

# Hawthorn Historical Society



*Newsletter* • May 2014



*Glenferrie Road Festival - 4 May 2014*

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# Hawthorn Historical Society

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

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|                                   |                    |   |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b>                  | Ms Shirley Ramsay  | 9818 2518<br><a href="mailto:sframsay@tpg.com.au">sframsay@tpg.com.au</a> |
| <b>SECRETARY/ MINUTES</b>         | Ms Aileen Carter   | 9278 4666   |
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| <b>COMMITTEE</b>                  | Ms Ruth Dwyer      |   |
|                                   | Ms Pamela Carter   |   |
|                                   | Andrae Talarico    |   |
|                                   | Elizabeth Love     |   |
|                                   | Elizabeth Yewers   |   |

## Hawthorn Historical Society Publications

**Faint traces: Chinese in Hawthorn  
before the Second World War**

Diane Nicholas & Mary Sheehan,

\$12

**Hawthorn streets index**

Gwen McWilliam, (reprinted 2004),

\$15

**Street Walks**

Gwen McWilliam,

\$1



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.

## Articles

### **GLENFERRIE ROAD FESTIVAL - SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014**

Melbourne flipped rather suddenly from summer to winter this year. One day, open toed shoes and the next overcoats. And last Sunday was definitely one for anoraks, umbrellas, scarves and gumboots. However, the sun shone in bursts enough to draw the crowds for all that was on offer along Glenferrie Road.

We had a presence right along the shopping strip this year. Thank you to the hardy souls from our membership and our committee who braved the elements to man our stall, once again, near the end of Chrystobel Crescent. Keen observers would also have seen the posters with historical information at various points along the strip.

With such a wealth of interest in family history in the community, who could miss the opportunity to hear people's stories and research interests? Handing out show bags courtesy the Public Records Office gave us just such an opportunity. Our message was that we wanted people's memories of Hawthorn to help preserve it for future generations. We included information about our society and events and some questions to open people's eyes to the history in plain sight on Glenferrie Road. But our focus was to connect with people who can add to our information about Hawthorn history.

An innovation this year was the short history walk run three times by Elizabeth Love in the vicinity of the Don and Railway arcades. This was a beautiful blend of interesting historical information and lively stories gleaned from the newspapers of the day. The walks attracted some thirty people over the day. There was sufficient interest to suggest that we should run such guided walks again throughout the year.

Sunday was a wet day, indeed, and crowds were down on other years, but I'd rate it a success; in terms of contacts made, lessons learnt, our profile raised and the fun we had together. Join us next year.

Elizabeth Yewers



*Elizabeth Love leading the history walk*

### **Hawthorn History Walks**

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

A booklet for each of the 18 walks is available from Hawthorn Library for \$1.00 each.

## EDITORS RESPONSE TO HUGH COPELAND'S LETTER, 1936

*Hugh Copeland wrote a letter about his early Hawthorn days that appeared on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1936 in The Argus. Here are two letters published by the newspaper in response. To read Copeland's letter and the responding letters to the editor go to the Download section on our website. Elizabeth Love*

### Early Hawthorn Memories The Argus, Saturday 4 April 1936, p.6

Old Hawthorn days, which were recalled by Mr. Hugh Copeland in an article in "The Argus" on March 21, have evoked reminiscences from several readers, some of whose letters are given.

#### THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS

Sir,-The Interesting article by Mr. Hugh Copeland in "The Argus" on March 21, brought many pleasant memories to my mind. The part of Hawthorn alluded to, however, applied mainly to what was known as Upper Hawthorn, and a few remarks concerning that part of the suburb lying to the west, called Lower Hawthorn, may not be amiss. Here lived some of the best known families of the early days, including those of Sir William Creswick, George Gordon McCrae, E. G. Harrison (Inspector of the Bank of Victoria), the Rev. Wood (of Christ Church), Mr. Palmer (sergeant-at-arms, Parliament House), the Hellicars, and the Pennefathers, and John Sadler (afterward Chief Commissioner of Police). For transport to the city everyone used the 'bus' from the Hawthorn Bridge. In cold weather straw was strewn on the floor to keep the feet of the passengers warm.

On Boxing Day the great rendezvous was the Survey Paddock, close to the eastern side of the bridge. There sports of all kinds were provided - Blondin on his tight rope, wheeling a barrow with a passenger over the rope, was an attraction which I well remember. Another was the roasting of a large bullock and the handing of succulent cuts to those gathered near.

Lower Hawthorn was a real little village in those days. Toward dusk the lamplighter with his ladder across his shoulders could be seen attending, more or less regularly, to his duties. Mr. Copeland's remarks anent the Hawthorn Grammar School were all too short. As he rightly said, a number of the old scholars became well-known men in later years. Besides Sir Rupert Clarke, I recall Sir George Fairbairn, Sir Richard Stawell, Sir Stanley Argyle, and Dr. Jeff. Wood.

The first school principal I remember was Mr. Meeson, who preceded Professor Irving. I wonder if there are many of the old brigade of Mr. Meeson's time surviving. Some of their names I can well recall - Dan. Meaney, Stuart Murray, S. Carfrae, Percy Smith and George Lorimer.

Professor Irving, a tall, fine-looking man, always wore during school hours gown, hood, and mortarboard. Although a stern disciplinarian, he was held in affectionate regard by his pupils, to whom he was invariably known as "Prof" (out of his hearing, of course). Other masters of whom I can recollect were Ben Lemon, "Bones" Henderson, and Dr. George Crowther, who left about 1883 to take charge of the Brighton Grammar. "Davie Rannard, one time captain of the Melbourne Football Club, was a senior master for many years.

The old school had a fine scholastic record. The proprietors of "The Argus" and "The Australasian" donated annually a handsome prize for the dux of the school. This trophy was keenly competed for, and I remember seeing in various years "Dick" Stawell, Arthur Alston, and Joe Tyssen being called up to receive the coveted prize. Speech night usually took place at the Hawthorn Town Hall, where Lady Clarke (wife of Sir William Clarke) presented the prizes, with an appropriate brief remark to each recipient. Its athletic record also stood high. In cricket the school had, for, I think, about 12 years, a Trumble as its captain; first J. W. Trumble, then the redoubtable Hugh. In all branches of school life the Halford brothers (George, Jim, and Edgar, sons of Professor Halford), the three Sargood brothers, the two brothers Horn, Thwaites, Cookson, Adam Smith and his brothers, Bob and "Sico" Affleck, Walter and Maurice Hutton (sons of Colonel Hutton) took a leading part. Professor Irving's four sons, Edward H., Frank, Godfrey, and Harold, were all popular at the school. The first named later succeeded his father as principal. Harold, who became a doctor, died about three years ago.

There were giants in those days. Frank and

Godfrey (the general) are each more than 6ft. 4in tall. Being a fine rifle shot, Professor Irving always showed a keen interest in "teaching the young idea hoto shoot." So successful was his coaching that his school had the honour, in1884, of capturing the first Sargood Challenge Trophy Shield when his team of juniors made top score at Williamstown against teams from 22 other schools. The professor was justly proud of the victory. His son, Harold, and Harry Sargood, were two members of the team that I can recollect. Like Mr. Copeland, I do not know of any reunion of the old boys ever being held. Perhaps as the outcome of his letter a gathering may take place. I hope so.  
Yours, &c" AN OLD BOY  
Melbourne, March 25.

#### CRICKETERS AND FOOTBALLERS

TO THE EDITOR OP THE ARGUS

Sir,-Professor Irving, who was the principal of the Hawthorn Grammar School, which I attended, laid down one of the first turf wickets in school grounds in Melbourne, and the boarders often had a little respite from homework to put the hose on it in the evenings. Grace Park was then an open paddock round a two story house, where Mrs. Colvin Clark kept a young women's school. Between Grace Park and Burwood road was a vacant piece of land used as a football-ground. On the outskirts was deep creek, and many players

were accidentally pushed down the bank. The two Baker brothers were the crack footballers, and I think they played for Melbourne. T. V. Groube lived in Park street. The international cricketer tutored many boys in the noble art of batting. His strictest injunction was 'keep your legs out of the wicket,' now quietly disregarded by many of the best batsmen. Farther up the gully toward Camberwell was a deep clayhole filled with icy cold water, called Holzer's hole, now filled in and made into a lovely park. On Burwood road Mr. W. H. Archer, registrar-general, lived, and on the opposite side of the road James Patterson, coal merchant: the Gavan Duffy family, Judge Molesworth and just round the corner in Auburn road, James Richmond lived. Camberwell then comprised large paddocks dotted with large gumtrees. At the other end of Hawthorn (St James's Park) lived the Rev. W. Woods, Creswicks, Parsons, and Brahe (German consul). Sir James Palmer lived in the house afterwards bought by Sir William McPherson, callcd by the scoffers "Government House." The Presbyterian Church was a small brick building in Glnferrie road, and the Independent was in Burwood road, near Auburn road, both now replaced by fine churches.

-Yours,

**DL.**

Brisbanc (Q), March 31

**NOW AVAILABLE ON CD**



## **BOROONDARA MUSING & MORE BOROONDARA MUSINGS**

**By Gwen McWilliam**

Do you remember the articles that appeared each week in the Progress Leader? Gwen's articles were historical gems with interesting facts, stories, photos, maps and recollections that reminded us all of our heritage and history.

These fabulous resources are now available at \$15 each or both for \$25 + postage

To order by phone: 98897498 or email: [hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.au](mailto:hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.au)

## Heritage Week 2014 - a review

Boroondara Library Service recently hosted some wonderful presentations during Australian Heritage Week and I was fortunate to get along to three of these events. The first was Ann Dixon's presentation at Hawthorn Library *Three Bells*. Ann spoke about the costumes, rituals, traditions and myths about the three important milestones – births, marriages and deaths. Ann brought a very small part of her very extensive collection of clothing for us to view. It was a thoroughly entertaining insight into our culture and history.

Myra Dowling, the Boroondara Local and Family History Librarian gave another excellent presentation at Balwyn Library. Through sharing her own family history Myra was able to demonstrate the service personnel's experiences of war and what it was like for their families left at home. Myra had also collected a large display of relevant library books for our perusal and each participant received a detailed listing of the resources available for those wanting to explore the war-time service of their Australian ancestors.

Carey Garvie from the National Archives of Australia conducted the third presentation, at the Ashburton Library. Carey is Manager Preservation Services Melbourne. This was a very well attended event as clearly many of us have family treasures, handed down through the family, and we wanted to know the best ways to preserve those old photographs, textiles and objects. Carey's interesting and informative presentation did not disappoint.

Can I suggest that all with an interest in history and its preservation make time in their diary for Heritage Week offerings next year? All events are free and held at a variety of venues.



# Hawthorn Historical Society

*Preserving Hawthorn's history for future generations*

We Want :

**YOUR STORIES**  
**YOUR MEMORIES**  
**YOUR PHOTOS**  
**YOUR TIME**  
**YOUR INTEREST**

We'd love to have a copy of your research, memories or photos about Hawthorn people or places, however small, for our newsletter or simply for our records.

*Help us preserve Hawthorn's history for future generations.*

## Robert Cochrane Kindergarten - A short history

On April 27<sup>th</sup> 1911 the Augustine Free Kindergarten was opened in the Augustine Church Hall on Minona Street, Hawthorn. It was founded by Robert Cochrane and a number of other prominent residents who saw the need for a kindergarten for the children of what was then a relatively poor area. To better represent the kindergarten's non-denominational status it was renamed the Auburn Free Kindergarten in 1914.

In 1934 Robert Cochrane purchased a plot of land from the *Terricks* on Paterson Street and donated it for use as a "Secret Garden". Shortly after visiting a purpose built kindergarten he decided a new building was needed on the site so he resigned from the Kindergarten Committee and started a building fund (he was 92-3 at the time). Cochrane was not to see the building, dying in 1935. Cochrane's daughter, Elizabeth, purchased a second block from the *Terricks* in 1936 and donated it to increase the size of the site.

The Great Depression and World War II delayed construction but through these years a large number of very dedicated fundraisers continued, using many innovative ways to raise funds including growing flowers and vegetables on the site for sale and holding "crazy whist parties".

Martin and Tribe, who were the Free Kindergarten Union's architects, drew up plans in 1946 for an extensive three nursery building for the site, but this proved far too expensive. Horace Tribe (the partnership dissolved during this time) stripped back the plan, removing one of the nurseries to reduce costs, matched the materials available and gave it a more modern feel.



*Robert Cochrane Free Kindergarten, Auburn (1949-50)*



*Christmas function at Robert Cochrane Kindergarten in early 1950s*

The Kindergarten was renamed in Robert Cochrane's honour and the building was opened on April 27<sup>th</sup> 1950 to wide acclaim, including a full page pictorial spread in the prestigious *US Architectural Record* magazine. Tribe used the design as a prototype for at least ten more kindergartens he built in the 1950's and it influenced a number of other architects.

The Kindergarten celebrated its Centenary in 2011 with the release of the book *All the Way to 100* by Emily Gale and in 2013 was added to the Victorian remarkably intact with only a small addition to the rear in the 1980's.

Even a short history of the Kindergarten would be incomplete without acknowledging that it would not exist without the efforts of parents, staff and volunteers. Over the years there are many examples of people who have been actively involved for decades, families that have had multiple generations attend and the efforts of fundraisers to keep what is one of fewer and fewer community owned and run kindergartens.

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten's annual Open Day is on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and it will also be open on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> as part of the Hepburn Hill Heritage Open Day.

## **Auburn Primary School is 125**

*In 2014 Auburn Primary celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a celebration, fete and building opening on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2014.*

### Auburn Primary's History:

In the 1880s the Auburn area was growing rapidly and on April 8<sup>th</sup> 1889 the Auburn School, No 2948, was opened in a rented hall on Queens Ave. Part of the current site was purchased in June 1889 after an extensive search. The school building was opened on October 14<sup>th</sup> 1890.

By 1893 more than six hundred students and staff were crammed into the six classrooms. A hall on Rathmines Rd was hired in 1899 to ease the overcrowding while an addition to the rear of the building was added in 1901. Further land for playgrounds was purchased in 1905.

By 1911 the school was again very overcrowded, an infant's school had been proposed and this was opened on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1913. In the same year a further playground area was purchased to the North of the school.

315 former students volunteered to serve in World War 1, 49 did not return, they are commemorated on a Roll of Honour at the school. By 1918 demand saw the school becoming overcrowded again.

Further land was purchased in 1923 and 1924 for playgrounds as it became available. A large extension was added to the rear of the main building in 1925 adding a further eight classrooms. A new caretakers house and the (now) sandpit shed were built in 1927. Despite the tough times in the 1930's a shelter shed was built in 1930 from donations and a small cottage was purchased in 1935 to complete the frontage on Rathmines Rd.



Many former students served in World War II, the actual numbers are unavailable. The school continued through the war and in 1952 a final parcel of land was purchased that connected the school to Harcourt St. A school hall was added in 1963. In 1971 the school became Auburn Primary School, an art and photography centre was added in 1974 and the library redeveloped shortly afterwards. A significant renovation in 1983 to the main building and infant school kept the school up to date with modern requirements.

A very well attended back to school day was held in 1989 to mark the Centenary.

In 1998 the school was considered to be of historic significance to the State and was added to the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR 1707). Student numbers had dropped to 130 and there was some talk that the school could close but strong community support prevented this.

Today Auburn Primary has 450 students and is growing. The addition of a new learning hub in 2011, extensive renovations to several buildings in 2013-14 and the current construction of a new hall and administration centre will help ensure that the school will continue to offer excellent facilities while retaining its proud history.

## Website update

### MAY 2014 WEBSITE MUSINGS

We continue to hear from members of the wider community who, following a topic of interest, have found their way to our website. Indeed the Hawthorn Historical Society website was quoted by James Twining in his recent Progress Leader article about the sale of the historic *Talana* in Harcourt Street. On a number of occasions the initial dialogue through our gmail has lead to a series of interactions as issues are explored and suggestions offered. It is a really important way for the Society to build mutually beneficial links into the wider community. As a consequence, Cameron Syme has written for us, two brief histories – one about Robert Cochrane Kindergarten and the other of Auburn Primary which is soon to celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> year.



Another on going exchange occurred with Elizabeth Yates. Elizabeth attended our November 2013 meeting to hear Major General Mike O'Brien speak about the Lost Soldiers of Fromelles. She was particularly interested because she had in her possession a Dead Man's Penny and we later included a photo of her, our guest speaker and the Penny on our website. Elizabeth kindly wrote to alert me to my error in the attached description and gave me some links to follow up for further reading. She has also generously responded to my request and written about her investigation of the Dead Man's Penny and you can read it elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have also had contact over the last few months with Ben Dooley from Carey Baptist Grammar School concerning a leather bound photograph album from 1884. In our next newsletter I will tell you how after some research the beautifully decorated album given to a student at Grace Park House Ladies College was finally reunited with a family member.

The greater flexibility and capacity of our new website means that we can now regularly offer new articles and disseminate items of interest such as attempts to protect old homes from development or the upcoming 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Auburn State School. So please if you haven't looked recently please take another look at your website at [www.hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au)

I have nearly completed a powerpoint presentation – How has Hawthorn Changed? It is planned to also have available a teacher resource pack to support it. It is hoped that teachers will find this suitable for primary school students studying their local history.

I also recently attended a Day seminar for local history societies organized by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. – *Opportunities in Information Technology for Historical Societies- How to Build and Maintain your Membership*. Whilst each society is unique in its organisation and resources it certainly generated much food for thought as to how we can engage with people of all ages and interests whether they live locally or not.

### RECENT RESEARCH QUERIES

- History of 20 Auburn Grove
- Demolition of 121 Riversdale Road
- Warner's Nursery in Burwood Road in 1913.
- Henry Nelson Bride – Hawthorn Municipal Surveyor 1863
- Edward Eugene Cooper and Wattle Road.

- Beattie Tully
- Whereabouts of artist Paul Fitzgerald born 1922
- 12<sup>th</sup> Hawthorn Scout group

Many of you have photos or family histories and other information about Hawthorn so please help us preserve Hawthorn's history for future generations. Please email us at [hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.au](mailto:hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.au) or phone me at 98897498

Elizabeth Love

## Gallipoli and Beyond 100th Commemorative Events

### Do you have any artefacts, diaries or photographs from the WWI era?

On 25 April 2015, Australia and New Zealand will commemorate the centenary of the ANZAC landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. Gallipoli has special significance to many Australians. For the families of those men and women who served at Gallipoli, and in the many other battles and campaigns of WWI, the 2015 commemorations are particularly poignant.

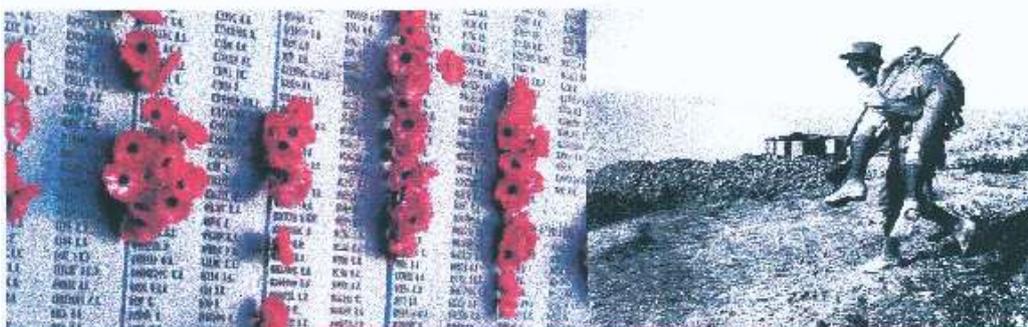
**We are seeking stories, diaries, photographs or copies of memorabilia from our residents to potentially be incorporated into a publication to honour the legacy and record the stories of WWI ANZACs from the Boroondara area.**

If you, or someone you know, has items that could be included as part of this publication, or for further enquires please contact:

**Jennifer Gazeas, Arts and Cultural Services.**

**Phone 9278 4770**

**Email [gallipoli@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:gallipoli@boroondara.vic.gov.au)**



## Upcoming Events

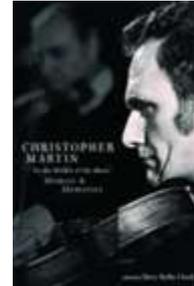
### 2014 - 40th anniversary of the Hawthorn Historical Society

#### Christopher Martin - Hawthorn Musician

19 July 2014 at 2.30pm

Hawthorn Community Precinct meeting rooms 3 and 4

Mary Ryllis Clark, editor of the Christopher Martin "in the middle of music: memoir and memories", will speak of Christopher Martin a prominent Hawthorn musician.



#### Don Store and Glenferrie Road History Walk

17 August 2014 at 2.00pm

Beginning at the Don Department Store on Glenferrie Road (near the station), join us on a stroll along Glenferrie Road to learn about the historic buildings and events that took place in this area.



These events are not to be missed so we are looking forward to having you and your friends join us



Join Hawthorn Historical Society to assist with local history projects, research or to share information about Hawthorn.

**Where:** Local History room at Hawthorn Library

**When:** 1st Thursday of every month from February to November 2014

**From:** 2.00 - 3.00 pm

#### *Did you know.....*

We keep the latest newsletters from other societies in a box in the Local History Room at Hawthorn Library.

They are not for loan, but can be read and photocopied at the Library.

**AuthorTalk**

Meet  
**Dr Janis Sheldrick**

**Thursday 7 August, 2pm,  
Hawthorn Library**



*Nature's Line* tells the story of George Goyder, the first colonial explorer to witness the flooding of the inland and the first to recognise—decades ahead of his contemporaries—that Australia's climate is dominated by often dramatic extremes of rainfall variability. Surveyor General of South Australia (1861-1894), he drew a line for which he is still remembered—'Goyder's Line'. He was a major figure in the shaping of South Australia and the founder of Darwin.

Dr Janis Sheldrick is an independent scholar and librarian at the City of Boroondara Library Service.

A free event but bookings are essential.

Bookings:  
[boroondaralibraryevents.eventbrite.com.au](http://boroondaralibraryevents.eventbrite.com.au)

Phone: 9278 4666

Hawthorn Community Precinct  
Meeting room 1  
Hawthorn Library  
584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn



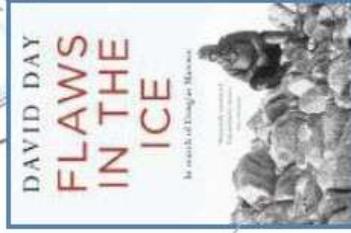
*dream reflect imagine*

**AuthorTalk**

Meet  
**David Day**

**Wednesday 18 June, 7pm  
Hawthorn Library**

*In Flaws in the Ice*, prize-winning historian David Day searches for the real Douglas Mawson. Only recently have alternatives to Mawson's own account of the ill-fated Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14 become publicly available. In this compelling and revealing new book, David Day draws upon all this new evidence, his own vast research, and on his experience of sailing to the Antarctic coastline where Mawson's reputation was first created.



*dream reflect imagine*

**Readings 2017** - Readings will attend this event with a selection of the author's books available for purchase.

Meeting Rooms 3 & 4  
Hawthorn Community Precinct  
Hawthorn Library  
584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

A free event but bookings are essential.

Bookings:

[boroondaralibraryevents.eventbrite.com.au](http://boroondaralibraryevents.eventbrite.com.au)

Phone: 9278 4666

