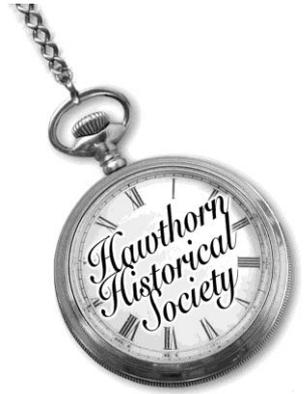


Hawthorn Historical Society



Newsletter • May 2015



Ken Bethell with his granddaughter Lisa Gerstman in front of Talana, corner Auburn Road & Harcourt Street.

Photo: George Fernando

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Hawthorn Historical Society

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

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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), \$17

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

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

Well, the year certainly started with a bang. No sooner had we started our twice monthly sessions in the Local History Room at the Hawthorn Library than the Glenferrie Road Festival was upon us followed the next weekend by a spectacular walk along Harcourt Street with Ken Bethell as our guide. It has been a wonderful couple of months engaging with people, both members and non-members. And hopefully some soon to be members. We are also meeting folk from far and wide via Facebook, connecting with local history groups through this medium and following their activities with interest.

We had great interest at the Glenferrie Road Festival and my thanks go to a very hard working committee who fetched and carried and chatted to people all day long. It was full on. And we are indebted to Ken Bethell who brought a wealth of knowledge and charm to our Harcourt Street walk.

Congratulations to the Gallipoli and Beyond Committee for a fine programme commemorating the centenary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli. I'm sure many of you would have taken the opportunity to attend at least one of the events. The Kew Historical Society's Exhibition "*J.E Barnes: Kew's Embarkation Photographer*" continues until 29th August at the Kew Court House (180 High Street, Kew).

The Local History Room sessions in the Hawthorn Library have proved popular both for researchers and for a point of contact for members. The Boroondara Library holds a collection of maps, local history resources including Rates Books and Postal Directories on microfiche there. For those of you who are unsure where this is located, you will need to head to the very rear of the Hawthorn Library building. You'll find some very helpful resources. We will be there every 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 11am to 1pm. Do pop in and share what you are working on or assist with some of the projects we have at hand. We have a strong desire to build on the legacy our past members have left us.

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

Ian Hammet
Oriel Flewell-Smith
Tony Place
Brian Marshall
Richard Stawell & Alison Stawell
David Goldsworthy
Tim Waters
Helen Carlson
Margaret Taverner

And we would like to get to know our new members better. To that end, old and new members are invited to gather at the historic Glenferrie hotel on Sunday 14th June from 4pm to 6pm. We do hope as many as possible can join us.

Elizabeth Yewers
President

Recent Events

Glenferrie Road Festival

Each year families flock to Glenferrie Road to join in the activities for the Glenferrie Road Festival. This year the weather was kind to us so there was plenty of action in and around our marquee. Many local residents and their families as well as Hawthorn 'returnees' made a visit, and there was plenty to interest them. Have you ever wondered WHO LIVED IN MY HOUSE? Well this activity proved very popular - those who came to visit were able to check out the people who had previously occupied their Hawthorn house. We also had a terrific display of old heritage photographs of Hawthorn, an 'I Spy' activity for the kids and there was an opportunity to browse and purchase our new Hawthorn Village Walk and other publications. A number of new members signed up, and hearing about our coming events joined us on the Harcourt Street walk a week later.

Beswicke - Harcourt St Walk

This was a wonderful event held at the end of March.

Architect John Beswicke, from 1880s to early 1900, designed many of the houses in this prestigious street and we were fortunate to have his grandson, Ken Bethell, a retired architect, as our tour guide. This street could arguably be called Hawthorn's finest residential address.



L to R Adele Fernando (Camberwell HS), Margaret Taverner, Lisa Gerstman, Ken Bethell & Elizabeth Love at the Harcourt street Walk
Image: George Fernando (CHS) 2015

Members and friends certainly enjoyed an interesting and well-informed talk, as well as the opportunity to see inside two of the magnificent but decidedly different houses designed by Beswicke. The owners of *Talana* (No 1) and *Katoomba* (31) graciously invited us in to their homes and we were able to see first hand the many beautifully preserved architectural features, elaborate plasterwork, panelling, stained glass and brick work and also marvel at the garden and modern renovation at the rear of these beautiful houses. We concluded with a delicious afternoon tea and conversation at Robert and Elizabeth Yewers' home in nearby Lyndhurst Crescent.

E. Love

40th Anniversary Hawthorn Real Estate Project

Have you ever driven down a local street and noticed a renovation or a new building being constructed and then felt somewhat annoyed that you can't quite visualize what was there before? Have you researched your old address or the house where your parents or grandparent used to live, only to find it no longer exists and there appear to be no photo records of the house or the street? We know that development in some areas seems inevitable but as streetscapes change and houses are lost we can lose touch with our history, our knowledge of the places, the people and the lives that came before.

As the Society celebrated 40 years in 2014, I decided to initiate a project to collect photographs of buildings and record details of properties offered for sale in Hawthorn and Hawthorn East during that year. We have been able to acquire advertising brochures and images, create a catalogue of properties alphabetically indexed by street, and enter descriptions and sale results where available, on a data sheet. So far we have collected photographs and data on almost 60% of the 454 houses sold within Hawthorn and Hawthorn East during 2014, and data on more than 20% of flats and units.

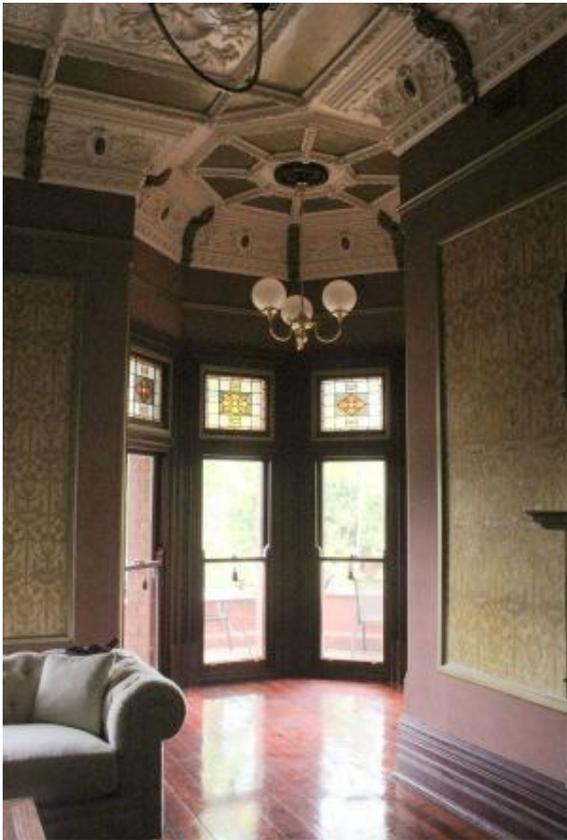
Not surprisingly, the turnover of the numerous flats built twenty - thirty years ago on the main thoroughfares of Burwood, Glenferrie and Riversdale roads continues. However, now there is a significant increase in the construction of infill developments, consisting of 1-2 bedroom apartments, near the railway lines, in streets behind Burwood and Camberwell roads and near Swinburne University of Technology. Developers are increasingly looking to maximize the height and number of apartments per development along growth corridors whilst at the same time perhaps appealing to the vanity of potential buyers by giving the development a fancy name. Purchasers won't be living just at *34/56 Smith Street*, for example, but at *Aerial, Atria, Maybloom, Riva, Hawthorn Hill, or Solstice*. It reminds me of earlier days in Hawthorn before street numbering was consistent when

residents gave their houses names such as – *Riversdale, Katoomba, Oxford* and *Windermere*, in some cases creating an impression of middle class respectability even when the house was a modest four roomed cottage.

I've watched the *St Joseph Mews* redevelopment begin on the corner of Denham and Power streets with some interest and concern. This



area is within the boundaries of the original Hawthorn Village and was allocated to the Catholic Church for a school and Church in the 1850s. Catholic Homes now plan to retain the small historic 19th Century brick church and school as an integral part of the landscaping and plan for construction of their luxury retirement living apartments. I'm told buyers have been quick to buy "off the plan" but as the building is yet to commence the little church at present looks rather forlorn and marooned.



A number of prestigious properties have changed hands in 2014, some after a considerable time on the market. *Talana*, No. 1 Harcourt street, was designed by John Beswicke in 1900 for his family. However his wife preferred to continue to live at Rotha at (29 Harcourt st) and so the property was sold to Mr. C. Jones and his family. *Talana* is one of Hawthorn's most magnificent homes, and it sold at the end of 2014 for a reported \$10,799,000. At our recent Beswicke Harcourt Street walk, we were delighted to be invited in to view the house and garden by the new owner. It was a rare treat.

Hawthorn residents are indeed fortunate to live within such easy reach of shops, schools, parks and transport and to have on offer such a diversity of accommodation. The desirability of the renovated smaller cottages and "villas" originally built from the 1880s to 1910s remains constant and plenty of these charming houses fetched good prices. Of course most

of these original cottages, which housed families with multiple children, have over the years been extended either 'out' or 'up' to accommodate the modern families with fewer children. It is interesting to note that a property report featured in *The Argus* on September 19th 1904, stated that local real estate agent, Mr. H. Thomas Chenoweth had sold a three-roomed Single Fronted weatherboard cottage in Edward St for £130. Last year, Kay and Burton sold a 6 roomed SF weatherboard for \$1,132,000. Chenoweth also sold a five roomed brick cottage in Haines Street for £250 whilst last year Jellis Craig achieved a price of \$1,440,00 for a 6 roomed brick cottage in the same street.

I believe by undertaking this project we have captured a glimpse of what Hawthorn streets looked like in 2014 and how people lived; information which will now be available for future generations. However it is not too late to contribute. If you have any brochures of houses sold in 2014 please pass them along to us to add to our collection.

E. Love

Thanks to George Fernando for the images in this article

Forthcoming Events

Celebrating our ANZACs

Saturday May 23rd 2pm

St Columbs Church, St Columbs Street, Hawthorn

This is a joint event with St Columbs Anglican Church and the Hawthorn Historical Society. This has been a two year project researching those who enlisted from this parish in World War 1. Take the opportunity to view this beautiful church while listening to some of the stories of those who served.

New Members Welcome Drinks

Sunday June 14th 4pm – 6pm

Glenferrie Hotel, Burwood Road, Hawthorn

We want to welcome some new members and welcome back some whom we thought had forgotten about us. All members and friends are welcome.

The Fabulous Miss Phryne Fisher

Tuesday June 16th 11am

Ripponlea, 192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick

Ripponlea House and Gardens has a major new exhibition featuring costumes designed by Marion Boyce for the exotic Miss Fisher's new series of Murder Mysteries. Join our visit to this beautiful costume exhibition. You may like to join us for a light lunch in the cafe afterwards. Meet at the gate at 11 a.m. Cost: \$20, Concession \$18. Please ring Lindy (ph: 9419 9808) to express your interest and indicate if you need help with transport.

Hawthorn in 1910 – Speaker Albert Isaacs

Sunday July 19th 2.30pm

Hawthorn Community Precinct, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

Drawing on the writings of Colles and Dew in 1910, Albert Isaacs will share insights about our local area and how life might have been lived here 105 years ago. Albert was the first editor of the Hawthorn Historical Society Newsletter and has wide experience in speaking about local matters of historical interest.

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

Saturday 24th 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.

Local History Room

2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month 11am to 1pm

Hawthorn Library, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

We will meet in the Local History Room of the library on the second and fourth Wednesday in each month from 11am to 1pm, from March to November. Members will be available to offer you or other members of the public, help with any local history project or family history research. It is an opportunity to become familiar with the collection and meet with fellow minded history lovers. All welcome.

Website update

WEBSITE and FACEBOOK MUSINGS

ADDITIONS There are many interesting articles from previous HHS newsletters spanning more than 40 years. Unfortunately they have until now remained hidden in the filing cabinet. So we have been active in photocopying and scanning many of these articles so that they can be read and enjoyed again or used to assist people's research. Some of these will be added to the Resource Section/Downloads on our website for everyone to read. The Members Only section of the website is however unfortunately still a work in progress, but time permitting we hope to have many of these articles available on this site shortly.



If anyone has IT and Website skills that would benefit the Historical Society we look forward to your involvement.

FACEBOOK has proven to be a great success. With some of our posts we have been able to reach over 200 people who otherwise would not have known about us. We can engage with people who may no longer live within our boundaries but still retain an interest in Hawthorn and are willing to share photographs and their recollections.

RESEARCH QUERIES

We are dealing with more research questions each month, some of which can be dealt with relatively quickly by directing the person to the relevant resources but others take considerable time, effort and dialogue with a number of parties over several weeks. These include :

- request for material re Auburn South State School for their 90th Anniversary
- Loughtaine – sewerage plans, information and photographs of this building which was once a private home and then part of Swinburne Technical College. If you would like to follow the unfolding of this interesting project by Susie Zada look at her blog <http://justlovehistory.com/2015/04/03/major-challenge-r-u-up-2-it/>
- Information about William and Henry streets Hawthorn prior to redevelopment.
- Thomas Corneill, policeman living in Hill Street in 1856
- Glenferrie Theatre
- Hawthorn Toll bridge
- Precinct 24

RECENT HISTORICAL ACQUISITIONS

We are grateful to have received a number of items, which enrich our understanding of our Hawthorn history. These items will be of interest to our members and others in the broader community, and can now be shared and preserved for future generations. These include

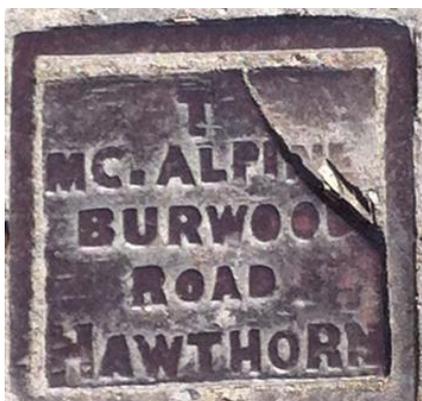
- material related to the foundation of the Hawthorn Pre-school Association and the management of West Hawthorn Pre-school,
- a letter from Hawthorn Council to Sister H. Murnane (Child Health Centre Sister),

- slides of the Hawthorn Railway bridge over a number of years (Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre)
- Auburn South State School class photographs.
- City of Hawthorn 1860-1960 Centenary Dinner Programme, Agenda for 100th Anniversary Special Meeting of Hawthorn Council, and Notice paper and Minutes of Special Meeting of the Hawthorn Council Centenary. (M. Dorum)
- Immaculate Conception Anniversary Booklet, 1869-1969 (M. Dorum)
- Disc of photographs from our Harcourt Street Heritage Walk (George Fernando)
- numerous newspaper cuttings
- John Suriano Hawthorn photographs from 1980s. (G. McWilliam)

If you have other memorabilia or know of suitable material please contact us at hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Hawthorn Plumbers

I'm sure that when you walk down the street, you walk with a straight back, with eyes ahead in a dignified manner. On the other hand it seems I walk with my eyes to the pavement. It's very good for finding stray coins; I'm good at that. It has also lead me to find these interesting little covers outside shops on the main roads. Presumably they covered the water mains connection to these premises.



It's a bold statement to have these covers forged. Was this a form of advertising, or motivated by a sense of pride? Maybe it stopped the shop owners from taking their custom elsewhere.

There were Master Plumbers Associations in Australia by the mid 1880's, but if you were looking for a plumber in the 1865 directories you would need to look under "**Painters, Plumbers, Glaziers & Paperhangers**". By 1870 they had joined the ranks of "**Gasfitters, Plumbers & Finishers**". By 1897 one could have the reassurance of knowing that, of the plumbers listed in the directory, "*those to whom working plumbers' licenses have been granted by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works are marked*" with an asterisk.

In 1875 there were five '*Gasfitters, Plumbers or Finishers*' listed in Hawthorn. **John Brown, Gasfitter**, in Auburn Road is listed through from 1875 into the 1880's. Charles Brown at the west end of Burwood Road, is joined by **George Durbridge** in the 1880's until **Marshall & Schmitt** take over their premises while Durbridge crosses the road to premises in Evansdale road.

In 1884 there were still only four plumbers listed but the laying of the railway line through from Hawthorn to Glenferrie and beyond to Lilydale in 1882 saw an expansion in the suburb so that by 1892 there were a dozen or more listed. The latter part of the 19th century saw the introduction of flush toilets, and the transition in the early 20th century through from gas lighting to electrification. By 1905 **Hood & Pirrie, Plumbers**, tout themselves as "*gasfitters, & electricians; sanitary ware stocked; estimates given*".

John William Charlton appears in the directories in 1896. His residence and business premises were listed as 99, then 177 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn. These are all the same premises, and now known as 700 Glenferrie Road, in the Burstall's Building (between Wakefield & Park streets), built in 1889. Mr Charlton & his wife lived here until 1920, then at 48 Haines street. After his wife's death in 1929, it seems that Mr Charlton lived with friends at 41 Mary Street, Hawthorn until his death in 1940 at the age of 83.



Mr Charlton made the pages of the Camberwell & Hawthorn Advertiser in October 1917 when it was reported that *"The heavy rain which fell incessantly for two hours in Hawthorn on Thursday, October. 4, was responsible for a great deal of damage to property, especially in the low-lying parts of Glenferrie road, between the station and Liddiard street. The premises of Mr. W. J. Charlton and the properties adjoining were swept by the flood, and shopkeepers spent a busy hour subsequently in repairing damages."* One hopes that a plumber would have handled the situation with equanimity.



Although his shop in 1910 announces "established 1881", **Robert Marshall** doesn't appear in the Hawthorn directories until 1884 in the partnership of **Marshall & Schmitt** in Burwood Road, near Elgin Street. By 1892 the business is simply **Robert Marshall** and by 1896 he is covering all bases with **MARSHALL, R., licensed plumber, gasfitter, locksmith, and bell hanger**. The new premises are listed as 457 (now 629) Burwood road, on the north side just up from Auburn road. It is now a pizza shop.

Robert and his wife Melinda had two sons, James and Robert, and two daughters, Melinda and Agnes. By 1912 the business was listed as **Marshall R. & Son**.

Robert Snr died in December 1927 at the age of 77. Through the 1930's and 40's the business was trading as **J. Marshall, plumber**, presumably James.

I have located covers for other Hawthorn plumbers including **Walter Edwin Norman** and **J. Barker** as well as **Garnoch & Le Couilliard**, Jackson street, St Kilda, **F.W. Franklin**, East Malvern and **C.H. Curtis**, Carlton and, of-course the **MMBW**.



If you see any of these, especially Hawthorn or Auburn plumbers, I'd love to know. Let's add them to the collection.

Elizabeth Yewers



Robert Marshall, photographed outside his shop in Burwood Road, Auburn in 1910. The shop is decked out to celebrate the Jubilee of the City of Hawthorn.

It is on the north side of Burwood Road, just east of Auburn Road, now a pizza shop.

Photo courtesy Boroondara Library Service

New Publication

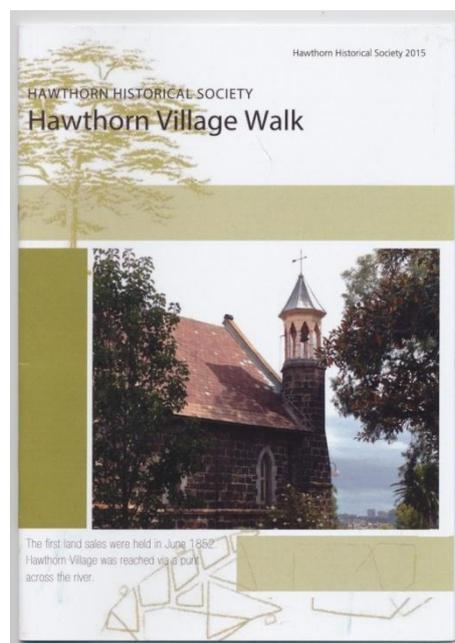
Hawthorn Village Walk

This new publication is based on the original Village Walk written by historian Gwen McWilliam some 20 years ago.

The changes in Hawthorn streets since then have created a need to update the walk to reflect current interest, to give a broader perspective of the history of the area and to focus on what remains of our heritage in this area.

With Gwen's assistance, Elizabeth Love, who has an interest in the area around Hill, Denham and Lennox Streets, has rewritten the Hawthorn Village Walk. Copies are available at the Hawthorn Library.

Cost \$7.50



The fabulous Miss Phyrne Fisher



Rippon Lea House and Gardens has a major new exhibition featuring costumes designed by Marion Boyce for the exotic Miss Fisher's new series of Murder Mysteries.

Join the Hawthorn Historical Society's visit to this beautiful costume exhibition. Some of you may like to continue with us, for a light lunch afterwards, in the café.

Tuesday 16th June, 2015.
Meet at the gate at 11.00am.
192 Hotham St, Elsternwick.
Cost \$20, Concession \$18

Please ring Lindy (ph: 94199808) to express your interest and indicate if you need help with transport.

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