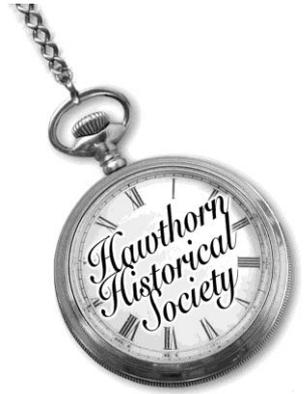


# Hawthorn Historical Society



## *Newsletter* • October 2014



The old Hawthorn Town Hall, which stood on the site of the site of the present building from 1861 – 1888. The foundation stone was laid on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1861.

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# Hawthorn Historical Society

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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*

Gwen McWilliam, \$5

**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.

A booklet for each of the 18 walks is available from Hawthorn Library for \$5.00 each.

## Anniversary Reflection

**Welcome** to this edition of the Hawthorn Historical Society Newsletter. The first Hawthorn Historical Society Newsletter was published in September 1974 before the days of desk top publishing. It had a sketch of the old Hawthorn Town Hall from the image on the cover of this edition.

Your membership would have cost you \$3 or \$1.50 concession (Mind you, postage was 10cents). By the time the newsletter was published, sixty-three members were listed plus their families and four special interest groups had been formed: Photography, Survey of Streets and Buildings, Documents, and Oral History. The committee was formed of the following members: Mr. Frederick Howard (President), Mr. Weston Bate (Vice-President), Mr. Alan Barclay (Secretary), Mrs. M Dorum (Assistant Secretary), Col. A.M. Stoyles (Treasurer), Mr. Albert Isaacs (Publicity Officer) and General Committee Members, Mrs. J Boland, Mrs. Y Gardiner, Mrs. K McCarthy, Mrs. Gwen McWilliam and Mrs. Merle Meyer.

We owe a vote of thanks to these members and their committee for their enthusiasm and vision, for the depth of their research, for the way they equipped members to observe, to gather and collate information and to be excited by the history that is around them. They have left us a legacy in their knowledge and in the collection now left in the custody of the Local History section at the Hawthorn branch of the Boroondara Library Service.

## Article - Stratherne

### **Stratherne** by Elizabeth Love

#### **The Beginnings**

Stratherne School started as a private kindergarten in the home of Miss Ethel Dare at 45 Riversdale Road Hawthorn in 1889. A few years later Miss Annie Dare left her position at Methodist Ladies College to start Stratherne Secondary College. With increasing enrolments the school relocated to the corner of Lisson Grove and Glenferrie Road. As the school continued to grow, the boarders needed to be housed off site. In 1922 Mr John Hunter Patterson offered his fine house, *Boonoke* and its garden on Power Street to the Presbyterian Church for use as a girls school. Although still a private school, it was arranged that Stratherne would transfer to this site in January 1923. This began a significant and lasting association with the Presbyterian Church, which continued as the school finally changed its name to Stratherne Presbyterian Girls Grammar School.

John Patterson had built *Boonoke* in 1890 on land, which was originally part of the Manningtree Estate next door. It was a two-storey red and cream brick building with wide balconies, situated on the east side of Power Street, but facing west toward the city. It was not far from the tram and Hawthorn train station and only a short distance from the Burwood Road corner. Val Henry attended Stratherne from 1922 to 1933.

#### **The Henry Family**

The Henry family along with their six children had migrated to Victoria in 1872 from Ireland and lived initially in Kent Street Richmond. However in 1890 the family purchased a house at 10 Hawthorn Grove, which they called *The Lee - An Laoi* after the river that flowed past their house in Cork.

Valerie Henry (now Ling) was born at a private nursing home in Glenferrie Road in 1917 and was the only child of James William Henry and his wife Amy. Valerie has had the good fortune to live all her life in Hawthorn and in the same family home - a house bought by her father in Kinkora Road in 1918. Her father James Henry was at one time chief accountant for the Public Works Department and Val also remembers

that he was active as treasurer for a number of charities. She particularly remembers his involvement in fundraising for a motor ambulance for the Red Cross during World War 1 and her own attendance at the presentation of a new operating theatre for the Children's Hospital. James and Amy were Presbyterians and founding members of the West Hawthorn Presbyterian Church in Power Street. This is where Valerie's parents were married. It is also where Val and husband Bill Ling were married, when Bill was able to get a brief period of wartime leave in November 1942. A continuing involvement with this church has been an enduring feature of Val's adult life.

## School Days

It's been a long time since her school days at Stratherne but despite the significant passage of time, the sprightly nonagenarian has wonderful memories of her life in Hawthorn and during the war years, but thankfully also very clear recollections of her school days.

Val started at Stratherne as a five-year-old. Her parents considered their only child to be rather shy, so when it came to schooling, the small Stratherne Ladies College in Power Street with only about 180 students was thought to be a nurturing and supportive environment for her. Val certainly thrived at the school. She received a sound all-round education and made lasting friendships. She was selected to be one of four school prefects in her final school year.



Stratherne Kindergarten Students

Val Henry is standing at the left of the back row

The joint principals of Stratherne were at this time, Miss Beth Thomson and her sister Miss Jessie Thomson. Another sister Miss Margaret Thomson was the matron in charge of the boarding school. The Misses Thomson were much loved and held their positions at the school for 24 years. Both the principals had attended Stratherne, one as a student when it was located on Glenferrie Road and the other also trained under Miss Dare, when Stratherne was registered as a Training School for Secondary Teachers.

Val remembers a number of her teachers fondly, in particular Miss Barton, Miss Jessie Thomson and her history teacher Miss Nora Horsman. Miss Horsman's sister, a Miss Cathleen Horsman also took the Math class. Val studied subjects such as History, English, Geometry and Algebra, and Scripture but her favourite

subject by far was Geography. Throughout her school years she loved this subject and remembers colouring in a picture of Table Mountain, South Africa in one of her early geography books. It was a further 60 years before she travelled to South Africa with her family and was thrilled when opening the hotel curtains to see the same view of Table Mountain.

In the 1920s boys were accepted into the kindergarten. Then female students graduated to the junior classes. These were held in the "Open Air Room", a building separate from the school. It had three solid walls and the fourth of wire mesh which was open to the elements. Val remembers that each of the two winters she spent in these classrooms she suffered from persistent colds.

In addition to the classrooms in the main building another two-storey classroom block was built in 1924 and the house became accommodation for the boarders, teacher's study, and with rooms allocated on the ground floor for the kindergarten classes. The boarders ate meals in the dining room downstairs and when her mother was ill for an extended period during one term, Val joined the boarders for a hot lunch. However the food was obviously not as good as the cooking at home and she was not in any hurry to do it again. Older students were allowed to leave the school at lunchtimes and walk a short distance west to Crellin's pastry shop in Burwood Road to buy a pie if they wished. Prefects were rostered to be on duty at the school gates to watch the comings and goings. Generally however, students brought their lunches, mainly sandwiches and fruit, from home each day. The tuck shop during Val's time at the school was underneath the building perhaps in the cellar and like students over many generations she recalls purchasing her lollies there at lunchtime.

Students took their lunchbreak outside and were only allowed to stay inside if it was raining. There was more open space at that time and the garden was very pleasant with fruit trees and a lovely old oak tree at the bottom of the garden behind the basketball court. Students were expected to be hardy and enjoy the open air. This certainly corresponds with Val's recollections that the whole of the school was 'really freezing in winter'. The boarders slept on the two sides of the open second floor veranda, screened from the elements and prying eyes by external blinds. There was limited heating from a fireplace in the study and maybe one other elsewhere in the building, so conditions in winter must have been quite spartan.



Val still has a number of photographs and memorabilia from her school days and her 80-year-old school blazer is still in remarkable condition. This despite a few tiny holes created by hungry moths. Val's winter uniform was a black serge pleated tunic worn with a white blouse, school tie and hat. In summer she wore a belted navy silk tunic dress with a white collar and school blazer. Like many of her fellow students she wore her hair long but kept it neat and tidy in plaits until she decided to have them cut off before she left school.

A Parents Association was formed in 1928 and, largely as a result of their fund raising and the support of past students a new library building was erected and furnished in 1931. It was a great asset to the school and many girls enjoyed reading whilst sitting in the comfortable window seats during their "spares".

Val would walk to and from school *up and down the Power Street Hill*, as she called it, at first with her mother and then by herself. The traffic was much less in those days and she says she felt quite secure. However, as a secondary student, in the afternoons she would usually walk home with her best friend Athalie to her nearby family home at 39 Morang Road. Before night fell she would hop on the train at Hawthorn Station and catch the Kew train up to Barkers Station. It was just a quick walk through the park to Hawthorn Grove where her aunts still lived and then a short cut through the gate in the back fence to her own home behind in Kinkora Road. This Kew train line ceased operation in 1952 and is now a restful linear park that curves northwards through the Grace Park Estate.

The school day started at 9.00 am with the students lining up in the courtyard at the back of the basketball court and then marching in to the school assembly hall. During assembly the principals sat at the front and Val as one of the school prefects was positioned at the side. After the completion of assembly the school desks and benches needed to be rearranged to be ready for classroom activities. A discussion with Val about the meaning of the school motto *Moribus Litteresque - for character and culture* - prompted a spontaneous recitation of the chorus of the school song.

*...Think of our past  
Hold our motto fast  
It is for character and culture.*

Students were allocated to one of three school Houses – Dare, Davidson and Patterson. Dare was named after the first principals of the school Miss Annie and Ethel Dare. Davidson was named after Rev. A. Irving Davidson, minister of the Presbyterian Church in Glenferrie Road where the boarders attended on Sundays and also at one time President of the School Council; and Patterson, was named in recognition of the school's benefactor, John Hunter Patterson, who had donated funds and the school building and grounds to the Presbyterian Church in 1923.

Stratherne competed regularly in interschool sports as part of the Association of Private Schools. Val was in Dare house and received her house colours for tennis and played for the School Team against other girl's schools such as Fintona and St Catherine's. When girls from Morongo Presbyterian Girls Grammar came up from Geelong to play sport, they had to stay overnight and had their meals with the boarders. The school was fortunate to have its own tennis court but thanks to the generosity of Mr. Percival Beenie and his wife Irene, who lived with their family in *Manningtree*, behind the school, the girls had regular access to the Beenie's tennis court as well. Their daughter Margaret Beenie also attended the school and was elected Head Prefect in 1937. An excellent tennis player she also played in the Stratherne tennis team for many years.

This photograph shows the 1933 Stratherne School Tennis Team with members from the left:  
Molly Billis (Head Prefect in 1935), Margaret Beenie (Head Prefect 1937), \_\_\_\_\_,  
Betty Leonard, Helen Beale (Head Perfect 1933) ,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
Valerie Henry, \_\_\_\_\_, Dorothy Lewis.



Physical activity continued to be a major interest even after leaving school and Val learned to play golf. She also enjoyed many years of playing tennis both socially and in competition. At school Val was also in the Dare house basketball team, but laughingly says she should not really have had this honour, as she was "not nearly good enough". The Stratherne school sports were held each year at the Glenferrie Football Ground with student spectators and family watching from the stands.

Val's best and closest friend at school was Athalie Towns. Her other special friends were Betty Leonard and Helen Beale but they all called her by the nickname *Hen* (short for Henry). The girls were actively involved with all school activities and in their later years at the school, enjoyed the dances held every Friday night in the Assembly Hall when boys from local schools such as Scotch College would also be in attendance.



Photograph of Stratherne prefects in 1933 in the garden from left, Helen Beale, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and Val Henry

The Misses Thomson retired at the end of 1938. Miss E Macfie, who had returned to Melbourne from Rhodesia, where she was one of the founders of an English style boy's school, was appointed as the new headmistress in 1939. This was the same year as the school's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Four main events were advertised. The first was a garden party held in the school grounds on Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>. The previous principals, Misses Dare and Thomson were all guests of honour and a large group of dignitaries and past students attended. The following day a Jubilee Thanksgiving Service was held and the next evening, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Annual AGM and Dinner was held at the Palace Hotel. The celebrations culminated at the end of year with the Golden Jubilee Speech Night on Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at the Hawthorn Town

Hall. At the time Valerie was honorary treasurer of the Old Strathernians Association and her schoolmates Margaret Beenie and Athalie Towns were also on the committee.

### The War Years – Joan Klatte

Joan Trumble (nee Klatte) attended Stratherne for her secondary education during the Second World War from 1940-1945. Joan, who was born on October 6<sup>th</sup> 1929, was the only child of Dorothy and Richard Klatte. The family lived at first in Richmond where Joan had happily attended a small Catholic School. However by 1937 they had moved to Powlett Street, East Melbourne, where Richard was the manager of a block of flats. It was a huge relief to Joan when she and her mother attended an interview with Miss Elizabeth Macfie, Headmistress of Stratherne, and she was accepted as a pupil. She was delighted by her first impressions of the school, recalling that it was small, quiet and welcoming. Her previous two years attending Hawthorn West School were anything but pleasant. It was during the war years and so perhaps the regular teachers were unavailable, but the retired gentleman, who had been required to return to teaching, was no match for his unruly class of 60 children. The girls tried hard not to be the last in their line for school as the boys took delight in tormenting the girls in front by pulling their plaits.

This is a photo of Joan and other girls in Davidson house on Sports Day. Joan is on the left of the photo, the girl with the white tennis shoes, and vividly recalls the moment, having forgotten about sports day, she arrived at school without the required sandshoes. Her father, hoping to rectify the situation, returned to school with shoes but they were the wrong colour. Not only was Joan in trouble from her teachers but also she had to manage her acute embarrassment for the rest of the day. Joan remembers attending the Stratherne School Sports, which were held at that time at nearby Fairview Park, but says she was not very interested in team sports.



She does however look happy in this photo, with several school friends including Joan Eckberg (tall girl at the rear). Two of her particular friends Marg Jupp and Yvonne Reid are also present. Margaret (her head just visible at the back towards the left and Yvonne Reid . Yvonne and her older sister Joyce lived quite close to

the school at 168 Power Street. Their father, Harry Reid, a coppersmith by trade was at one time President of the Parent's Association and also the chairman of selectors for the Hawthorn Football Club.

Joan's interests and talents were firmly within the arts and her parents and teachers actively encouraged these. Not only was she a gifted ballet dancer, but she also embraced, singing, music, drama and art. Joan travelled to St Kilda for her piano lessons outside of school hours but she also took music, art of speech and singing classes within school and sang in the school choir. Her lunch times were filled with extra lessons such as *The Art of Speech* with Miss Kerr, and rehearsals for school plays and chatting with friends. There were about 12 boarders at the time and several were among her friendship group. Joan was always keen to hear about their lives away from school but regrets that, due to her parent's over-protectiveness, she was never allowed to accept invitations to visit these girls at their distant homes and farms.



The school was not large and as the classes progressed the number of girls within each level declined. Joan was one of about six girls in her intermediate level and recalls that there were only two students in the final class. These older girls didn't need a separate classroom and so their teachers worked with them in the lovely library that overlooked the side garden. The Beenie family's support and generosity continued after their daughter left school and Joan remembers that her intermediate class was held in the beautiful ballroom of the adjacent *Manningtree*. The girls approached the ballroom through the doors from the garden and took great care in preserving the dance floor by removing their shoes as they entered.

Joan loved to dance and as well as her ballet lessons she also attended the creative dance classes held at the school by Miss Pirnitzer. A school dance took place each year in the School Assembly hall and the boys from Trinity were welcome attendees. Joan recalls one year a fancy Dress Ball was held.

## Talented teachers

Although small, the intimacy of the school was a great bonus for the girls and they formed strong bonds with their teachers. Joan remembers her teacher's encouragement and enthusiasm for their subjects. The 'wonderful' Mrs Goldsmith, who took the senior classes, lived in a house across the road from the school. Her husband was away at the war and while she taught classes to the older students her own child attended the kindergarten. She was also Joan's teacher for English Literature. Miss Kerr took a few students for special weekly classes called *The Art of Speech*, which included acting performance as well as the reading of Shakespeare and poetry. Together these women nurtured Joan's lifelong love of literature and theatre.

As in earlier years, a trio of talented women teachers led Stratherne, this time they were from the Macfie family. "The firm gentleness of these women" was an inspiration to Joan. Elizabeth Macfie was headmistress, Sheila, a fine musician, was responsible for the music side of the curriculum and Elsie Macfie, the nurse and governess, took the younger children in the kindergarten. The headmistress Miss Elizabeth Macfie was proud and upright in appearance. She was a fine looking women with beautiful curly grey hair and to Joan she epitomised the image of a "real headmistress". However she must also have had a softer side because Joan mentions that Miss Macfie was a wonderful teacher and an excellent artist, who on occasions would bring her preliminary sketches and her painting in its development to the class to share her progress with the girls.



Sheila Macfie was a cellist and pianist. She had performed on the radio and led her own orchestra in the 1920s, performing at many musical events in Melbourne and in support of the Million Shilling Concert, an initiative to raise money for a permanent orchestra in Melbourne. Sheila was also a hands-on teacher, sharing her love of music with the girls. After performing a piece herself on the piano or playing it on the gramophone, she encouraged an in depth appreciation and discussion about the music genre, composition and composer. Joan recalls that it was in one of Sheila Macfie's classes that she first heard the music of Debussy.

A shared love of music and the arts was an important factor in the mutual attraction between Joan and her future husband Robert Trumble. Robert, the son of cricketer Hugh Trumble, had grown up in Hawthorn Grove. After they married he studied music at Melbourne University. Their interests complimented each other wonderfully, as Robert was a talented writer, musician and composer. He went on to achieve his Doctorate of Music and was appointed Concert Manager for the Australian Broadcasting Commission. All Joan's secondary school years were completed against the backdrop of the Second World War and its deprivations and uncertainties. However patriotic support and fundraising for the Australian troops, was very much to the forefront of people's minds. The girls at Stratherne were also encouraged to support the war effort and numerous activities were organized to raise money, including a school fete. Some girls knitted for the troops and Joan used her organisational skills to coordinate the efforts for the Red Cross for Davidson House. During this time, Joan, along with fellow student Alwyn Fisher, found a moving script about war and its impact. Although set in a different historical period, it evoked a powerful response in the audience. Clearly this was an important childhood achievement and Joan told me how, without teacher input, they had rehearsed, directed the production and performed the main roles in this drama in front of the school community.

Joan left school after completing her intermediate year. She recalls that Miss Macfie was not happy about this, but Joan was adamant saying that she wanted to pursue her ballet. She applied to Georges Department Store, was interviewed by Mr George, and received tutelage under Miss Kealy to work in the Georges' shoe department. This paid work allowed her to follow her dream for the next five to six years. In the evenings she studied ballet with Edouard and Xenia Borovansky at the Borovansky Ballet School, which had just opened in Melbourne. This school was the precursor to the Borovansky Ballet and the formation of the Australian Ballet. Joan thoroughly enjoyed her time there but when referring to a possible career in ballet, states pragmatically *I was good ... I had some talent but I started too late.*

Miss Elizabeth Macfie died suddenly in July 1948 at the young age of 53 and Miss Horlock capably succeeded her. A new classroom block was opened in 1952 and the girls sported a new summer uniform adopted in the early sixties. However, due to diminishing enrolments, the school closed in 1969. Rossbourne School has occupied the site since then adding another fine chapter to Hawthorn's educational history. The building, once known as *Boonoke*, has been placed on the Register of the National Estate.

Both Val and Joan's connection with Stratherne continued after they left school. Val's daughter, Sandra attended Stratherne in the 1950s and now Joan's grandson has started this year at Rossbourne School.

### Sources:

The Manningtree Story, by John Rose, 2008

Stratherne Echoes: Golden Jubilee Souvenir 1889-1939

Reminiscences: Val Ling

Interview with Valerie Ling conducted on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Interview with Mrs Joan Trumble conducted on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Images courtesy of Mrs Valerie Ling and Mrs Joan Trumble

The Argus and Australasian newspapers

Don't miss the Hawthorn Historical Society's **tour of Stratherne (Rossbourne School)** on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm . See page 13 for details

## News

- **BOROONDARA LIBRARY SERVICE** - The HHS committee has recently held an extensive review of our long-term and future relationship with the Boroondara Library Service, with the aim to foster better dialogue and collaboration and gain regular and easier access to the local history collection. We remain very grateful for the library's involvement and support over many years. However, a re-evaluation of the roles and responsibilities became increasingly important given the currently unfilled position of head librarian at Hawthorn, changes in staffing and the need for the Historical Society's need to function in a timely and efficient manner. Following this review, some members of the committee had a productive meeting last week, with the Head of Library and Arts for Boroondara Council, Jenny Ruffy and Aileen Carter, now team leader of Boroondara Libraries. Some progress has been made but we intend to develop this dialogue further in 2015 leading to the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Boroondara Library Services and the Hawthorn Historical Society.
- **MOBILE PHONE HISTORY APP** - Coming soon- **the Hawthorn Historical Society Walking History App** for a mobile phone. Created in conjunction with the IT students at Swinburne University of Technology this will be a fantastic resource to unlock the history of Hawthorn. You can take a guided walk or if you are more adventurous attempt one of the mystery walks by following clues. Users can also interact with a Who Am I? or What's near me? activity. It will be suitable for all history lovers, walking groups, local residents or school groups, You will have history at your fingertips.
- **GLENFERRIE ROAD HISTORY TOUR** - The Glenferrie History Walk conducted by Elizabeth Love in September was a great success. Twenty walkers, half members and half paying customers, braved the elements to learn more about the development of the shopping centre, the arrival of the electric tram, the construction of the Town Hall and hear entertaining stories about some of our early characters and their dealings. The walk was repeated for a private group a few weeks later. Both walks generated some funds for the Society and more walks are planned for next year so we ask for your support to promote and advertise these events.
- **AUBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** - The Auburn Primary School 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated at a fete on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The historic infant room, constructed in 1913, with its soaring timber-lined ceiling, was the perfect setting for the fantastic display of school memorabilia and class photos with items covering every decade. It drew a large crowd, including 40 ex-students from around the country who converged to enjoy a weekend of school reunion activities. The dedicated organisers plan to collate the extensive material and publish a book detailing the school's rich history.
- **LES MISERABLES** - The latest exhibition at the State Library of Victoria is a gem. Victor Hugo - Les Miserables From Page to Stage is on til Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition features pages of his 1862 novel, original drawings and watercolours by Hugo, rare scripts, posters and costumes from the production and interactive displays that let you sing, dress up and take centre stage.
- **COMMUNITY GRANT** – we have applied for a local community grant for money to establish a portable data resource storage for our photos and files and also develop a number of history walks, associated booklets, notes and presentations. We hope to hear some good news about this initiative later in the year.

## Website update

### WEBSITE MUSING

Your committee has been extremely active on your behalf during the last six months to bring you an upgraded website with new and easy to use features that hopefully will streamline the Society's organization. We now have access to internet banking and as a result of a project with Swinburne IT students we now have the opportunity to take payments for membership and our publications, as well as take bookings for our events on line through the website. Whilst we will still accept a paper copy of the membership form and cheques, the new website system should allow quicker processing of memberships and less time for the committee.



Through the upgraded website members will also have access via a password to a **members section** of the website and we hope this will encourage potential new members as well as current members to use our growing list of resources on the web. These will include all the history walks, most of our past newsletters, many maps including a number of early Hawthorn subdivision maps, some early postal directories, electoral rolls and WW1 Honour Rolls.

It is certainly going to be an interesting and exciting opportunity next year for the Society. The quality of material available on our website has already been widely complimented. However, we will expand on this material and engage with schools and members of the wider community to learn about our history through technology and alternative media. Our upgraded website will get the ball rolling but next year we will also have a Hawthorn Historical Society face-book page to complement the Hawthorn History Walk App which will soon be available.

We understand that a number of our current members may feel less confident embracing new technologies, and we will still offer our newsletters and the more traditional forums such as walks and talks. However, there is no denying that these new technologies are here to stay and if we are to sustain and indeed increase our membership we must offer these interactions to the broader community.



Join other Hawthorn Historical Society members assisting with local history projects and research

or 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.

## Review of Hawthorn Historical Society Events

### Love Desire and Riches – The Fashion of Weddings Rippon Lea

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

When Nancy Sargood married John (Jack) Graham Antill Pockley on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1915 she wore a gown of silk crepe with tulle, chiffon and Limerick lace and carried a posy of stephanotis, roses and carnations tied with long tulle streamers.

Nancy's gown, shown at "Love, Desire and Riches" at Rippon Lea, and pictured here, was one of many wedding gowns covering different centuries and styles; from the glorious to the quirky and from ordinary folk to the famous and infamous. The exhibition delved into wedding etiquette, ritual and superstition. But the main focus was on the lovely gowns, many with fine hand stitching, intricate beading and rich lace. A gown designed by Valentino for Princess Chantal of Greece, elegant in its simplicity contrasted with those showing extravagant use of tulle and jewelled 'bling'. On the quirky side, you could see the wedding dress worn by 'Charlene' (Kylie Minogue) when she married Jason Donovan in a Neighbours episode in 1987.

It was appropriate that Nancy's wedding dress was shown here as she was the granddaughter of the former owner of Rippon Lea, Frederick Sargood. The couple married near the family home Rippon Grange in Wahroonga, on Sydney's north shore built for Nancy's father Frederick George Sargood in 1898.

Nancy and Jack's marriage was a short one. Jack enlisted in the AIF in July 1915 and was killed in action on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1918. Nancy Pockley was remarried in July 1925 in London to George Ernest Watson.



Our group thoroughly enjoyed this outing; a balmy day, the beautiful gardens at Ripponlea and the splendid buildings set the scene and the lovely displays capped it off. And we enjoyed a friendly lunch in the Rippon Lea cafe afterwards.

If you missed this exhibition at Rippon Lea, you may catch it again at Barwon Park Mansion from 17<sup>th</sup> December to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Contact the National Trust of Australia for details.

## Springtime Street Walk – Lisson Grove

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Committee Member Andrae Talarico started our walk along Lisson Grove by revealing a secret from the days when 'Longfield' homestead occupied the farm land near what is now the corner of Lisson Grove and Power Street. Literally! There on the 1902 MMBW map is "Water Tank – Wooden Cover" and, hidden beneath the Federation house built in 1908 on this site after Longfield's demolition, she revealed the brick surrounds of the actual tank, lovingly cleaned up by Michael Talarico. Archaeology in your own cellar. Marvellous.



Longfield was the home of Henry Sallows Walsh until 1874 when he moved to his new home in Shakespeare Grove. This was on Crown Allotment 47, originally owned with Crown Allotment 48 by Thomas Payne. Walsh was the first chairman of the Boroondara District Road Board in 1856 and Mayor of Melbourne in 1858-59. He became M.L.C. for Central Province in 1869. He was from a family of watchmakers and jewellers but was a keen horticulturalist and produced some prize winning Longfield wines from this property.

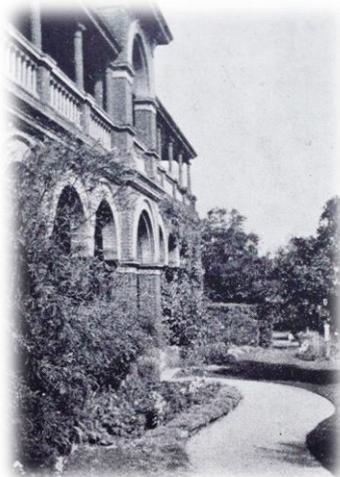


Lisson Grove was first subdivided in 1873, and there are many fine homes built here in the 1870's and 1880's. The blocks are relatively large and deep, allowing generous front garden setbacks, creating a 'garden suburb' setting for these beautiful homes. Much of the west end has fallen to development but the remainder demonstrates the late 19<sup>th</sup> century upper middle class ideal of a spacious villa, large house or even small mansion.

We were fortunate enough to be invited in to see the stables of one of these fine homes, with pulleys to lift the hay to the loft and original stalls, brick paving and steps carved into the timbers to allow access to the loft above.

This was a most enjoyable event; an easy stroll, interesting information engagingly shared and many beautiful houses to look at. Sadly very few members attended. Do let your committee know if you would like more of these activities and if so, when it would be best for them to be held.

## Forthcoming Events



### Rossbourne School Historic Tour 2pm Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Join us for a tour of this lovely building which has retained many of the original features of the home built in 1901 as "Boonoke" for John Hunter Patterson.

**No cost, but we do need to know numbers:**

Call Shirley 9818 2518 or email  
hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

See the article on Stratherne on page 3 for an insight into its history

# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The President, Shirley Ramsay  
and the Committee of the Hawthorn Historical Society  
warmly invite all members of the Society

to celebrate the

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

of the founding of

## The Hawthorn Historical Society

on

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**Guest Speaker: Dr Peter Love**



“The History of the Eastern Suburbs Technical College  
- Swinburne, from Technical College to University”

Venue: Room 3 & 4  
Hawthorn Community Precinct  
584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn 3122

### Programme:

2.30pm Annual General Meeting  
3pm Talk: Dr Peter Love  
4pm Cutting the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake  
Please stay to enjoy our hospitality

RSVP by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014

email:

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

mail: Hawthorn Historical Society,  
c/o Hawthorn Library,

584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn 3122

ph: Elizabeth - 9819 1218

Dr Peter Love is Senior Lecturer in Politics and Public Policy at Swinburne University with an interest in labour, economic and political history. He is the author of “Practical Measures: 100 years at Swinburne”

**HAWTHORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC: NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** to be held on Sunday 7th December 2013, 2.30 pm, in upstairs meeting rooms 3&4 of Hawthorn Community Precinct, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting, 10 November 2013
3. Annual Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Committee
6. Forthcoming Events
7. Guest Speaker: Dr Peter Love - The History of Swinburne  
" From Eastern Suburbs Technical College to University of Technology"
8. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and refreshments

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**Nominations** are called for the 2014/2015 Committee of Hawthorn Historical Society.

For enquiries please 'phone Shirley Ramsay 9818 2518.

Completed nomination forms should be returned by Friday 5 December 2014 to:  
The Secretary, Hawthorn Historical Society, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn 3122

I .....as a financial member of HHS wish to nominate

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr.....for the position of

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Officer
- Committee Member

Signed: (Proposer).....

Signed: (Secunder).....

I, ..... accept this nomination

Signed: ..... Date: .....

## HAWTHORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2014/2015 ARE NOW DUE

#### Hawthorn Historical Society Membership 2014-2015

- I/we wish to join the Hawthorn Historical Society  
 I/we wish to renew my/our membership of the Hawthorn Historical Society

NAME/S:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

Current membership fees :

- Business/Company/Institutions: \$35.00**  
 **Family Membership: \$30.00**  
 **Single: \$20.00**  
 **Couple (concession) \$20.00**  
 **Single (concession) \$15.00**  
 **Donation**

**TOTAL: \$:**

**Areas of Interest** (optional)

*To access the Members Only section of the website you will need to have a user name and password. You can create your own by joining on-line or if you join by mail or email we will send these details to you.*

Enquiries: Treasurer: Pauline Clayton 9818 8585 or 0419 041 411

If you do not wish to continue your membership please indicate here or by 'phone or email to our Treasurer.

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How to Join or Renew:

#### **By Mail/Email**

Complete this form and mail to:

The Treasurer,  
Hawthorn Historical Society Inc.  
584 Glenferrie Road Hawthorn 3122

Or

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

#### **Online**

Go to our website

[www.hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au)

Go to **"How do I Join?"**

and follow the prompts

You can complete the form on line

You can pay your subscription here too

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How to Pay:

#### **By Mail**

Enclose your cheque payable to  
The Hawthorn Historical Society  
with your form

#### **Online**

Go to our website

[www.hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au)

Go to "Members", Choose your subscription

Click "subscribe" To pay with PayPal

By EFTPOS: BSB 033 050 Account: 146 383

*Please ignore this notice if you are already financial until 30 September 2015*