

“BIG WIGS” OF HAWTHORN

Boroondara was on a plan of land near Melbourne in 1837, stretching from the river to a line near the present Warrigal Road. Land across Boroondara was sold slowly from 1843 to 1853, with a first official Village as Hawthorn in 1852, after gold was discovered further east along the Yarra River, and the population increased. A Hawthorne Road District was proclaimed in 1854, but with land on both sides of the river, then request for Landholders and Householders to meet to form a District Road Board, to construct and maintain roads in March 1854.

However the Road District was revoked in the May, and instead, in July 1854 the Boroondara Road District was proclaimed, with another request from landholders for a meeting to form a Board to administer the construction of roads, drains and bridges, as well as make property evaluations and set rates. A meeting was held, but with apparently little result, although the Central Road Board had constructed some local roads and bridges. A first Victorian Legislative Assembly was to be elected – with Boroondara in South Bourke, part in Templestowe and part Oakleigh. Yet another meeting for the Boards was advertised in September 1856, with a first Boroondara District Road Board elected in October 1856. It was comprised of nine city businessmen and farmers who depended on the roads to transport their produce. Tolls paid by travellers through turnpikes, such as the one near the bridge across from Richmond, also added to the Board’s finances.

The Board met on land owned by Michael Lynch near the north-east corner of Burwood Road and Power Street intersection. The Hawthorn area was well represented by Henry Box, Thomas Brooks, Michael Lynch, William Pettet and Henry Walsh (Chairman). Rates were set but in the early years there was considerable controversy about property valuations. Tension grew between various interest groups because of differing priorities.

The names of Municipal bodies – Committees, Councils, Boards – changed over the years, also that of the chief officer or head elected – as president, chairman, then mayor. However Hawthorn has generally been well served by its ‘bigwigs’.

Chairmen of Hawthorn Municipality

A municipal committee was established to orchestrate Hawthorn’s succession from the Boroondara District Road Board and on June 26th 1860 the *Victorian Government Gazette* published a petition signed by about 300 residents calling for a separation. The Municipality of Hawthorn was soon conferred. Seven men were elected at a rowdy meeting in Michael Lynch’s school room: David Hill, W. H. Campbell, Dugald McDougall, John Conran, Dr. John de la Roche Bragge and Thomas Lansley with Michael O’Grady elected as Chairman.

1860-1861	Michael O’Grady
1861-1862	Michael O’Grady
1862-1863	Dougall McDougall

Mayors of Borough of Hawthorn

In 1861 the train line reached Hawthorn and this encouraged population expansion as commuters gained more efficient and comfortable access to the city. The Borough of Hawthorn was proclaimed in 1863.

1863-1864	William Henry Pettett
1864-1865	Lauchlan Mackinnon
1865-1866	John de la Roche Bragge
1866-1867	Edward Augustus Atkyns
1867-1868	Frederick Walsh
1868-1869	Henry Lawes
1869-1870	Henry Lawes
1870-1871	Michael O'Grady
1871-1872	Alfred William Harston
1872-1873	Charles Baker
1873-1874 (part)	John Stevenson Denny
1874-1875	Edward Sayce
1875-1876	Edward Sayce
1876-1877	William Cleverdon
1877-1878	Robert Elias Wallen
1878-1879	Robert Elias Wallen
1879-1880	William Cleverdon
1880-1881	Alexander Millie
1881-1882	Alexander Millie
1882-1883	William Bell
1883-1884	James Swan
1884-1885	William Thomas Wallis
1885-1886	William Cowper

Mayors of Hawthorn Town

The 1880s was a period of rapid growth for Melbourne and the population of Hawthorn tripled from 6,000 in 1881 to 19,500 by 1891. The new growth in Hawthorn shifted further east as the train line was extended and the shopping area on Glenferrie Road and areas around the Town Hall developed. Hawthorn was proclaimed a Town in 1887.

1886-1887	Daniel George Cullen
1887-1888	Thomas Barrett
1888-1889	George Grant Munro
1889-1890	James Westley

Mayors of City of Hawthorn

After the boom decade of the 1880s and the subsequent growth in population, the city of Hawthorn was proclaimed in 1890, as 4 wards in 1891.

1890-1891	Francis Gillman
1891-1892	Charles Edgerton
1892-1893	Robert William Hooke
1893-1894	Percy Joseph Russell
1894-1895	Robert Thomson Barbour
1895-1896	James Scoular Riddell
1896-1897	Charles Dalley
1897-1898	Richard Ardagh
1898-1899	Arthur Norman Smith
1899-1900	John Adams
1900-1901	Frederick William McDonald
1901-1902	William Cowper
1902-1903	George Swinburne
1903-1904	Benjamin Goldsmith
1904-1905	William Andrews
1905-1906	Percy Joseph Russell
1906-1907	Charles Dalley
1907-1908	Henry Sayers Crocker
1908-1909	Henry Henningsen

1909-1910	David Henry Dureau
1910-1911	Andrew Roche
1911-1912	William George Burton
1912-1913	John V.M. Wood
1913-1914	Robert Thomas Barbour
1914-1915	Edward Charles Rigby
1915-1916	Percy Joseph Russell
1916-1917	Percy Joseph Russell
1917-1918	Robert William Lord
1918-1919	Edward Ward
1919-1920	Frank Ogglethorpe Wills Sambell
1920-1921	Thomas Henson Kitchin
1921-1922	John Chalmers
1922-1923	J. Brook Pridmore
1923-1924	Walter James Lancaster
1924-1925	Edward Charles Rigby
1925-1926	George William Simpson
1926-1927	Henry Angus Wallace
1927-1928	David Henry Evans
1928-1929	Edward Ward
1929-1930	William Thomas Lewis
1930-1931	J. Brook Pridmore
1931-1932	John Williams George
1932-1933	George William Simpson
1933-1934	George William Simpson
1934-1935	George William Simpson
1935-1936	Edward Charles Rigby
1936-1937	David Henry Evans
1937-1938	John Austin Gray
1938-1939	Joseph Fowler

1939-1940	William Thomas Lewis
1940-1941	J. Brook Pridmore
1941-1942	John Williams George
1942-1943	William Campbell Porteous
1943-1944	J. Brook Pridmore
1944-1945	William Thomas Lewis
1945-1946	Joseph Fowler
1946-1947	William Robert Gordon Longmuir
1947-1948	Edward Charles Rigby
1948-1949	Leslie Tyack
1949-1950	Harry Woolven Moffat
1950-1951	J. Brook Pridmore
1951-1952	Harold William George
1952-1953	Harold William George
1953-1954	David Swan
1954-1955	Thomas Howard Jackett
1955-1956	Alan Robert Patterson
1956-1957	Graham Sterling Slobom
1957-1958	Harold William George
1958-1959	William Richard Tresise
1959-1960	Gerald Stephen Phillips
1960-1961	Max William Yunghanns
1961-1962	Keith Charles Miller
1962-1963	Harold William George
1963-1964	Thomas Howard Jackett
1964-1965	Reginald Iliff Harris
1965-1966	Donald Ingersole
1966-1967	Geoffrey Alfred Saunders
1967-1968	William Piper Brown
1968-1969	George Loton

1969-1970	Lloyd Emerson Albert Orton
1970-1971	John Stanley Head
1971-1972	Keith Charles Miller
1972-1973	Walter Blair Dobson
1973-1974	John Stanley Head
1974-1975	John Hampton Hartwig Beale
1975-1976	Brian James Bergin
1976-1977	Betty May Marginson
1977-1978	William Hugh Nankivell
1978-1979	Guy Arundel Newton Brown
1979-1980	Salvatore Coffa
1980-1981	Leslie Julian Kausman
1981-1982	Jeffrey Alfred Wunderlich
1982-1983	Paul Alexander Jones
1983-1984	Rosalind McMillan
1984-1985	John Hampton Hartwig Beale
1985-1986	Jill Short
1986-1987	Salvatore Coffa
1987-1988	Guy Arundel Newton Brown
1988-1989	Barbara van Ernst
1989-1990	John Hampton Hartwig Beale
1990-1991	Jane Laidley Nathan
1991-1992	Barbara van Ernst
1992-1993	Ken Hare-Brown
1993-1994	Nigel Kirby

Mayors of the City of Boroondara

In June 1994 the Cities of Hawthorn, Camberwell and Kew amalgamated and the new City of Boroondara was created, with a Council finally elected in March of 1996. Apparently, the new city was to be called *Riversdale*, until *Boroondara*, was suggested by Walter Jona, former Hawthorn MLA, and was confirmed shortly before his death.

1996-1997	Geoff Hayes
1997-1998	Keith Walter
1998-2000	Loreto Davey
2000-2001	Chris Pattas
2001-2003	Meredith Butler
2003-2004	Judith Voce
2004-2006	Jack Wegman
2006-2007	Phillip Healey
2007-2008	Coral Ross
2008-2010	Jack Wegman
2010-2011	Nicholas Tragas
2011-2012	Heinz Kreutz
2012-Present	Jack Wegman

Sources: Victorian Government Gazette

The Argus

Boroondara Library Service

Hawthorn Peppercorns - G. McWilliam

A History of Hawthorn - V. Peel, D. Zion and J. Yule