

Hawthorn Historical Society



P.O. Box 8, Hawthorn Community Precinct, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Vic, 3122.

New Office address: 25 Inglesby Road, Camberwell, 3124.

Email: hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website: <http://hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au/>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/Hawthorn-Historical-Society-831540006918973/>

Phone: 9819 1218

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held in the
HAWTHORN COMMUNITY PRECINCT, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, at 2.00 pm.
Events are free of charge to members. We invite a small donation from visitors. Afternoon Tea is provided.

OUR NEXT SPEAKER:

Albert Isaacs: Controversy – the politics and culture behind early modern Olympic games SATURDAY 19th MAY 2018.



Captions, left to right: was Pierre Baron de Coubertin really the founder of the modern Olympics or was it Evangelis Zappas (illustrated)?; how close did the U.S. team's flag-bearer at the 1908 London Olympics come to starting a war between the U.S. and Britain?; Nazi propaganda at the 1936 Games was all-pervading; one of many scandals associated with the 1956 games was the building of the Olympic Village at West Heidelberg, miles from any games venues.

The International Olympics Committee has a vested interest in conveying its own version of history, which is often wrong. Albert Isaacs will talk about many of the remarkable events that occurred in the early days of the modern Olympics. Did you know that the modern Olympics really started in 1859, and not 1896, as we are told? Learn about this and many dozens of other Olympics controversies.

This is a talk about policy-making and philosophy, not sport.

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NEW BOOK:

James Nicolas spoke to the Society on 17th February 2018, about the Auburn Football Club and

other local footy clubs. His new book, *Auburn Footy*, is now available for \$30 plus \$4 postage. Order directly from at cobrasfc@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday 7th July – Saturday 26th August 2018 Town Hall Exhibition

This major interactive exhibition, being organised by the Hawthorn Historical Society, will be on display in the Hawthorn Arts Centre (formerly the Hawthorn Town Hall) and will attract visitors of all ages from within Boroondara and beyond. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase the history and heritage of Hawthorn.

Saturday 21st July 2.00 pm - a special viewing of the Town Hall Exhibition for Society members and friends.



Captions, clockwise: Town Hall exterior, 1960; the main hall, viewed from the balcony; a debutantes' ball at the Town Hall; a recent wedding reception at what is now the Hawthorn Arts Centre. (Credits: Swinburne University, Epicure website, Hawthorn Historical Society website, Hawthorn Arts Centre website.)

**Saturday 18th August 2018 Archival Access Seminar –
Researching Land and School Records at the Public Records of Victoria**
– full day, or morning and afternoon sessions.

Mark Grealy from Archival Access Victoria will conduct a hands-on workshop on how to unlock the secrets of the Public Records Office of Victoria; looking at a wide range of PROV records, showing digitised examples of each, and what can be found in them, and how to search for records yourself from home in the PROV catalogue.

(There will be no meeting in June, due to preparations for the Town Hall exhibition.)

Also coming up is a conducted tour of the Boroondara Cemetery led by Tony Michael. Details available soon.

We continue to be available in the Local History Room at the Hawthorn Library on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, to assist people with their research and to work on projects.

You may also use the Society's office for research on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 10 am to 12 pm and other times by appointment. It is at 25 Inglesby Road, Camberwell, just behind the Council offices. Easy access by Tram 75.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Libby Love

Recently I was asked to speak at the launch of Lisa Schulman's photographic essay of Hawthorn traders within their environment.

I hope that some of us were fortunate to grow up living in the one house or neighbourhood for several years during our childhood. If not, then perhaps as adults we may have had the opportunity to at least live in the one location for some time, because I believe that many of our fondest memories are centred around the activities, the places we went to, the streets we walked and the places where we shopped.

Over the years, I'm sure we have all taken the odd photo of a family gathering and, unfortunately, I suspect that this has usually occurred without anybody making a notated reference for the benefit of any future generations of viewers. However, in my experience, we rarely took photos of our house, our street, the school or even the corner lolly shop where we memorably purchased those treasured lollies.

As adults we still tend to take our neighbourhood and our day-to-day activities for granted. Yet, every month the Hawthorn Historical Society receives numerous hopeful enquiries about how to locate a particular image; and you will not be surprised to learn that I often remind people that hardly anyone saw the need to, or bothered to, photograph that event or location.

Just recently I met up with several of my oldest friends from university, as we celebrated 50 years of friendship. Someone asked whether anybody had any photos of those early days? Sadly there were none; and also very few of the numerous happy times we had spent together since university.

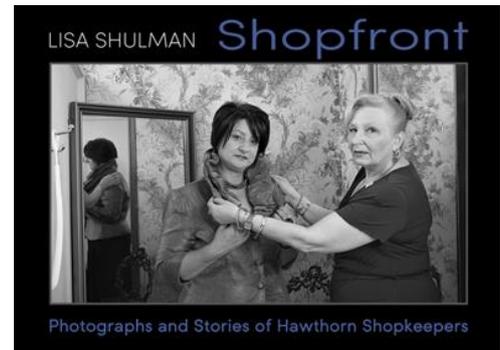
The Hawthorn Historical Society regularly post images of Hawthorn on our Facebook page and both *locals* and the past residents (now spread across Australia) positively react to these images. More often than not, their responses and recollections, clearly demonstrate the profound impact that the places in the images have had on their lives. Each time they view or engage with an image it reinforces for them their sense of place, and a sense of themselves within that community.

As an illustration of this process, as soon as I saw this lovely book by Lisa Shulman I flipped through to see what shops I recognised. Of course, I was delighted to see that there were many. Not only that, but several of **MY** local shops from the time when I lived in Hawthorn East were illustrated. I immediately recalled the pleasant banter and many conversations, and the reliably good meat available at the butcher's shop that we all just used to call *Barrie's*.

Local shops and their obliging shopkeepers with their personalised customer service have always played an important part in our Hawthorn community. Back in the 1840s, Mr Rattan's first general store was mostly selling his home-grown produce from his shop near the corner of Power and Riversdale Roads. Hawthorn's first post-office was in Mr Dickson's draper/hosiery/millenary shop in Burwood Road near Power Street. In the 1850s and 1860s, the Boroondara District Roads Board, and later the first Hawthorn Council, would meet in a room at the back of Miss Spinks' shop a little further up Burwood Road. Let's not forget the early butcher who set up shop with his livestock in the paddock out the back; this was on the corner of Church St and Hill Street; actually a very convenient location on the edge of the newly gazetted Hawthorn Village, in 1852. Without the benefit of refrigeration, cars or public transport, early Hawthorn residents were, by necessity, very familiar with the notion of shopping locally.

Over the ensuing years, as the community grew, it was often these shopkeepers and tradesmen who: were elected to the council; who formed the lodges; who frequented the free library, the debating society, the literary association; and who supported local events, schools, carnivals and sporting clubs. It was shopkeepers who in the 1910s formed the Glenferrie Traders Association and the Auburn Traders Association and who, amongst other things, fought hard for the extension of the tram and train lines, which serve Hawthorn so well today.

I was delighted to speak at the launch of *Shopfront* because it gave me the opportunity to congratulate Lisa. This book is a valuable contribution to our knowledge and to our historical heritage. It reminds us of the essential and intimate role local shops and businesses play within our community and of the shopkeeper's stories that reinforce the important values of service, commitment and community engagement.



HAWTHORN: 1959-1970. Part One

Judy Grimmer

The recording of personal memories is an important part of the chronicling of local history. Therefore, we are delighted to record Judy Grimmer's memories of growing up in Hawthorn. Below is Part One of this story – more will follow ...

It might only have been a bridge that separated the neighbouring suburbs of Hawthorn and Richmond, but culturally and historically they were miles apart. Our family crossed the river in 1960, although I had already been attending school in Hawthorn since the beginning of 1959. Richmond was industrialised and multicultural, even in the 1950's; Hawthorn, on the other hand, seemed quite quiet and sedate. In earlier times there had been an emphasis on brick production in Hawthorn, which is one reason why there were streets of workingmen's cottages alongside those larger residential villas. It seemed to me that the different types of residential development were very close together, particularly where we settled in Falmouth Street. So, my memories of Hawthorn began when I was 12 years old in 1959 and ended when I married in 1970 and moved away. My mother retained ownership of our original house until her death in 2016, at the age of 98. The house still remains with our family today.

A Finial Makes All the Difference

7 Falmouth St was a typical detached, block-fronted workingman's cottage set on a 222 square metre block. There was no room for parking and no right of way at the rear. It was surrounded by similar houses of both timber and brick construction. On our side of the street, there were single-fronted timber cottages at the William St end, which graduated into double-fronted houses around the bend leading to Henry St. These bigger houses had room for a driveway; thus it was considered the *posh end*. On the opposite side of the street the cottages were generally brick (many Hawthorn brick) some with ornamentation above the verandas. These cottages backed onto the Central Gardens, colloquially known in later years as *The Rocket Park* *.

From memory only one property has been demolished; the Gracey's house, (10 Falmouth St) which made way for two modern attached villas, both with driveways. However, there have been a range of alterations to the cottages over the years; from filling-in the veranda (No 12), painting the brickwork (No 17), and extending upwards (Nos 6, 7, 13). The street itself has had its footpaths narrowed and is now a one-way street, entered via Henry St.

When we arrived in 1960, our house had a veranda with a triangular pediment and finial. In later years this finial received a minor historical classification, and we have been careful to maintain its features.

The hallway entry of No 7 had red stained glass on either side of the front door. The hallway led to the lounge room past two double bedrooms. The lounge went the full width of the house - 5 metres, and was approximately 4 metres wide. The walls were a combination of lathed plaster and wood panelling, typical of the period. There was a picture rail at door height that enabled pictures to be hung on wires. There was a small grate fireplace on the wall next to the hall door. The east facing window had an ornamental triangular wooden pediment, and on the west facing wall was a small square window set high in the wall for extra light.

From the lounge, a door led into the kitchen. It was quite a large; with space for a kitchen table. There was a small sink on the back wall and room for a stove and a refrigerator. The walls and ceiling were made of tongue-and-groove lining boards. However there was no storage in the kitchen. We used a vintage kitchen cabinet that was quite common in the 1940's and 1950's and Mum used it right up to 2010. The floor was covered with lino.

HAWTHORN; 1959-1970. Part One. Continued.

Two rooms led off the side of the kitchen; one was the bathroom and the other was with a bath and shower combined, as well as a basin; the toilet was outside under the back veranda. The walls and ceiling were lining boards similar to the kitchen. Next to the bathroom, also running off the kitchen was a small room that we used as a store room. I suspect this might have been used previously as a small bedroom. There was a light partition between the bathroom and the storeroom/bedroom suggesting it had originally been one large room.

Outside the back door, (with its original bolt closing), was a wide verandah which housed a laundry, a toilet and a sizeable sitting area. It was asphalted when we arrived, as was the central path in the backyard. There was a briquette heater that provided hot water, and we would have deliveries of briquettes in large hessian sacks. We also used the briquettes for the lounge room fire, the only form of heating.



A view of 7 Falmouth St, taken prior to recent alterations. (Credit: onthehouse.com.au)

The house stayed in this traditional configuration until 2015 when a new back section was built. Original features have been retained in the front section of the house. When the carpet was taken up in the front bedroom, a green flower-patterned linoleum was found. It has been retained and a new carpet laid over the top. In the ceiling, the original gas fittings were found and maintained.

Family Matters

When my father bought the house in Falmouth St, he put both hands out and turned around; “Room enough to swing a cat” he said. The other problems associated with the house were discovered later.

At that time, my mother was 42, my father 56 and my sister 17. The house was bought for £7,000 (\$14,000) and was paid off at £7 (\$14) a week. I would sometimes take the payment to Miss Percy who worked at the Real Estate Agent in Glenferrie Road near the train bridge at Glenferrie Station. We still have the pay-in books.

My father was a carpenter by trade, and worked for the Richmond Council; subsequently becoming Head of Maintenance. He travelled back to Richmond from Glenferrie station each day. His *local* was the Governor Hotham Hotel, where he would have a beer after work in the days of 6 o’clock closing. I remember that he used to take a Gladstone bag to work; it was quite common then. He also liked to play Lawn Bowls.

My Mother stayed at home most of the time, but there was a period when she worked for the printing works in Burwood Road for some *pin money*. She also sang in the choir and was part of Mothers’ Union at St Columb’s Church, Burwood Rd. My sister worked in the city in 1960, but then began training as a nurse at the Austin Hospital. Later in the 60s she went to Tasmania to continue her training and I had the bedroom to myself for most of the time after that. Sheer luxury!

I went to Swinburne Technical College in Hawthorn from 1959 to 1962 then on to Camberwell High from 1963 to 1964. More about school later.

I met Geoff in 1964 and we married in 1970 at St Columb’s Church, after which we moved to Surrey Hills.

Neighbours

Around about the 1960s our neighbours included:

- No 3 Falmouth St – Mrs Bloss Martin. She was a friend of my mother’s.
- No 5 Falmouth St. -The Baylis family Their daughter Mary went to Swinburne and their son Aristo was a good friend to my mother in her old age.

HAWTHORN; 1959-1970. Part One. Continued.

- No 6 - the Aylens lived here with their adult boys. I found a copy of Frank's name in the Open Door (Swinburne website) so assume that he went to Swinburne.
- No 4 was where a Polish couple lived – their name was Polinski, I think.
- No 10 was where the Gracie's lived. It was a wide frontage and was subsequently turned into two adjoining brick cottages with parking.
- No 9 was rented. Aileen was there with her husband and young baby 'till they moved out in the early sixties.
- On the bend was a maiden lady who had been a professional singer. Mum was given one of her black *singing dresses*.
- Further up the street on our side lived Mrs. Williams, another friend of my mother's.

My friends were mainly from outside Hawthorn, but my school friend Lyn lived on Barkers Rd near Haines St, in a house that has since been demolished, becoming part of the MLC property.

Footnote: * According to Gwen McWilliam's book, *A Brief History of the Streets of Hawthorn*, the subdivision including Falmouth Street, occurred between 1886 and 1888 – Editor.

*...to be continued in the August Newsletter,
with a section dealing with Swinburne College.*

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA, INAUGURAL WESTON BATE ORATION

The late Weston Bate (1924-2017) was a former President of the Hawthorn Historical Society and one of the founders of the HHS. He was also an active member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, which is remembering him by initiating an annual Oration that will bear his name.

INAUGURAL WESTON BATE ORATION**TUESDAY 15th MAY 2018.****(AGM 5.00 pm; Oration 6.00 pm)****RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne****RHSV Members = free; Non-Members = \$10.00.****SPEAKER – STUART MACINTYRE, AO, FAHA, FASSA.**

The RHSV takes a keen interest in Victoria's heritage. This lecture will explore how the understanding of heritage has been shaped by the rapid changes within the State of Victoria, and argues that history is too often neglected in heritage conservation.

Stuart Macintyre is Emeritus Laureate Professor of the University of Melbourne and a Professorial Fellow of its School of Historical and Philosophical Studies. He is President of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He has been voted one of Australia's most influential historians.

NEW HAWTHORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLOUR BROCHURE

Earlier this year, the Society received funding to develop a brochure promoting history in our region, as well as towards the work undertaken by the Hawthorn Historical Society. The funding is administered by the RHSV but comes through

THE GENEROSITY OF THE VERA MOORE FOUNDATION. If members would like copies of the brochure to share with local organisations, please get in touch with the HHS Committee. (See page 1)

HAWTHORN STREETS YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF – ONE – BRIDGE ROAD

Albert Isaacs

This is the first of an occasional series that will appear in our Newsletter from time to time, looking at streets in Hawthorn, past and present, which hardly anyone knows much about. Let's start the series with Bridge Road.

Virtually every reader would know about Bridge Road, Richmond, but not Bridge Road, Hawthorn!

The boundary of the City of Boroondara and City of Yarra, and the former boundary of the Cities of Hawthorn and Richmond, is the centre of the Yarra River. However, Bridge Road actually continues east to the junction with Burwood Road and Church Street, which means that for just a few metres Bridge Road is actually in Hawthorn!

At first glance this appears to be unimportant because there are obviously no buildings on Bridge Road, Hawthorn, but the Hawthorn City Council would have been responsible for its upkeep prior to the Country Roads Board (now VicRoads) taking over responsibility for all Melbourne's major roads in 1956¹, and therefore Bridge Road would have appeared in Council records, making Bridge Road, Hawthorn, more than just an on-paper aberration.



The re-decking of the Hawthorn Bridge in May 1905(↑), showing Bridge Road, Hawthorn. This work was carried out by the Reinforced Concrete and Monier Pipe Construction Co., of which Sir John Monash was a founder and Director. (A University of Melbourne photo.)

But wait ... there's more! What about Campbell Parade, Hawthorn? Between the 1870s and the 1920s, that section of Bridge Road east of Burnley Street was renamed Campbell Parade, after the road was widened². Whilst the name change would have mainly involved Richmond, it would have also slightly affected Hawthorn.



The photo (at left←) is from the Royal Historical Society collection, and shows a postcard image of Campbell Parade, Richmond, looking towards Hawthorn. Note the city-bound cable tram with dummy and trailer.

There is also an irony in the fact that during the time that Campbell Parade existed, Bridge Road would not have gone anywhere near a bridge!

In future *Newsletters* we'll be looking at other Hawthorn streets that you probably haven't heard about.

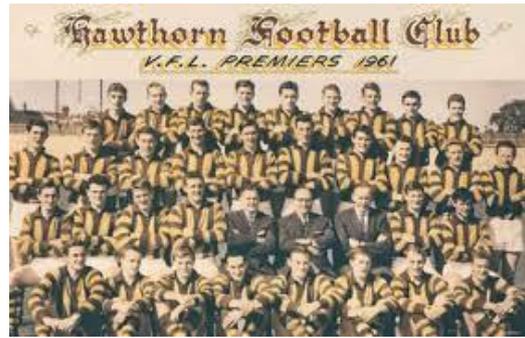
Footnotes: ¹ Wikipedia – Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

² Victorian Heritage Database Report – City of Yarra, 412 Bridge Road. (Report accessed online.)

A FREE KICK FOR HAWTHORN. Albert Isaacs (with acknowledgement to Peter Haby)

The Hawthorn Historical Society’s major project at the moment is the upcoming Town Hall Exhibition (see page 2). Our President, Libby Love, in particular, has put a lot of work into this undertaking, and one of the important contributors to the Exhibition is the Hawthorn Football Club’s Hawks Museum situated at the Club’s present headquarters in Mount Waverley. The Club’s Historian and Museum Curator, Peter Haby, has been particularly helpful to the Hawthorn Historical Society, for which we are extremely grateful.

The following photos are from the Museum’s website:



Captions:

- The H.F.C., 1923, two years before the Club left the Victorian Football Association and joined the Victorian Football League. 1923 was Hawthorn’s only year in the VFA final four;
- Hawthorn’s first VFL premiership team, 1961;
- The official opening of the Hawthorn City Sports Ground, Linda Crescent, 7th October 1905;
- The old wooden stand at Glenferrie Oval, relocated from the East Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1922 when the ground was demolished to make way for an extension of the Jolimont railway yards – the old stand was itself demolished in 1966 to be replaced by the Dr A S Ferguson Stand;
- A contemporary view of the Hawks Museum, Mount Waverly, featuring long-time Hawthorn player, captain and coach, John Kennedy Sr.
- In a typical pose, Coach John Kennedy Sr. instructs the team;
- There’s even change in modern times – HFC logos, from 1977 until today.

**HAWTHORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER:**
Editor: ALBERT ISAACS,
contact through the HHS (see page 1).