

# HISTORY HERE 254

Journal of the Waverley Historical Society Victoria  
First Quarter (Summer) 2026 ISSN 2206-6136

## Established 1970

Incorporated in Victoria  
Reg. No. A 0006377 A

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**NOTE NEW WEBSITE**  
[www.waverleyhsvic.org.au](http://www.waverleyhsvic.org.au)

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P O Box 2322  
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\$25pa per household

We acknowledge the support of  
the City of Monash

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### In our rooms:

Feb – Matthew Flinders  
 March – Hamilton Place  
 March – GW orchard walk  
 April – ANZAC  
 ceremonies

Extant Pre-suburban Buildings #68

## The old Post Office, Kingsway, Glen Waverley



This dental surgery and solicitor's office was once the Glen Waverley Post Office. It is the first shop north of the library in Kingsway. The Post Office had been on the corner of Waverley Road previously, but after the railway was built the CBD of Glen Waverley moved towards the station. Later it moved again, to a purpose-built postal centre opposite Woolworths (now Dan Murphy), and this shop went through a range of purposes including The Paint and Paper shop in the 1980s (see right).



### WHS Publications

Books published by Waverley Historical Society are available from our rooms on Wednesday afternoons. Payment is by cash or direct deposit. Some as-new secondhand copies are available there too.

At other times, our books are available from **Pinewood newsagency** where credit cards are accepted.

### REMINDER

This year, WHS will trial general meetings on **the LAST Sundays of the month**, rather than the fourth. This is because some of our members have other commitments on fourth Sundays. Please let us know how this affects you on [waverleyhsvic@gmail.com](mailto:waverleyhsvic@gmail.com).

Thank you to Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood District, for assistance with the printing of this publication. If you require assistance with any State Government issues please contact Matt's office.

## Matt Fregon MP

STATE MEMBER FOR ASHWOOD

P (03) 9561 0511  
 E [matt.fregon@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:matt.fregon@parliament.vic.gov.au)  
 A 240 High Street, Ashburton. 3147.



**Renovations to MW library are complete. We are back in our rooms. Check out the change downstairs!**

## NEW WHS Website

Note that our web address has changed to [www.waverleyhsvic.org.au](http://www.waverleyhsvic.org.au)

The old one does not work any more. Why not check it out now, see what an array of resources are available there, and note which ones you could add facts to?

## We would also value your contributions to recurring columns in the newsletter -

\* extant pre-suburban buildings – what is still here from earlier?

\* celebrities who have lived in Waverley – which famous people were once residents here?

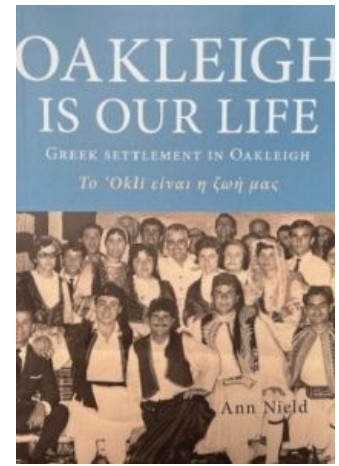
\* driveways that became suburban streets – from their front gate to their garage – now used by all.

\* or just your recollections of earlier Mulgrave/ Waverley/Monash. It is all good informative history.



## Modern Greek History

Did you know that our sister-Society, History Monash, recently published a new history of Oakleigh featuring Greek settlement and the contributions Greek people have made? It can be bought or even be read online! The book explores why and when Oakleigh was settled by migrants from Greece, and how they developed such a strong community, preserving their language, religion and culture. Highlighted is the courage of those who came to Australia for a new life and helps others to understand their experiences. See <https://www.historymonash.org.au/>



## THINGS WERE DIFFERENT IN THEIR DAYS.

In 1866 (160 yrs ago) seasons in Australia were calculated astronomically, not conveniently in whole months:

Autumn began	6 am	March 21 <sup>st</sup> .
Winter	“ 2 am	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
Spring	“ 5 pm	September 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Summer	“ 10 am	December 22 <sup>nd</sup> .

## Public holidays were a bit different, and could land on weekends:

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	New Year's Day
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Patrick's Day
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Easter Tuesday
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	St. George's Day
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Whit Monday
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Queen Victoria's Birthday
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Separation Day
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Prince of Wales' Birthday
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	St. Andrew's Day
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day.

Contributed by Betty Horskins



## Restoration of Huntingtower's Cottage

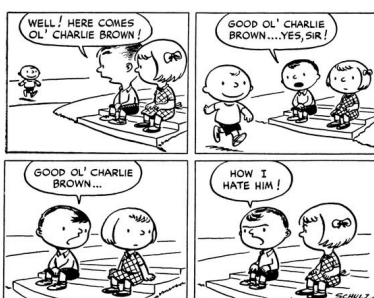
It was a delight to attend the opening of the oldest building on Huntingtower School's campus last month. The cottage, as it was lately called, was originally a stable but has been extensively restored, brick by brick, and will be used as Reception from now on. The event was well attended and presented, with succinct meaningful speeches and delicious refreshments. We hope to further explore their history together leading up to their centenary next year.

## Charlie Brown Turns 75

Can you believe the *Peanuts* comic is only 75 years old? It debuted in Oct 1950 when Charles M Schultz was 27 years old. That first comic, shown below, appeared in 7 newspapers

(later 2700 papers included *Peanuts*) and the characters amazingly still look the same except for one thing. The distinctive zigzag pattern on Charlie

Brown's jumper was absent. Sherry and Patty, and Snoopy who appeared 2 days later, have not changed.

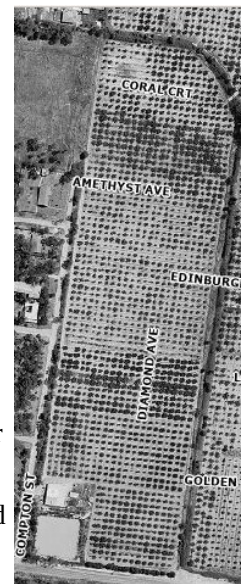


## Private Driveways that became Suburban Streets – Compton St

Compton Street in Glen Waverley (near the Mountainview Hotel) was once the main driveway to Witchell's orchard. It is clearly seen on the 1963 aerial photo.

This orchard has a school text book written about it! D Laird, that prolific writer of geography texts, wrote a field study about its development, wishing to show that Australia could provide the world with more than just wheat and wool. He goes on to show how suburban expansion overtook the farm in later years, and farms had to move further out.

Drives often became roads because they could withstand traffic in all weathers.



## Driver Bus Depot Tour Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September

An excited group of members and guests gathered outside the Mount Waverley Library in glorious weather waiting to be picked up in a Driver coach for a tour of the Driver bus depot, where we met Daryl, son of a founder of the company. Hi-vis vests ensured our safety as we were taken behind the scenes to learn about some fascinating local history.

Driver Buslines was founded in 1931 by Eric and Reg Driver operating from a depot in Glen Iris Road, Glen Iris with two buses. The Great Depression and World War II would have a big impact on the fledgling business with the brothers working 17-hour days to keep the business afloat. In the 1960s Daryl (our tour guide) and his brother Gary took over the business with 9 buses. The company outgrew their Glen Iris depot so they moved to 5 Ricketts Road, Mount Waverley, then nearby to their current location which had been the site of the Country Roads Board when building the Monash freeway. There are also Driver depots in Hastings, Rosebud and Morwell, and another bus museum in Shepparton.

We had an interesting tour of all areas of the depot from the front reception, offices, board room, workshop, yards and the bus museum with seven original buses, two classic cars and a 1977 Australian-built Kenworth truck with an unrestored Dodge Ute on display plus a great range of memorabilia including bus number plates, bus engines, bus stop signs and framed photos. Several members enjoyed seeing the inside of the buses and sitting in the driver's seat!

Driver buses now predominantly run school buses and charter services for V-line and Victoria Police e.g. up to forty buses could be chartered to bring Police into the city from as far away as Warrnambool.

### Fascinating insights from the tour:

- The Driver bus company currently has 149 buses in service. Old buses are replaced after 25 years.
- Each bus driver has their own bus which they clean before the end of the shift. This may include emptying the bus toilet into a special drain at the depot.
- The bus wash takes 1.5 minutes to clean a bus. (The bus roofs don't get washed). Daryl used to wash the buses by hand. He could wash seven buses in an hour!
- Buses on the school runs get refueled once a week. School camp & charter runs get refueled daily.
- There are about 15-20 women drivers working for the company. All staff except the accountant are licensed to drive the buses.
- The company insurance has a ten-thousand-dollar excess, so minor repairs are done at the depot in the workshop and the paint shop.
- The company has a double-decker bus that runs a shuttle service for Chadstone Shopping Centre between the shopping centre and Federation Square.
- Their vintage buses are used for weddings and movies such as *The Dressmaker*.
- Before COVID the company ran 200-300 tours a year, bringing up to \$20,000,000 into the company.
- From an environmental perspective Driver buses couldn't be converted to all electric vehicles due to the cost and extent of the infrastructure needed. The best option would be hybrid buses.

A big thank you to committee member Sueie McGrath for coordinating our tour, Daryl Driver our tour guide and his grandson Josh Driver (4<sup>th</sup> generation Driver) for driving us to and from the depot.

- Carina Leitch.



# The Amstel area: Scotsmen, Hollanders and Golf

The Amstel area of Mt Waverley was part of a large run that pre-dated land sales. *Scotchmans Creek Run* occupied five square miles (1295 hectares) including this area until 1853. John McMillan ran it, and was one of three Scots on the Notting Hill plateau which was mainly occupied by Irishmen. This is how the creek was named. He lived in a house built in 1852 by James Reardon, one of the only solid homes among slab and bark huts. It was still standing over a century later. However in 1853 with the first land sales the property was reduced to 320 acres (129 hectares).



Reardon's substantial residence, later called Amstel House

## The name Amstel

In 1881 the property was bought by the Dutch Consul-General, Jonkheer Daniel Van Amstel. He renamed it *Amstel Park* after his Amstel River home in Holland, and planned to make it a tourist park with gondolas near the natural fern gullies of the creek, until his health forced him to return to the Netherlands.



Rosewarrick as clubhouse plus Amstel pine trees

## Golfing Interests

In 1915 Henry Crossthwaite bought *Amstel Park* and rented parts to various farmers including the dairying Cole family, who built *Rosewarrick* near current Bellerive Avenue. Gerard Cole, an Oakleigh solicitor, and others built a short-lived private 9-hole golf course near Stanley Ave.

## The Start of Amstel Golf Course

By 1929, keen golfers leased Crossthwaite's land to build an 18-hole course named *Amstel Park Public Golf Course*, with *Rosewarrick* as the clubhouse. This name lasted seven years before the club turned private. Then in 1938 the *Ranfurlie* course, which had been at the SW corner of Springvale Road and Princes Highway, disbanded and its members joined Amstel, which continues in 2026 to use the Ranfurlie name in awards and its current golf course.

## The Planting of Pines

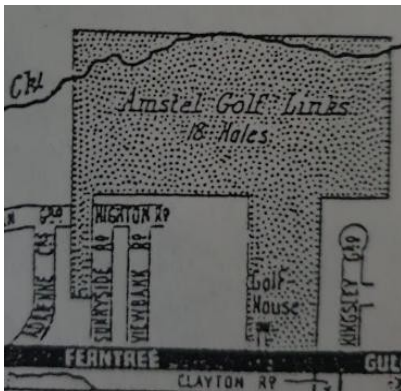
Improvements escalated after WWII with the planting of many trees, the most visible being pines (*Pinus radiata*) around the entire perimeter, including along Stephenson's Rd where the last few stood, the sole remnant of the golfing history of this land. It was only storm damage in 2024 that ended their silent witness to previous land use.

## Kingsley Grove

In the 1940s the Amstel area was mainly market gardens, but soon the need for housing grew. In 1952 Harold Kingsley decided to hang up his hoe and subdivide his 10a market garden, which became Kingsley Grove, a private street maintained by its residents and surrounded by the golf course.

## The Mile Grid

All this time Stephenson's Road was an unsealed lane stretching only north from Waverley Road, even though it was one of Monash's major roads, as planned by Robert Hoddle in 1853. These roads are a mile apart, both east-west and north-south and can still be found all over Victoria.



The golf course in its prime. Kingsley Grove was a court, with Clayton Rd nearly opposite.



RANFURLIE GOLF CLUB



An unsuccessful attempt to sell Amstel Park in 1908. Amstel Golf Course would soon use Lots 1, 12, and Cole's land.

## Amstel Moves

Amstel Golf Club, as it was now called, recognised the need for expensive improvements, so sought to purchase their course, not realising that it had been mortgaged to John Wren's estate. Wren's agent encouraged the club to find new land and take with them everything they could, which they did – buildings, trees, plumbing, and more. They found land at 1000 Frankston Rd Cranbourne and played their first games there in 1965.



The Stephensons Rd bridge over Scotchmans Creek under construction

### Heavy Industrial?

Meanwhile the proposal was for the old course to be sold for industrial use, but Kingsley Grove residents fought hard for green spaces and residential areas. The papers were full of their appeal. They won, and the industrial area was limited to east of Stephensons Road. Most of the golf course became homes, with street names reflecting golf courses and professional golfers. Scotchmans Creek was preserved as public bushland, including some remnant vegetation.

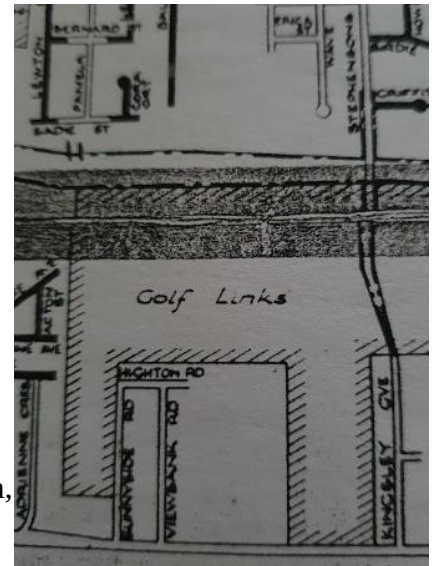
### The Mile Grid completed

The tall bridge over the creek and future freeway was built in 1975, and finally Stephensons Road could extend south of Waverley Road... but where? At first it was to use Kingsley Grove to reach Clayton Road, and residents were told to put their front fences back eight feet. However this would still not have been wide enough, so instead the current route was chosen. The pine trees were to be kept, so a wide reserve protected their roots.

### 2024 Storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKue7uOczX0>

The pines were twisted and torn by the 2024 supercell storm but the reserve will remain with new parkworks as the witness to a famous landmark of the past.



Early plans to put Stephensons Rd through Kingsley Grove



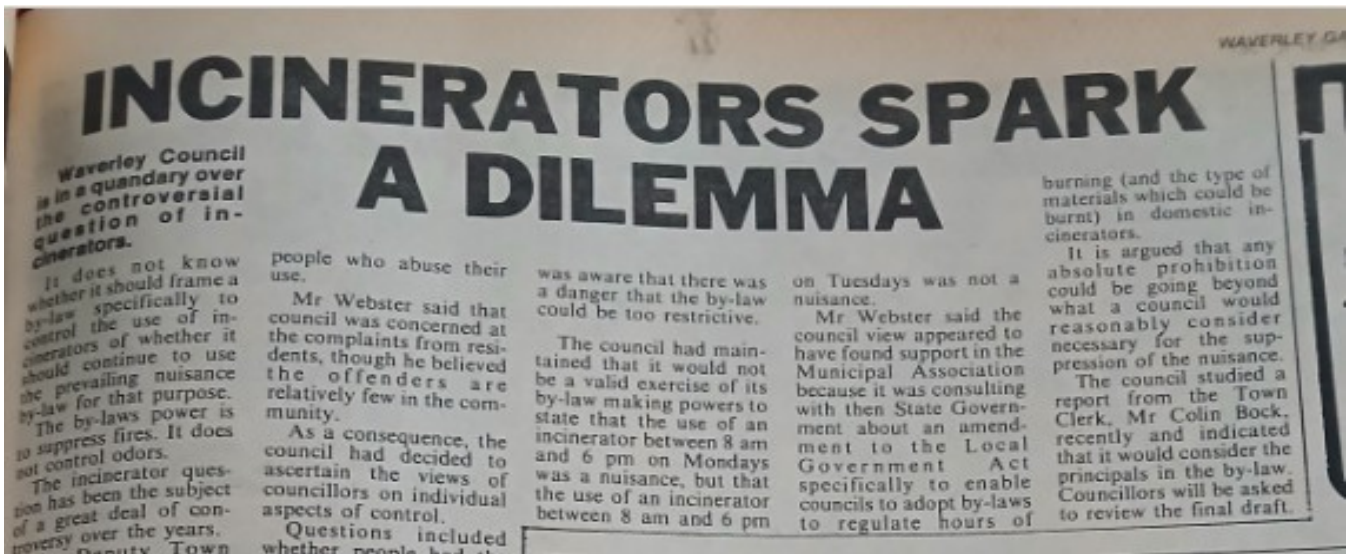
One of the Amstel pines, twisted and uprooted by the 13 February 2024 storm



The Amstel course in Cranbourne, now also gone for housing.

After nearly 60 years in Cranbourne the Amstel clubhouse remains but golf is played at Ranfurlie, also in Cranbourne.

The successful 1965 subdivision: "Once an exclusive golf course, now a prestigious residential area."



### Changes in Attitudes and Practices: The Waverley Incinerator Dilemma of 1981

The above article from the Waverley Gazette highlights how much has changed in just 45 years. Should the use of home incinerators be allowed, limited or banned?

Keep in mind that there was no council recycling yet. The city had just endured the Great Garbage Strike of 1980-81, when household and commercial waste had built up malodorously on every property. At that time, residents had to supply plastic or zinc-alum bins which garbos hand-lifted to empty into a truck. For many years this was high over the walls of a tip truck, but in 1968 the Australian-invented Idwall-Richardson side-loading truck made the back-breaking task a little lighter. The following year wheelie bins and mechanical bin lifters were invented overseas, but it took nearly a decade for them to arrive in Waverley. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-04/idwall-richards-modern-garbage-truck-inventor/101660372>



Australian garbage truck of 1968

Meanwhile many will recall the various black tubs that were introduced to encourage recycling of specific categories of waste, eg newspaper, glass and aluminium. This



The old milk bar that was on the NE cnr of Huntingdale & Waverley Rds

replaced the earlier system that everyone had grown up with – a daily trip to the local milk bar for the bread, milk and newspaper... and to return empty milk and lemonade bottles to retrieve the deposit. Scout and school groups also collected empty beer bottles, old newspapers and later aluminium cans as a fundraiser. On set days, usually Saturdays, householders would bring their collected recyclables to these places. It benefitted both sides.

However by the 1980s people were getting daily needs from supermarkets and returning empties was more difficult - thus the tubs. Hence recycling of materials was encouraged but there will always be those who take the easy way out. Enter

the back yard incinerator, a seemingly good way to make lots of things simply disappear. Some loved them. Others put in a lot of complaints, which the council sought to appease. In the above article it seeks feedback from the public, while recommending some immediate strategies to minimise by-law control and maximise personal choice. See excerpt on the right.

Note that these assume that people pegged washing outside, that they did not wash every day, that they knew their neighbours' wash days, that they planned chores by taking atmospheric conditions into account, that they had a garden and knew how to use ash on it, and that they were aware of collectors who took newspapers and bottles. How many of these are true today?

Also note that even earlier, most waste was dealt with at home. Old clothes were made into other clothes, patches or cleaning rags. Some were woven into rag rugs. Old wooden and paper items became fuel to cook food or keep houses warm. Bottles and jars were washed and re-used multiple times. Food waste was fed to hens, pigs or other animals, or buried in gardens.

<p><b>DO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use a properly designed incinerator which is in good repair.</li> <li>● Burn on a fairly breezy day when the sky is clear.</li> <li>● Burn as close to midday as possible (if not shortly after).</li> <li>● Give old newspapers to collectors for recycling.</li> <li>● Consider your neighbors.</li> <li>● Compost weeds, grass cuttings and vegetable rejects.</li> <li>● Remove ash before loading, ash is good for gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Load incinerator loosely and allow plenty of air spaces.</li> <li>● Light incinerator near the top.</li> </ul> <p><b>DON'T:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Burn on your neighbor's wash day.</li> <li>● Burn on a calm heavily overcast day.</li> <li>● Burn in the early morning or late afternoon.</li> <li>● Burn newspapers.</li> <li>● Burn plastics, rubber or waxed cartons.</li> <li>● Burn moist or "green" wood.</li> <li>● Burn leaves weeds or grass cuttings.</li> <li>● Load incinerators with ash from previous burnings.</li> </ul>
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Council Do and Don't from later in the article

Incinerators achieved none of these noble second uses, and their 'disappearing act' was incomplete – smoke permeated neighbourhoods to the annoyance of many. Certainly a new strategy was needed, back in 1981.

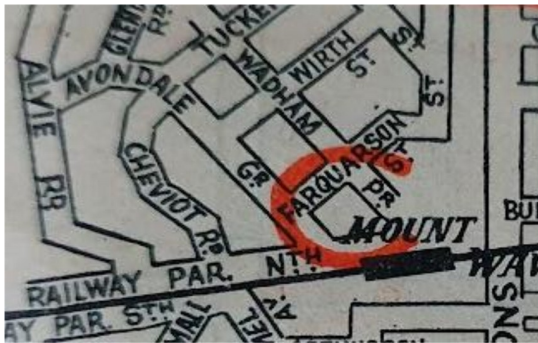
## Wadham House

Wadham House has been a popular venue for club meetings, mainly in the arts and crafts area, since its creation in 1975.



Before it was built the land was farmed by Cornells and Kloesters (later Closters). Here the Closter cows are seen grazing on what is now Wadham Parade. In 1929-30 the railway came through and feeder roads leading directly to railway stations at 45° to the surrounding streets were planned. Wadham Parade later became one of them. However in 1951 no streets were yet seen north of MW station.

Maps like the below Section C, Map 112 of 1955 Collins street directory, first list Wadham Parade and surrounding streets in 1955, though not all the street names are familiar. Miller Cres was Railway Pde North, half of Cheviot Rd was called Tucker St, Holskamp was deemed an extension of Farquarson, and a mysterious Mills St ran between Holskamp and Wirth Sts. The name Wadham might have honoured Sir Samuel **Wadham**, the Professor of Agriculture at Melbourne University, but more likely it was chosen by the solicitor R Wadham who acted for the owners of the property when it was subdivided.



Once streets were formed, house blocks were sold ranging in price from £1500 to £2800. Advertisements proudly stated that “water and electric light are at the estates.” Wadham House was built in **1955** by Joseph Fairbrother for his family. Unlike other houses in the street, it was two-storeyed, had a plain rectangular front and footprint, and was constructed of large masonry blocks, not bricks.

By 1962 shops were being built and opened in Wadham Pde, mostly on the western side. On the eastern side (where the library now stands) was Tasman Vaccine Laboratory and Kielbowski’s store, listed in 1960 as a grocer, in 1962 as a confectioner, and in 1964 as a repairer of clothing.

However Waverley City was gradually buying land here for infrastructure. The Youth Centre was first. By 1968 the east shops were gone and the library’s foundations had been laid. Kerbs and footpaths were formed; Wadham Pde was sealed and sewered. A back annex including indoor toilets was added to the Youth Centre, obviating the need for its former outhouses, but the front extension was not there yet.

The Fairbrothers lived in Wadham House until 1962 and then sold to Dr Watson, who ran a veterinary hospital on the premises. In 1970 Watson sold to another vet, J.F. Innes, who operated there for five years before shifting the business to 249 Waverley Rd, where it still stands.



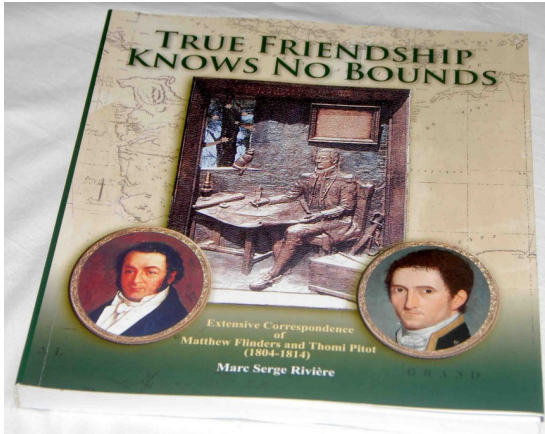
At that point Cr Pat Cotton strongly advocated for the City of Waverley to buy the sturdy adaptable building as a place for small to medium meetings, mainly for various craft and hobby groups, adding to the growing community hub. Soon fencelines were moved or removed, and a combined car park was established in what had been Fairbrothers’ back garden. The old Mt Waverley Progress Hall was moved in from Virginia St. In the 1970s the Australian Plants Society created a short-lived propagating room in the back. For a time a row of demountables housed library administration. Eventually in the late 1980s the titles were consolidated and the whole hub now has Fairbrothers’ old address, 52 Wadham Pde.

This community facility provides low cost venues for small to medium sized community groups who need to hold regular meetings throughout the year. It may also be the last building to feature the City of Waverley name.

## **Matthew Flinders: True Friendship Knows No Bounds**

**Venue: Wav. Hist. Soc. Rooms**  
Above Mt. Waverley Branch Library  
41 Miller Crescent, Mt. Waverley

**ALL WELCOME**



Emeritus Professor, Marc Serge Riviere

**Sunday, 22 February 2026 at 2:00 pm**

Please arrive by 1:50 or ring doorbell  
[waverleyhsvic@gmail.com](mailto:waverleyhsvic@gmail.com)

A new historical walk in an orcharding  
section of Glen Waverley

## **Plas Yollen**



Explore a part of Monash that was largely  
orchards including the coolstore, an old  
homestead tucked away in "the best street in  
Waverley," the site of Syndal Motors and  
Syndal State School, Ireland's dairy, Crawford  
Reserve and more.

**Sunday, 29 March 2026 at 2:00 pm**

Details when you book.  
[waverleyhsvic@gmail.com](mailto:waverleyhsvic@gmail.com)

**Waverley Historical Society  
& Monash Public Library Service**



## **Stories from a Shopping Strip: a History of Hamilton Place**

Historical Talk & Walk  
Presented by Waverley Historical Society

Historical Items Display  
**Book with Monash Public Library Service**  
Mount Waverley Branch

**ALL WELCOME**

**Wednesday, 18 March 2026**

**10:00 am – 12:30 pm**

41 Miller Crescent, Mt. Waverley  
Bookings: <https://monlib.events.mylibrary.digital>



## **ANZAC Commemoration**

**Sunday, 19 April 2026, 10am.**

Ceremony at Glen Waverley Cenotaph,  
Kingsway next to the library, Glen  
Waverley. (Preceded by a short march  
from Waverley RSL Sub-Branch car park  
stepping off at 10am).

**ANZAC DAY Saturday, 25 April 2026  
6:30 am Dawn Service.**

At the site of the 'Original' Glen Waverley  
Cenotaph, adjacent to Central Reserve,  
Springvale Road, Glen Waverley.