



Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

September 2014

Meetings

Thursday 11 September – 8pm

Speaker: Robin Grow

Topic: Dairies of Boroondara

Mr. Robin Grow is the President of the Art Deco and Moderne Society.

Venue: Balwyn Library, 336 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn

Thursday 9 October – 8pm – Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Ralph Stavelly

Topic: The 1923 Police Strike

Retired senior police officer Ralph Stavelly is the author of a number of publications on the history of the Victorian Police.

Thursday 13 November – 8pm

Speaker: John Howell

Topic: The Only Woman at Gallipoli

Who was the woman who appeared at Gallipoli in 1915 and laid a wreath on a grave? After five years of research John Howell can reveal the story of this mystery woman.

Please note our new email address which is below.

Email: balwynhistory@gmail.com website: www.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs

Recent Speaker – David Jellie

David Jellie began his most enjoyable and engaging talk with an explanation of the structure of VicRoads and the way it evolved from the Country Roads Board which was established in 1913. Originally an organization which constructed and maintained main roads, it now also licenses drivers, registers vehicles and regulates transport vehicles.

David then proceeded to show us a wonderful selection of photographs which graphically showed the appalling nature of the “tracks” linking main settlements in the late C19th and early C20th centuries – some with mud almost knee-deep, others so rutted as to be virtually unusable.

With the setting up of the Country Roads Board and the far-sightedness of the early Board members, district engineers were employed to supervise the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges in their regions using the most up-to-date means possible at the time.

David’s talk and photographs allowed us to see the transformation of the “tracks” of the 19th century to the highways, freeways and bridges of today – a wonderful journey.

David also very generously gave us copies of *VicRoads Centenary: Keeping Victorians Connected for 100 Year*, a recent publication detailing the history of VicRoads..

BHS Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 9 October.

The President’s annual report is included in this newsletter. The agenda, financial report and nomination forms for the election of office bearers and committee members will be sent to members before the meeting.

We would welcome nominations for all positions, particularly for the positions of treasurer and newsletter editor.

Balwyn Historical Society - Contact details

Balwyn Historical Society a program of the Balwyn Evergreen Centre.

Phone – 9836 9681

President	Martin Barrett	
Secretary	Pat O’Dwyer	9817 3758
Treasurer/	Marilyn Poole	9857 7565
Membership		
Speakers/	Robin Kelly	9836 6589
Publicity		
Archivist	Pam Herrington	

Newsletter	Barbara Russell
	Pat O’Dwyer 9817 3758
Webmaster	Neil Swansson

Non-Committee Assistants
Newsletter mailout Lynette Woolley, Deidre Woolley
Resources Heather Alford

Balwyn Historical Society - Annual Report 2013/14

Balwyn Historical Society (BHS) has had another successful year. Our membership figures remain steady. Unfortunately we have lost a number of our older members this year, but have been pleased to welcome several new ones to our society. Our monthly meetings, which focus on topics of both local and general historical interest, attract around 40 members each month.

We also published a monthly newsletter, improved our web site and conducted other activities such as the Christmas dinner, and a display at the Balwyn Library during History Week. We have continued our affiliations with other historical societies such as the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the Association of Eastern Historical Societies which generously gave us a BHS banner to be used at meetings and other events, and the Boroondara History Societies' Association. We have also been represented at planning meetings for the Gallipoli and Beyond 1915 commemoration activities. These links have been invaluable in sharing information between different organizations.

We are continually adding to our collection of donated archival material about the Balwyn area, much of which is in the form of photographs, local newspaper reports and pamphlets. This material is being used to answer the increasing number of enquires re Balwyn history that arrive via email. We also continue to receive donations to this collection. We particularly thank the Surrey Hills History Society for the donation of early photos, pamphlets and street plans and Louise Hart for the books and pamphlets she donated from the library of her late husband, Trevor Hart.

We were delighted to receive a large grant from the Boroondara Community Grants scheme which will be used to purchase new computer equipment and software.

BHS continues to be run by an enthusiastic committee consisting of:

Martin Barrett (president)	Marilyn Poole (treasurer/membership)
Pam Herrington (archivist)	Robin Kelly (programs and publicity)
Patricia O'Dwyer (secretary/newsletter)	Neil Swansson (webmaster)
Barbara Russell (newsletter assistant)	

The committee acknowledges with thanks the work of the volunteers who have contributed to the organization of our resources, among them are Heather Alford, Deirdre and Lynette Woolley.

One of the significant factors in the success of Balwyn Historical Society is the support of the Balwyn Evergreen Centre. While the Centre has been undergoing refurbishment during 2014 we have had to store all of our resources off-site. However, we have been fortunate to have had the use of the Balwyn Library for our meetings. We look forward to moving back into the Evergreen Centre when the work is finished later this year and to once again have access to a dedicated office, a well-equipped, air-conditioned meeting room and supper facilities. The staff of BEC continues to provide important assistance with access to copying facilities and banking and for this we thank them.

BHS continues to attract a diverse group of people who share a common interest in history. Historical societies play an important role in the development of community connectedness by attracting individuals irrespective of age or cultural background in order to develop their interests and activities.

Martin Barrett (President) - September 2014

North Balwyn's First House?

CENTURY OLD COTTAGE

Piece of history up for auction

WITHOUT fear of contradiction it can be said that 192 Doncaster Road, North Balwyn is the oldest existing building in North Balwyn and possibly the eastern suburbs.

This stone cottage once stood alone on top of the hill now intersected by Balwyn and Doncaster roads and is thought to be the farm house on the property bounded by Belmore, Burke, Doncaster and Balwyn roads.

The cottage was built in approximately 1857, of a material similar to sandstone. The walls are over 30 centimetres thick and its floors rest on huge log stumps, standing the test of time with remarkable fortitude.

During its long history it has been renovated and changed, thankfully with a very real consciousness to the unique character.

The front of the cottage has been restored to its original stone finish and entrance is gained via a magnificent wide glass door with fanlight window.

The entrance hall is spacious and welcoming and one can imagine the man of the house in those days warming himself in front of the open stone fireplace when the milking had finished!



192 Doncaster Road, North Balwyn

The separate diningroom has an ornate fireplace with timber surround. There are three bedrooms, the master bedroom having a wall of robes.

The kitchen has recently been remodelled with an interesting cottage style flavor, using high quality appliances. The bathroom has also been attended to and features an interesting leadlight skylight.

As the cottage is set well back on the block, the rear yard is small, but provides for private outdoor living.

This piece of history will be auctioned by Fletcher and Parker Pty. Ltd. of 61 Doncaster Road (corner of Bulleen Road), North Balwyn on Saturday 26th March, 1983 at 2.00 p.m. It is open for inspection each Thursday from 2.00 - 2.30 p.m. or inspect by appointment with Jim Menzies, Peter Balharrie, Robert Fletcher of Tim Fletcher — telephone 859 1291 or 859 9444.

Stone Cottage - c 1857

192 Doncaster Road

North Balwyn

(advertised 9 March 1988)