



## Surrey Hills Historical Society Newsletter: August-November 2020 COVID-19 Special Edition No 2

### Forthcoming meetings and events – STILL CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**Meetings of the Surrey Hills Historical Society are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (February to November) at 8pm.**

**Venue: Maitland Room of The Cottage of the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre at 1 Bedford Avenue, Surrey Hills.**

Entry is from the rear of the building, accessed from Zeplins Lane, which runs beside the building.

There is plenty of parking in the adjacent railway car park, which is well-lit at night.

Supper follows the presentation; a contribution of \$4.50 goes to the Neighbourhood Centre.

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Members of the Society and others are committed to documenting the history of the area through the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre Heritage Collection. We meet most Mondays, 10am-3pm. The collection is open to the public at this time. For further details email: [heritage@surreyhillscnc.org.au](mailto:heritage@surreyhillscnc.org.au)

Items and stories from the collection appear on the Surrey Hills History Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Surrey-Hills-History-887879524593056/> and on Victorian Collections at <https://victoriancollections.net.au>

#### **Surrey Hills Historical Society committee:**

President / newsletter: Sue Barnett

Vice-President: Euan Walmsley

Secretary: Max Beaton

Treasurer: Jon Agar

General Committee: Dorothy Duncan

Ex-Officio: Arthur Tonkin

Newsletter editor: Sue Barnett

Address for postage: C/o Surrey Hills  
Neighbourhood Centre  
157 Union Road, Surrey Hills, 3127

I had hoped that this newsletter would flag a resumption to our usual meetings. Sadly, it looks as if current restrictions, and everyday sensible precautions, may see us unable to meet again face-to-face this year. However, I hope the mini-articles here will help keep you connected to our local history and provide you with an insight into some of the activities continuing on behind the scenes.

### A significant donation – the Margaret Picken property sketches

Just before we all went back into lockdown, we received the generous donation of over 500 sketches in black ink on polyester drafting film of local homes. These came from Margaret Picken.

From 1968-1975 Margaret worked as a cartographic draftsman in the mining industry. Almost a decade later, married with young children, she transferred her skills to working in the real estate industry – it turned out to be a career that lasted 22 years from 1983-2005. For most of this time Margaret's office was the kitchen table.





Margaret Picken, August 2020  
Photo courtesy: Libby Wilson

Margaret related that: "Sketches were ordered by phone initially as there were no mobile phones or computers then. I would take our 2 year-old son with me to the houses when the other 2 boys were at school. I photographed houses with a Polaroid camera and made a 'thumbnail' sketch while there. The photos were used to scale off a sketch in pencil and then that sketch was overlaid with drafting film and the 'pen and ink' was completed." Margaret worked for quite a number of real estate firms, but in the Mont Albert-Surrey Hills area it was largely for Woodards or Fletchers. Her sketches were used to create the images on real estate flyers and the ads in newspapers. This approach to advertising properties started to change about 2003 when coloured photos began to replace sketches. Margaret produced her last real estate sketches in late 2005.

Margaret's donation to our collection and those of other societies in Boroondara, Whitehorse and other municipalities is significant, not only because of the artistic merit of the sketches and as a documentation of the process, but as important historic records of our built heritage. The sketches are carefully notated. The process of fully integrating these into the collection and uploading the individual records to the Victorian Collections website will be time-consuming. They will be linked to any other material we have on each property.

It is already apparent that this collection includes properties that have been demolished or significantly altered. In some cases, we will also have photos of the properties, but in many cases, these will be the only visual image of them. They will become important records for family and house historians.

Below are a few examples of Margaret's work. Thanks to the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre, we've had approval to purchase appropriate archival materials to safely house this donation for posterity.



'Working from home' - Malcolm Barnett  
assembles a polypropylene box in which to  
store the donation.



118 Guildford Road, Surrey Hills; sketch by Margaret Picken, 1989  
SHA2020.8.189



118 Guildford Road is an example of a property which although extant, is much altered today. Built in c1910, Alan Holt's property register shows that the first occupant of 118 Guildford Road was John Young, as estate agent, previously listed at 101 Union Road (the Surrey Hall). The next recorded occupants were several generations of the Isherwood family, members of whom continued to own it until at least the mid-1980s and possibly until it was sold in 1989. Although the house is clearly timber in the Edwardian style, the small building at the end of the driveway in Margaret's sketch was brick and dated from the 1920's when an amendment to government regulations required that dairy buildings be constructed from brick. Many earlier timber structures were subsequently demolished or repurposed at this time.

The side of this small dairy abutted the laneway running between Croydon and Guildford Roads and is seen in SHP332. The earlier name of 'Guildford Dairy' still visible under the later 'Isherwood Dairy'. The dairy building was later converted into a flat.



Left: SHP332 - photo by Ken Hall, early 1980's

Right: Internet photo at the time of sale July 2008 – ref: <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/118-guildford-rd-surrey-hills-vic-3127>

Since the above listed sale, the land has been sub-divided, the original Edwardian home has had a second storey added, the dairy building has been demolished and has been replaced by a second 2-storey unit.

No 2 Lightfoot Street, Mont Albert is one of the properties in Margaret's donation that has been completely demolished.

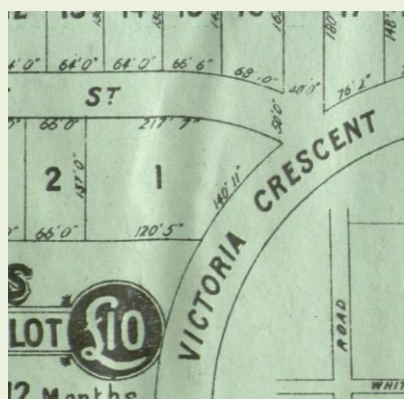


2014 advertising photo; campaign by Marshall White Real Estate – ref: <https://www.realestateview.com.au/real-estate/2-lightfoot-street-mont-albert-vic/property-details-sold-residential-7892626/>

Built in 1922, this simple Californian bungalow was first occupied by Walter Davis and his wife Olive after their marriage in 1924. It was sold in 2001 for \$393,000 and in 2014 for \$1,280,000. It has been replaced by a large 2-storey 'mock-French chateau'.



Ref: SLV, Batten & Percy Collection



Aerial view used in the 2020 real estate advertising campaign by Marshall White clearly shows that the original layout with the kitchen in an adjacent but separate building was never altered. Further photos of this unique property can be seen at <https://www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-vic-mont+albert-132448090>

The post-WW1 building boom filled in many blocks which had been subdivided in the 1880's but left vacant after the land crash of the 1890's. This meant that the Mont Albert-Surrey Hills area had a great number of these simply designed, affordable homes. They are fast disappearing. As the name suggests the design concept originated in California. In Melbourne they were often built using red brick; in Sydney using liver-coloured brick, limestone in South Australia and in Queensland they were elevated and usually entirely built of timber with galvanised roofing.

Across the road from this simple Californian bungalow at 1-3 Lightfoot Street (with an earlier address of 45 Victoria Crescent) is 'Dulverton' built in c1885. Until its sale in April this year by Marshall White Real Estate, it had belonged to members of the same family.

Lightfoot Street was named after Edward William Lightfoot, a grain merchant of 'Moira' in Finch Street, Malvern. He was one of a syndicate of four who subdivided c13 acres as the Moira Park Estate. There were 54 lots. The agent was James Dunn, who retained Lot 1 for himself. James Dunn's daughter, Edith Dorothy Dunn, was a talented early photographer. She married John Albert Freeman in 1919 and inherited 'Dulverton'. Long-term Society members will remember Kelvin and Ruth Freeman, who were their children.



Edith Dorothy Dunn – SHP1387



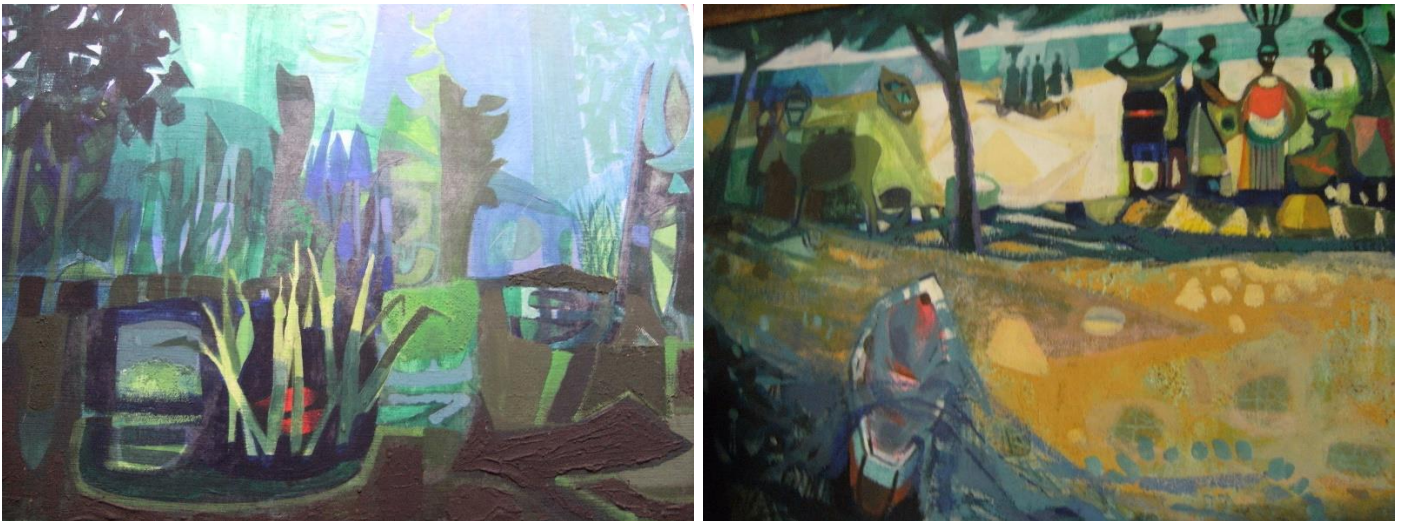
## Research in the time of COVID 19

Many people have taken the opportunity of being home to pick up threads of past historical interest or to start researching for the first time. The following three people have agreed to share their research. We have been able to assist with this in differing degrees. All help augment our knowledge of the social fabric of our area.

### Project 1: In search of ... the Cozens family of Wandsworth Road

In May an interesting research enquiry came in through the Victorian Collections page from a cultural consultant in Hitchin, UK. Catherine Davis wrote: "My interest (in Moya Cozens, 1920-1990) arose because I happened to come across the result of a studio clearance of her work in a junk shop some years after her death. I suspect as her husband moved away from Sussex (she married late and had no children). I bought a representative selection of her work because it was of obvious quality and I really liked it. Since then I've been trying to put more of her history together, which frankly at times is like chasing a ghost and I lack any photo or image of her. Still I've been getting a bit further recently because I've finally had time (Covid 19 is good for something) to concentrate on doing the research properly."

Apart from documenting the life of the artist whose work she proudly owns, Catherine's aim is to eventually produce an article about Moya, to fill in one of those gaps in modern British art history, and perhaps also Jamaican art history.

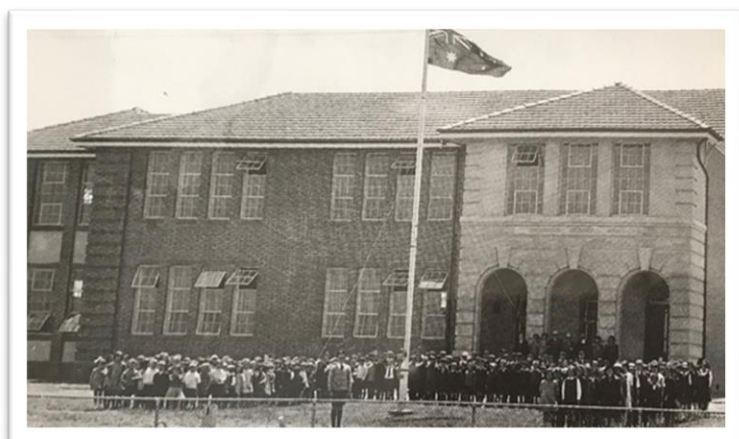


Images of some of Moya Cozens' paintings; courtesy of Catherine Davis.

Catherine had discovered that Moya trained at the Slade School in the late 1930's and early 1940's but, like many women artists had vanished from sight, apart from a brief entry in the Dictionary of British Artists and the odd record on the internet when her work came up on ebay or in auction. She had found that Moya spent time in Jamaica in the late 1950's; she taught in the Jamaica School of Arts and Crafts and exhibited widely there in the late 1950's and early 1960's. She returned to the UK in 1959. So, what's the connection with Surrey Hills?

The clue to this came in late February 2020 when Catherine visited the archives of the University College London (UCL) and was able to look at Moya's student register file. In her application to the Slade School in 1938 Moya wrote: *'From 1926 until 1932, I was educated in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, first at a private Kindergarten School and subsequently at two elementary schools in Melbourne.'* This shifted Catherine's attention to the Australian electoral rolls. She found the Cozens family living at Wiseman Street, Auburn between 1922 and 1924 and then at Wandsworth Road, Surrey Hills until 1931, before they moved briefly to Garfield.

Moya's father, Frederick George Cozens, was an engineer, although he doesn't seem to have been recorded as such whilst in Australia. The Wandsworth Road listings give his occupation as plasterer. He and his wife Frances Maude (nee Smith) had 4 children. As well as Moya, there were Walter James, Dorothy and Leonard Frederick.



I was able to confirm that the Cozens family lived at 4 Wandsworth Road (demolished) and that Moya, Dorothy and Walter attended nearby Chatham Primary School. Moya was in fact in the first intake of students when the school opened on 1 August 1927. So, Moya and her brother Walter are probably somewhere in this photo on the left, with the other young children. This commemorative photo was taken on the school's official opening day on 15 February 1928.

**How can we help further?** It's perhaps not likely, but I'm hoping to find a photo of the original house at 4 Wandsworth Road. It was built in c1923, so it was probably a Californian bungalow and it is likely that the Cozens family were its first occupants. Then there's the kindergarten. Given Moya's age she would have attended kindergarten in Surrey Hills rather than Auburn. I wonder which of the private kindergartens this might have been? I'm guessing the one attached to Holy Trinity in Union Road.

## Project 2: Nurse Victoria Melba Turner (1891-1964) – an extraordinary life

Knowledge of this nurse and midwife came to us through a request for an image of Mosgiel Private Hospital. It's one of the images most sought after by family historians! For those born at Mosgiel, in addition to the name of the doctor, the name Elizabeth Anderson or Victoria Turner may well appear on the birth certificate as a witness to the birth.

For many decades a career in nursing was one of few available to women, yet details of nursing careers can be difficult for the family historian to uncover. Registration of nurses was not mandated on a state basis until the Nurses Board was established on 1 July 1924 and the first available list of registrations occurs in the Victorian Government Gazette of 13 August 1926. The registrations of Elizabeth Anderson and Victoria Turner show that the two women were admitted to the register on the same day and had trained at the Melbourne Hospital, completing their training just months apart in 1915. Their friendship and shared professional lives were to span decades.

1723	27.10.25	Allen, Joyce .. ..	Care of Mrs. Todner, St. Gothard's-road, Alphington ..	8 (a) ..	Alfred Hospital, July, 1893
363	19.12.24	Allan, Agnes Stirling ..	6 Avoca-street, Caulfield ..	8 (a) ..	Ballarat Hospital, March, 1919
730	10.2.25	Allan, Marguerite Lissie Ivie ..	1308 Mair-street, Ballarat ..	8 (a) ..	Melbourne Hospital, December, 1922
124	8.12.24	Allen, Ethel May .. ..	Care of Mrs. Todner, St. Gothard's-road, Alphington ..	8 (a) ..	
1574	3.8.25	Anderson, Beatrice Margaret ..	28 Beaver-street, East Malvern ..	8 (b) (i)	
355	19.12.24	Anderson, Dorothy Ellen (née Kirby)	Raglan-street, Daylesford ..	8 (a) ..	Daylesford Hospital, July, 1921
1656	29.9.25	Anderson, Dorothy Gertrude ..	98 McKillop-street, Geelong ..	8 (a) ..	Geelong Hospital, April, 1923
964	31.3.25	Anderson, Elizabeth Maitland ..	391 Mont Albert-road, Surrey Hills ..	8 (a) ..	Melbourne Hospital, May, 1915
1814	15.12.25	Anderson, Florence Gordon ..	108 Flinders-lane, Melbourne ..	8 (a) ..	Alfred Hospital, January, 1905
287	8.12.24	Anderson, Jane Louisa .. ..	152 Power-street, Hawthorn ..	8 (a) ..	Austin and Allied Hospitals, July, 1920
1432	14.7.25	Anderson, Jean Reid .. ..	Care of Dr. Middleton, Macpherson-	8 (b) (i)	
1600	1.9.25	Tulloch, Edith Mary (née Eastwood)	10 Asling-street, North Brighton ..	8 (a) ..	Melbourne Hospital, December, 1902
1506	3.8.25	Tupper, Dorothy Elizabeth ..	20 St. Vincent-place, Albert Park ..	8 (c) ..	Dunolly Hospital, October, 1924
1764	24.11.25	Turnbull, Ruth Margaret May ..	564 Hargreaves-street, Bendigo ..	8 (a) ..	Bendigo Hospital, April, 1916
1248	30.6.25	Turner, Jane Eleanor .. ..	14 Green-street, Ivanhoe ..	8 (a) ..	Heathcote Hospital, May, 1915
962	31.3.25	Turner, Victoria Melba .. ..	391 Mont Albert-road, Surrey Hills ..	8 (a) ..	Melbourne Hospital, October, 1914
510	19.12.24	Tutty, Mary .. ..	2 Kooyong Koot-road, Glenferrie ..	8 (a) ..	Amherst Hospital, November, 1916
1272	30.6.25	Tweddell, Audrey Olivia .. ..	18 Margaret-street, Murrumbidgee ..	8 (a) ..	Children's Hospital, January, 1921
1271	30.6.25	Tweddell, Phyllis Ellidge ..	18 Margaret-street, Murrumbidgee ..	8 (a) ..	Melbourne Hospital, September, 1917
783	23.2.25	Tweddle, Annie Elizabeth ..	"Ormiston," Wheatley-road, Brighton ..	8 (b) (i)	Government Hospitals, Western Australia, May, 1919



Melba Turner c1914

The cap and veil indicate that she was a senior trainee probably in her third year of General Nursing. Melba went on to qualify in her Midwifery and Child Health Care Certificates.

Photo courtesy: David Grace



Melba's friend and colleague Elizabeth Anderson (1887-1974)

After her retirement from Mosgiel in 1950, along with Doctors Roberta and Agnes Donaldson, she opened the Elgar Nursing Home in Elgar Road. She was a dedicated supporter of Moral Re-Armament. SHP1433

Victoria Melba Turner, known as Melba, was born in 1891 in Bunbury, WA. She had a disrupted early life. After her mother's death the family moved to Melbourne, followed by moves to Sydney and Horsham before in c1910 Victoria started her training at the Melbourne School of Nursing (part of the Melbourne Hospital).

Following graduation, Melba became a member of the Presbyterian Women's Mission Union (PWMU) and attended the Rolland House induction course in Melbourne. This course was for the brightest in their profession and was mandatory training before a missionary nurse could be posted overseas. Having completed this course, in c1920 Melba went to the New Hebrides to undertake PWMU missionary and nursing work. The Presbyterian Church had a strong missionary presence there and today approximately 83% of the population of modern Vanuatu is Christian, of which Presbyterians are the largest denominational group. This month marks 75 years of the PWMU in the country and whilst there is a small continuing missionary presence, approximately whilst 90% of the clergy of the established churches are now indigenous.

In 1920 the situation was vastly different. The country was administered by the British-French Condominium, under which the Melanesian population was barred from citizenship of either country and not surprisingly, given longstanding rivalries between the two, there was duplication of laws, police forces, prisons, currencies, education and health systems. In their book, 'Vanuatu' by Jocelyn Harewood and Michelle Bennett, the conditions of the 1920s are described: "Drunken plantation owners used to gamble... using the 'years of labour' of their Melanesian workers as currency. Islanders used to be lined up against the wall, at the mercy of their employers' dice. Long after America's Wild West was tamed, Vila was the scene of the occasional gunfight and public guillotining." Not an easy working environment for a young nurse.

In c1923 Melba returned to Melbourne and joined her friend Elizabeth Anderson, working at the Mosgiel Private Hospital at (then) 391 Mont Albert Road, Surrey Hills. Previously known as 'Quamby', it had been built in 1898 and had been the home of the Sherar family. Elizabeth Maitland Anderson had previously been Matron of the Queen Victoria Hospital for four years and was Matron of Mosgiel from 1923-1950. She and Melba lived in a house adjacent to the hospital at 397 Mont Albert Road.

Between May and September 1926 Melba took a break from nursing and travelled extensively around England. On her return to Melbourne, she rejoined the staff at Mosgiel, again living next door. She continued to be part of the Surrey Hills community for almost a decade before moving to the Mallee, a



move which came as a result of a broader public recognition of the need to better support women. Apart from the fallout of WW1 affecting many aspects of life, by 1917 the high levels of infant morbidity and mortality had become a matter of public concern. This resulted in the establishment of the first infant welfare centres. By 1925 there were 71 centres in Victoria with 52 nurses employed. That same year the Government appointed a Royal Commission to enquire into the welfare of women and children in Victoria, with Dr Vera Scantlebury and Dr Henrietta Main appointed to undertake a survey and report their findings and recommendations. Dr Vera Scantlebury was subsequently appointed as the first Director of Infant Welfare and the Mobile Infant Welfare Service for country mothers was an outcome.

During 1937- 1938 Melba and colleague Sister Catherine Houston worked as the first Child Welfare Nurses employed by the Child Infant Welfare Association of Victoria's mobile unit. This was funded by several well-known charities and public money raised by The Herald and included the construction of a purpose-built caravan. Not just a work vehicle, it was also fitted with beds and the nurses slept in it.

In 1939 Melba again returned to Mosgiel. She spent the war years working there and living next door but following the end of the war, she returned to working with the Presbyterian Church, moving to the Presbyterian Aboriginal Mission Station of Ernabella.

Ernabella had been a pastoral lease before it was established as a mission station in 1937. Behind it was Charles Duguid OBE, a medical doctor and Aboriginal rights campaigner, who at the time was president of the Aborigines Protection League. He laid down the following principles for the mission: "There was to be no compulsion nor imposition of our way of life on the Aborigines, nor deliberate interference with tribal custom ... only people trained in some particular skill should be on the mission staff, and ... they must learn the tribal language."

Melba's diary reflects this philosophy. During her time at Ernabella (1945-1950) Melba was involved with a wide range of nursing and mission duties. She developed a deep understanding and respect for indigenous culture. She encouraged the women to come into hospital for their confinements and nursed many in the community through serious bouts of measles and influenza. The local Pitjantjatjara made her a full blood member of their people. During this period, Melba was also able to travel widely in Central Australia.

It was also while still working at Ernabella that Melba purchased what was probably her only personal property, a house in Kalorama. She moved into it in 1950 and not surprisingly whilst living there became friends with William Ricketts, who between 1949-1960 made frequent trips into Central Australia to live with the Pitjantjatjara and Arrernte peoples, and whose traditions and culture inspired his sculpture.



Mosgiel Private Hospital - SHP395



Melba and her work partner beside the mobile caravan near Robinvale, Victoria.  
Photo courtesy: David Grace.





Melba Turner with a group of children from the Rumbalara Aboriginal Child Playgroup at Mooroopna, Victoria c1954. Photo courtesy: David Grace.

Respect for the aboriginal people and a love of children were important elements in Melba's life, so it was not per chance that in c1954 she moved to Mooroopna and became a strong advocate for the Yorta Yorta people.

The Rumbalara area on the river flats between Shepparton and Mooroopna is associated with what is often described as the first indigenous mass protests in Australia - the Cummeragunja Walk-Off. Cummeragunja (Mission, Reserve or Station) was established in 1881 on the New South Wales side of the Murray River near Barmah. The people there were mostly of the Yorta Yorta people. By late 1938 many had become unhappy with the management of the mission, general living conditions and restrictions on their movements. The trigger for the walk-off occurred on 4 February 1939, when Jack Patten was arrested and removed from the mission after trying to address the local people. As many as 200 residents of Cummeragunja walked out and crossed the Murray River into Victoria, in contravention of rules set by the New South Wales Board for the Protection of Aborigines.

By the early 1950s, there were approximately 300 people living on the river flats when dry, and moving to higher ground, known as Daish's Paddock, whenever flood waters came. The site was lacking in even basic amenities, resulting in many health issues, but negotiations for improvements were protracted and it was into this complex situation that Melba arrived. She pushed for proper housing and initiated a kindergarten for the children in the encampment, as well as managing the Rumbalara playgroup.

In 1958, the Aboriginal Welfare Board and Housing Commission erected ten prefabricated concrete houses, each with three small bedrooms, a small living area, but no hot water or sewerage. On 11 April 1958, the housing project was officially opened by Arthur Rylah, Deputy Premier and Chief Secretary of Victoria. Today this standard of housing seems rather appalling, but then it was seen as a vast improvement. It must have been of some relief for Melba who, now aged 67, also embarked on her last travel adventure, to India. Sometime in 1961/62 Melba moved into the 'Kirkbrae' a Presbyterian retirement village on Mt Dandenong Road, Kilsyth. She died in 1964, aged 73.

This outline of this public aspect of Melba's life has been compiled largely from insights shared by her great-nephew, David Grace. She had an interesting and varied nursing career, which dipped in and out of Surrey Hills, and behind all this she was a loved and supportive member of her wider family.

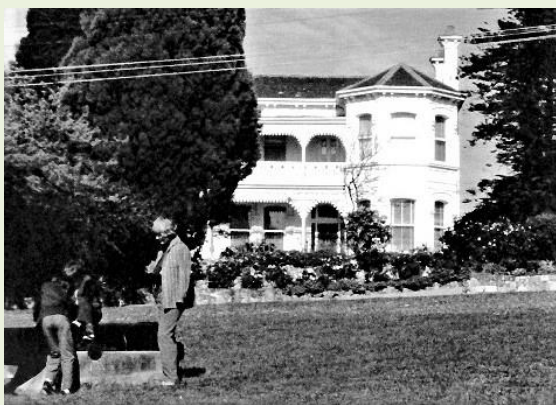
The Victorian Gazettes are an extremely useful source for details about nurses and many other occupations. They contain information on everything from land transactions, bankruptcies, tenders, patent applications, unclaimed letters and monies, shipping and emigration notices, and much more. Entries can be as brief as a road closure notice or as comprehensive as a 200-page list of everyone who is registered to practice medicine in Victoria. They can be accessed through the State Library of Victoria website.

Further information: If you wish to read more about Dr Vera Scantlebury, Dr Charles Duguid or Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative see: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/scantlebury-brown-vera-8350>, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/duguid-charles-12440> and <https://www.rumbalara.org.au/our-history> 'Vanuatu' by Jocelyn Harewood and Michelle Bennett published by Lonely Planet, 2003.

### Project 3: Searching for a house name



Watercolour of 'The Willows', courtesy of Philip Barton.



'Kirkland', Union Road opposite Surrey Gardens



'Kinnoul', The Avenue – home of the Hogg family

The worldwide tradition of naming farms, buildings and homes is centuries old. I have been able to locate exactly where some of my Scottish ancestors lived as farm names tend not to be changed with a change in ownership and still appear on maps of rural areas, as they did on old ordinance survey maps.

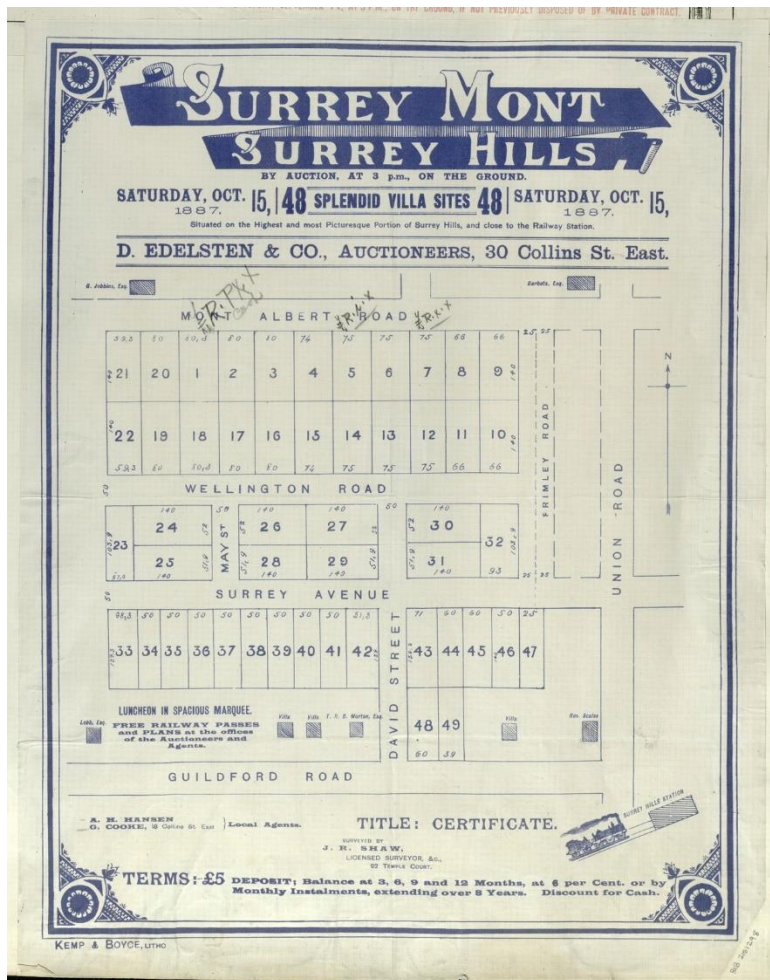
In urban Australia however, not all houses had names and they weren't necessarily perpetual. In suburbs like ours, which before the 1880's were essentially rural, as well as being a nostalgic reference to family or one's origins, there was a very practical reason for naming one's home. Most streets were not allocated numbers for the first (but not necessarily the last) time until the 1920's and a house name was of great assistance to the postman, deliverymen and visitors. Additionally, 'spec builders' were around even in the 1920's and giving a house a name was seen as a marketing tool.

Some notable early local examples of house names: John Butler Maling named his home 'The Willows'. Originally on c16 acres of land, it was demolished in the 1930's and was located in the general area of Shepreth Street. Its name is thought to be a reference to the vegetation along the creek that ran parallel to Whitehorse Road.

John Woodhead named his Victorian Boom period home at 89 Union Road 'Kirkland', this being his wife Jeannie's maiden name and Thomas Hogg named his home in The Avenue 'Kinnoul', a reference to his Scottish origins.

In July I was contacted by John Kelly wondering if his family home in Empress Road had ever had a name. He had found a map of the subdivision of land on the State Library of Victoria catalogue and was surprised to see that part of Empress Road had originally been Wellington Road, as marked on the 1887 'Surrey Mont' subdivision of the area. Whilst the 48 'splendid villa sites' were offered for sale in October 1887, it is likely that many remained unsold.





SLV Collection: Surrey Mont, Surrey Hills -  
"Saturday, Oct. 15, 1887"

Published by Kemp & Boyce

At foot of page: Surveyed by J.R. Shaw  
Auctioneers: D. Edelsten & Co.

Also shows locations of G. Jobbins Esq., Barbetta  
Esq., Rev. Scales, Lobb Esq., T. R. B. Morton Esq.

The houses around John and Sally's home were built c1916 and numbers 82 – 112 were on what was later referred to as the 'War Services Homes Estate'. An added complication in the search for an original house name derived from the street name change which occurred some time between 1931 and 1936. This in turn resulted in 1944 in a re-numbering of Empress Road.

Thanks to Alan Holt's meticulous register I was able to quickly verify that the first family to live in the Kelly's home was John Thomas Dean and his wife Annie Marson Dean (nee Heales), who moved to Surrey Hills from Burwood around 1927. Checking back through electoral rolls, I found that their home in Hartwell Road, Burwood was named 'Pozières' – a name that they repeated when they arrived in Empress Road.

John and Annie's son John Charles Dean was killed at the Battle of Pozières, which took place between 23 July and 3 September 1916, part of the Battle of the Somme. The Australian official historian Charles Bean wrote that Pozières ridge "is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth." During the course of 42 days the Australians made 19 attacks against the German positions. The final casualties totalled 23,000 men killed, wounded, or taken prisoner; 6,800 were killed or died of wounds. By the time the offensive was abandoned, the allied forces had advanced a mere 12 kilometres. Several months after the cessation of fighting at Pozières, Charles Bean returned to retrace the battle and collected the first relics for what would eventually become the Australian War Memorial.

Although the records cite that John Charles Dean was KIA 25 July 1916, he was also listed as missing in action and his death notice did not appear in The Age until 1 October 1917.



#### John Charles DEAN

Regimental number	3770
Place of birth	Carlton, Victoria
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Clerk
Address	1 Surrey Street, Burnley, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	25
Next of kin	Father, J T Dean, 1 Surrey Street, Burnley, Victoria
Enlistment date	14 July 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	5th Battalion, 12th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/22/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A40 Ceramic on 23 November 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	5th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 25 July 1916



Main street in Pozières village before and after the battle of 1916; source Australian War Memorial.  
Further details regarding the battle see - <https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools/resources/1916/pozieres>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Pozi%C3%A8res](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Pozi%C3%A8res)

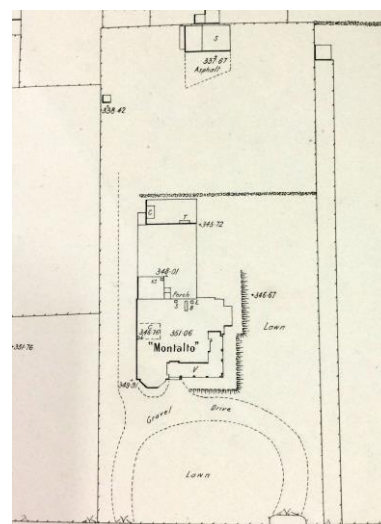
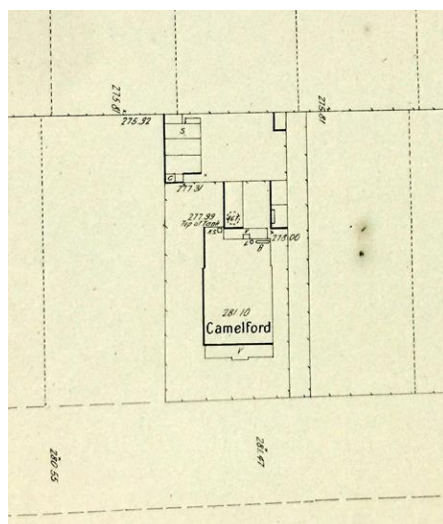


John and Sally Kelly have embraced honoring the sentiments of the first occupants of their home and have had a new house name plaque made.

John Charles Dean's brother Albert Henry Dean also served in WW1 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> air mechanic in the 9<sup>th</sup> reinforcements, Australian Flying Corps. He returned to Melbourne in 1918. Although they came from a large family, to date no photos of either have been located.

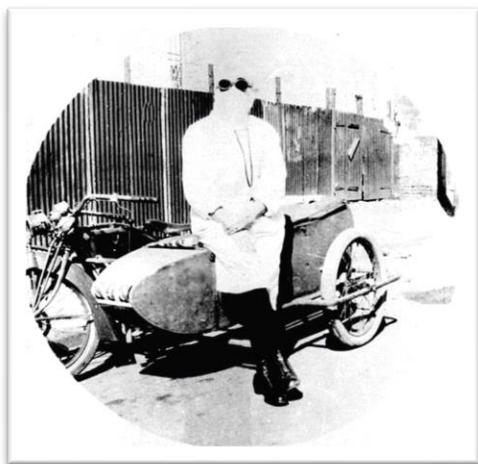
Although the following website is Queensland-based, it provides interesting case studies and is an excellent guide to sources for tracing the history of your home.

See <https://www.househistories.org/histories> Apart from newspaper notices found on Trove and electoral rolls, early maps are a great starting point as can be seen from these examples of Surrey Hills houses, sadly both demolished. On the left 'Camelford' which was in Norris Street and 'Montalto' which was next to the Surrey Gardens in Union Road. These cropped sections come from MMBW maps of the area which can be found on the State Library of Victoria website.





## What are you doing in lock down?



It is too early to predict what the long-term personal, social and economic fallout of COVID 19 is going to be, but it would be great if some of our members could put 'pen to paper' and record how you are adjusting to the current restrictions and our 'new way of living'.

Already some historians are comparing today with the experience of the Spanish Flu in 1919. One is medical historian Dr Peter Hobbins of the University of Sydney, who has been studying both epidemics and notes that there are similarities between the two pandemics. In 1919 New South Wales imposed drastic restrictions on its residents; closing schools, churches, entertainment venues and important events such as agricultural shows and victory parades. "For the first time in my career, I feel a real sense of what

could be called 'historical déjà vu', in living through the COVID-19 lockdown," Dr Hobbins said.

For some excellent reading see: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2020/05/27/2020-versus-1919--is-covid-19-as-bad-as-the--spanish--flu-.html>

## Whitehorse Heritage Week: 10-17 September



The theme for this year's Whitehorse Heritage Week is 'Hidden Heritage' and whereas the intent was to provide the public with access to aspects of shared heritage not normally available or not known about, the current restrictions have meant some lateral thinking and what has been 'hidden' is being uploaded to the net.

'Inside the Surrey Hills Collection', a Powerpoint presentation with commentary, is one presentation that will run over the course of Heritage Week. Members of Box Hill Historical Society have compiled something along the same lines. There will be a

virtual tour of Schwerholt Cottage, a presentation from Archival Survival on caring for family treasures and many other items of interest. Details of the whole program should be available soon on:

[www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/heritage-week](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/heritage-week)

## Updates: News from Box Hill Historical Society

Copies of the Box Hill Reporter newspaper up to 1930 have now been digitised and are available on the National Library of Australia's Trove website – see <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

The Society was able to successfully undertake this project due in part to the generosity of members who made donations that they earmarked for the digitisation of the local newspaper. The Box Hill Reporter is a great source for our local history, with regular reports of weddings and activities of churches, schools and clubs.

## Heritage facility – Canterbury Community Precinct

After some delays, plans for the redevelopment of the heritage-listed buildings adjacent to the Canterbury Gardens have gone to tender, with Harris HMC being awarded the project. It is anticipated that building work will commence in the last week of September.