



## Surrey Hills Historical Society Newsletter: October 2021

**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.

**COVID-19 restrictions re numbers apply. Please RSVP to Sue on 0417 368990.**

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Members of the Society and others are committed to documenting the history of the area of Mont Albert and Surrey Hills 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@surreyhillsnc.org.au](mailto:heritage@surreyhillsnc.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

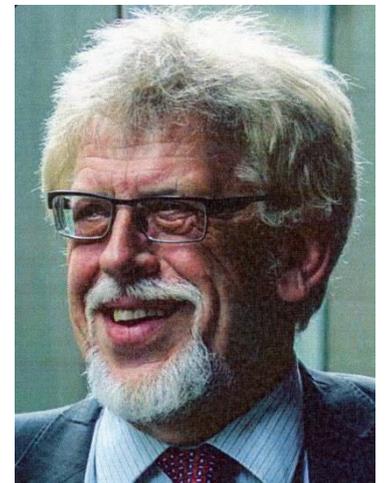
Neighbourhood Centre

157 Union Road, Surrey Hills, 3127

After our first successful meeting by Zoom in September, we will continue meeting in this way for the remainder of 2021. It is hoped that we will be able to return to face-to-face meetings next year.

### **Next meeting - Tuesday 19 October at 8pm by Zoom with Stephen Gillespie; his topic 'Photographs that enhance family history'.**

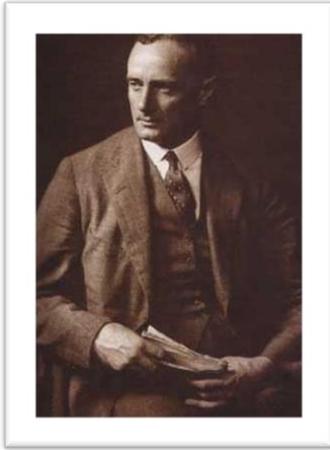
Stephen lives locally and worked in the University sector, and amongst other things was involved in many extensive digitization projects. He is currently working on four projects: editing four books written by his father, completing an article about his great-grandfather, digitizing photographs from his father's working life and conducting some family history research.



Look for the link to enable you to get onto Zoom in the preceding week. It will be sent by email.

### **Final meeting for 2021 - Tuesday 16 November at 8pm by Zoom with Volkhard Wehner; his topic 'A remarkable man: Dr Leonard Bell Cox - Melbourne Doctor, Art Collector and Horticulturalist'**

Leonard Bell Cox (1894-1976) is remembered not only for his contributions in the field of neurology but also for the expertise he developed in Oriental art and the propagation of rhododendrons and camellias. He was born in Prahran to English parents. His father was an Anglican, turned Methodist, minister and Leonard was educated at Wesley and then the University of Melbourne, where he studied medicine.



His medical career was interrupted by WW1. After a brief residency at (Royal) Melbourne Hospital, in May 1917 Leonard was commissioned as a captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps and served on the Western Front. Collecting art, one of Leonard's life-long passions, stemmed from this time. He returned from the war to forge a notable career in the emerging field of neurology.

Some may remember Dr Volkhard Wehner as a past president of the Camberwell Historical Society. With a PhD and qualifications in librarianship and horticulture, Volkhard has researched and written on a wide range of subjects. His connection to Leonard Bell was a personal one and his life story is full of interest.

## Feature article: Ellen Staig – midwife

Many readers will be familiar with the name of Dave Staig, the blacksmith of Canterbury Road and his son, Dave Staig, the aviator. I do not want to focus on these gentlemen as I still hope that we will be able to have their direct descendant Frank Staig speak about them at a future meeting. Rather, I wish to briefly profile the life of Ellen Staig, mother of Dave Staig the elder, and something of her work as a midwife in early Surrey Hills. My thanks to descendants Frank Staig and Elizabeth Bren for the photos and many of the details that have informed this profile.

Ellen Grosart Wood was born 20 June 1812 in the small Scottish Borders village of Eddlestone in Peebleshire. Although I have chosen to use the spelling 'Ellen', it should be noted that the spelling of her first name as Hellen, Helen or Ellen varies across different records. At the age of 22 years, she married William Simpson in the same village of Eddlestone, and together they had seven children born between 1837-1849. They left Eddlestone for Wemyss, another coastal village on the Firth of Forth in Fife in 1839.

In the 1851 census, Ellen's husband William is described as a victualler and the family is living in Stewarts Lane, off the High Street in Kirkaldy. William died on 18 January 1852, aged just 42 years and a couple of months later on 22 March 1852 Ellen married James Staig in Kirkaldy. Ellen and James had a daughter, Agnes Low Staig, named after his mother, born at Kirkaldy on 22 December 1852 and, less than two years later, James, Ellen, 5 Simpson children and infant Agnes Staig they left Scotland from Greenock on the 'Cheviot', arriving in Melbourne on 13 September, 1854.

The earliest address that Frank Staig has for his forebears is Blackwood Street, North Melbourne, and it was here that Agnes Low Staig died on 17 April, 1855. A few months later, Frank's great-grandfather David was born on 16 October 1855, at Oxford Street, North Melbourne. However, prior to this birth of Ellen's last child at the age of forty-three, in July of 1855 James and Ellen Staig purchased land on East Boundary Road and erected a dwelling that remained the family home until 1879. The address today would be 32



Warrigal Road. Almost on the brow of the hill, here the land slopes steeply from what would have been a pretty rough track. Today there is no frontage to Warrigal Road and what was their land is now accessed from Warwick Court.

The home that the Staigs built was to pass to Joseph Inglefinger – there were links between the two families, but that is another story. The photo at left (SHP2096) is of members of the Inglefinger family in front of the home built by James and Ellen Staig.

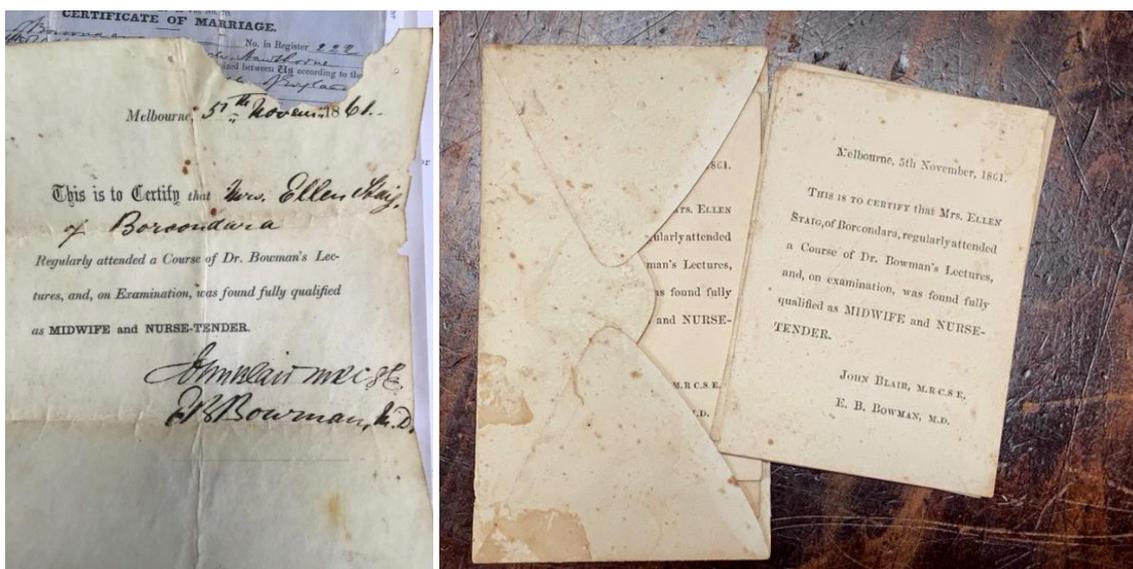
In the Alan Holt notes regarding early doctors and nurses of the Surrey Hills area, Ellen Staig is listed as a midwife in Boundary Road between 1860-1885. Of course, this is long before there was any formal state registration of nurses or midwives, so it is wonderful that records of Ellen Staig's work as a midwife were recorded and have been saved by her descendants.

With the safe delivery of nine children, Ellen Staig was certainly experienced in the reality of childbirth. Her time working as a midwife was in the watershed period between the informal knowledge and experience of the midwife, nurse or 'handywoman' being accepted as the norm, and the push for more formal training and accreditation. This eventually came in 1926 in Victoria with the mandated registration of nurses and midwives.

An interesting article by Janine Callanan entitled 'Giving Birth in the Bush: Colonial women of Victoria and the challenges of childbirth, 1850-1880' was published in *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, issue no. 17, 2019 and can be found on the PROV website. It examines childbirth in 19<sup>th</sup> century Victoria when childbirth was a dangerous time for women. Common difficulties faced in labour were infection, fever and convulsions, uterine rupture, placenta praevia, retained placenta and blood loss. Pregnancy and childbirth were not openly discussed and a woman's late pregnancy, labour and post-natal period were euphemistically described as her 'confinement'. Even the educated and literate women did not write much about this time. Paradoxically, some of the most detailed information is gleaned from coronial inquests.



Ellen Staig had something more than experience. In 1861 she attended a course of lectures presented by Dr E B Bowman and was provided with a certificate, details from which she subsequently used on her business card.



The doctor was almost certainly Dr Edward Barons Bowman, born in Culcutta to a captain of the East India Company's civil service. He gained his qualifications from the University of Edinburgh and married and practiced in Hackney, London. His arrival in Melbourne is not documented in ships' manifests but his wife and family arrived in 1857 and he may have arrived as part of the crew on the same ship. At any rate, he

set up practice from 45 Stephen Street. According to his wife's obituary, he was well-known in Melbourne, where he practiced for six years before moving to Sydney. Advertisements for his series of lectures appeared in The Argus in November 1861 and it is presumably these that Ellen Staig attended.

**TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS Desirous of Educating Youths to a Learned Profession.—Dr EDWARD BARONS BOWMAN, M.D, M.R.C.S. Eng, &c., will shortly commence a SERIES of LECTURES on the MEDICAL SCIENCES for intending students of the Melbourne or European University; also courses of lectures for medical practitioners who wish to obtain the degree of the Melbourne University. Two articles pupils can be received, who will enjoy great advantages For syllabus, &c, apply 45 Stephen street south.**

Dr Bowman's time in Melbourne was not without controversy. He was declared insolvent in December 1859. He left for Sydney in 1862 and died there in June 1865, aged just forty from apoplexy (stroke).

Ellen Staig was aged fifty when she started working as a midwife. She kept records of her deliveries in a notebook and both this, and a copy of it, have remarkably

survived. Elizabeth Bren, her great-granddaughter from her daughter Margaret Simpson, has one; Frank Staig has a copy of the original written in her grandson Dave Staig's hand. The details are scant, but nevertheless these are important windows into social history. The page below contains the entry "April 20th Mrs Doherty twins, a daughter and a son". This refers to the birth of her first grandchildren, Helen and Roger, who sadly died at 5 and 4 weeks of age from debility due to premature birth. Their father John Doherty was a wood carter. The notebook also contains entries for some of the early German families who settled the area. Apart from entries for the Ingelfinger family, there are entries for Fankhauser, Richter and Schneider.

Ellen's qualifications from Dr Bowman came just before the call by a group of ladies for the establishment of a Lying-in Hospital. This was effected within a few years with Dr Tracey and Dr Maund in charge. It became the Royal Women's Hospital.



Ellen's midwifery notebook, written in her hand, covers the period 1867-1887. Twenty-two double sided pages have been used. It is not known how far Ellen would have travelled to attend women in labour.

### A Mont Albert Avenue of Honour?

Recently, as a result of concern over the number of trees that will be lost due to rail trench works as part of the LXRA removal of crossings in Mont Albert and Union Roads, I have become aware of a small stand of trees in Churchill Street, Mont Albert which local residents believe represent a commemorative Avenue of Honour. They have relatively recently been added to the website Avenues of Honour.

See <https://avenuesofhonour.org/places/victoria/mont-albert/mont-albert-avenue-of-honour/>



Left and centre: Churchill Street avenue of eucalypts and its central tree - from Avenues of Honour website;  
 Right: John Trevorrow at the site – photo by Sue Barnett

It is said that there were originally nine trees planted by citizens of Mont Albert to recognize four brothers from one family and five of their friends from the Mont Albert area who enlisted and served in the great war. The first of the nine to enlist was William Walter James (Will) Head, who lost his life in the first wave of landings at Gallipoli on the morning of 25 April 1915. The trees were not planted in the years following the cessation of hostilities, but purportedly on 25 April 1965, 50 years after Will’s death.

The central tree with a niche in the rear of the mature eucalypt, was said to have contained a plaque with the following inscription:

**IN MEMORY OF THE FOUR BROTHERS FROM MONT ALBERT  
 WILLIAM, FAWCETT, ROWLAND AND GORDON HEAD  
 ALL ENLISTED IN THE GREAT WAR  
 WILLIAM (WILL) DIED APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> 1915 AT GALLIPOLI  
 LEST WE FORGET**

A new plaque has been installed, but research regarding the accuracy of the story and the identification of the five friends of the Head brothers is proving frustratingly difficult. The details on the plaque came from an elderly gentleman of the area, but three local descendants of the Head family did not know of it, nor did Box Hill RSL or Whitehorse Council, and to date no accounts have been found in newspapers. Of course, it is quite feasible that official bodies such as the local RSL and Council were not aware of the event and that family members who may have been involved have passed away or family connections lost. One would think that such a commemorative planting would at least be covered in local papers. Box Hill Historical Society has an incomplete series of local newspapers - the Reporter, the Eastern Times and the Box Hill Gazette – but is missing copies around April 1965. These would be held at the State Library, but of course these are not accessible at the moment.

So, what do we know of the Head boys. They all enlisted from ‘Brownmoor’, 14 Leopold Crescent, Mont Albert (extant) and were the surviving sons of Rowland Henry Head and his wife Isabella Dinsdale. They had two sisters, Deborah and Isabella. Their father is listed in electoral rolls as a grocer in 1908, but as a grazier in 1914.



Whilst the Head family were in Surrey Hills during the period of WW1, their roots were in Upper Ferntree Gully where Head’s Luncheon Rooms were a well-known establishment near the railway station. <sup>1</sup> According to descendant John Trevorrow, the family were living at Ferntree Gully until 1913 and moved to Mont Albert in late 1913 or early 1914.

<sup>1</sup> Head’s Luncheon Rooms: Image provided by John Trevorrow from Knox Historical Society collection.

William Walter James (Will) Head enlisted on 17 August 1914 and was attached to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, B Company. He was a postal employee and was among local soldiers called up on stage during interval at a Saturday night picture show in the Surrey Hills Hall <sup>2</sup> to be formally farewelled by an excited crowd as they headed off to war. The Box Hill Reporter said the ceremony included volleys of cheers, loud applause and “singing the National Anthem and Rule Britannia, and giving three groans for the Kaiser”. The men were thanked by local dignitaries and each was cheered and presented with a small gold medallion featuring a map of Australia inscribed with the soldier’s name and the words “From citizens of Surrey Hills. Vict 12-9-14”. Family members still treasure this memento, along with Will’s commemorative medallion or ‘Dead Men’s Penny’, seen at right.



(See [https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/memorial\\_scroll/plaque](https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/memorial_scroll/plaque))

Fawcett Dinsdale Head was born in Box Hill in 1890; his brothers were born in Upper Ferntree Gully. He was a school teacher when he enlisted on 6 February 1916 and was attached to the 1st Australian Wireless Squadron. Rowland Henry Jack Head, a postal mechanic, enlisted on 16 October 1916 with the Australian Flying Corps, No 4 Squadron, B Company and lastly, Gordon Alick Head, also a teacher, enlisted on 23 June 1917 and became a sapper with the Engineering Field Companies, General Reinforcements.



This photo shows the family before the move to Surrey Hills. Parents Rowland and Isabella are seated. The 6 children from left to right are: William Walter James, Deborah Pratt (John’s grandmother), Fawcett Dinsdale, Isabella jun. (seated), Gordon Alick, Rowland (jun.) Henry Jack. Photo courtesy of John Trevorrow.

And what of the five friends? There are over 50 enlistments from Mont Albert mentioned on the AIF Project website. Sandra Dexter, who has undertaken extremely thorough research on local WW1 servicemen, has suggested a few possibilities for the identities of the five friends. There is a photo of Will Head with his best friend, Stanley George Jones, born at Ferntree Gully, who enlisted in Surrey Hills with Will on 17 August 1914. He was killed in action 20 September 1917.

Aleck Burrell was married and living in Box Hill when he enlisted, but was born in Surrey Hills and embarked overseas with his future brother-in-law, Rowland Head. Both were initially with Australian Flying Corps, 4th Squadron, both 2nd Air Mechanics. Rowland later married Aleck’s sister Elsie. Aleck’s brother William Spencer (Bill) Burrell was still living in Surrey Hills when he enlisted. He too served with the Flying Corps and is listed on the Shrine in the Surrey Gardens.

<sup>2</sup> The Surrey Hall in Union Road was the venue for many events and activities related to WW1. It is of course still extant and currently owned and occupied by Ross Hunt Real Estate.



Finally, there is Ernest De Graaff of Charles Street, Surrey Hills, who later married Isabella Head and is in the photo at left with Gordon Head. It was taken in September 1917, following their enlistment in June. Gordon is seated on the left. This photo is from the Australian War Memorial collection: ref DACS1038.

So, where to from here? There is a strong link across these individuals with the Surrey Hills Methodist Church. Perhaps church newsletters may have recorded the planting in 1965.

Any assistance in furthering this research is most welcome.

My thanks to John Trevorrow, Sandra Dexter and Helen Harris, Secretary of Box Hill Historical Society for their assistance.

### **Dr Patricia Verne Kailis (nee Hurse) - AM, OBE, MBBS, Melb, D. Litt (Hon) W. Aust. FTSE, FAICD, 19 August 1933 – 17 April 2020**

There were a great many tributes acknowledging the work and legacy of Patricia Kailis when she died in Perth last year. They speak of her as a pioneering businesswoman, geneticist, neurologist, philanthropist, expert in corporate governance and as a wonderful mother. The following tribute is largely drawn from a number of these.



Born in Castlemaine to George Alexander Hurse, a builder, and Verne Amanda Daley, Patricia had younger twin sisters Judith and Wendy. They grew up at 34 Ross Street, Surrey Hills and went to Chatham Primary School. Patricia started there in 1938 and in 1944 she was dux, along with Maxwell Crellin. She went on to secondary education at Presbyterian Ladies College and then to Melbourne University, where she gained her medical qualifications.

In 1958, Patricia moved to Western Australia to take up a position at the Royal Perth Hospital. It was in Perth that she met and married Michael George Kailis AO, CBE (deceased). In 1961, Patricia and Michael moved to Dongara, 351 kilometres north-northwest of Perth at the mouth of the Irwin River, to establish a crayfish factory. Here, Patricia became the local general practitioner. Patricia and Michael went on to establish themselves in ship building, the prawning industry at Learmonth (Exmouth), the pearling industry in Broome and along the way had four children.

The Kailis enterprise at Roebuck Bay off Broome was the first Australian South Sea pearl farm in Broome. They also opened Perth's first pearl jewellery store in 1978. Patricia's son George Kailis recalled, "Mum loved pearls long before she was in the pearl business. The whole company was based on Mum's idea that

you shouldn't have to go to Hong Kong to buy beautiful Australian South Sea pearls – you should be able to buy them in Western Australia, where they are from.” Patricia also recorded her passion for pearls when interviewed on her 80th birthday. She recalled getting her first string of pearls from her parents: “When I was 21, I was given almost the obligatory strand of pearls which I now know were Akoya for my 21st birthday which was the sort of thing that happened in those days ... I've always loved pearls, before and since then.”

Whilst pearls were an enduring love, so was medical research. In 1969, Patricia, Michael, and their four children moved back to Perth. For many years Patricia held honorary positions in neurology and genetics at Royal Perth Hospital. During this time, she introduced a program for predictive testing of Huntington's disease. Her work produced world-first, ground breaking research on genetic diseases, mapped debilitating conditions such as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), and provided vital information to families considering having a child.

Patricia worked with Professor Kakulas and their counselling of families resulted in a marked decrease in X-linked muscular dystrophy in Western Australia – the first recorded decrease in the incidence of an inherited disease as a result of genetic counselling. Dr Kailis mapped extensive family trees, starting from a single patient with a nerve or muscle disease. This work was done before the era of gene discovery, but it laid the groundwork for the future identification of disease genes related to certain diseases.

Dr Kailis was an inaugural member of the Fremantle Hospital Medical Research Foundation (now Spinnaker Health Research Foundation), a position she held for ten years before becoming its joint patron in 2008 along with Professor Barry Marshall. She established the Kailis Scholarships with the University of Notre Dame. These are awarded for higher degree research in the areas of health and medical science.

Patricia was also acknowledged for her strong focus on sound corporate governance and although she did not have Greek heritage, she became a prominent member of the Greek community in Perth. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, a Member of the Order of Australia and awarded the Centenary Medal for her contributions and service to medicine, science and the community. Both her daughter Maria and granddaughter Eleni have followed her into medicine.

Ref:

<https://www.kailisjewellery.com.au/patricia-kailis/>

<https://perkins.org.au/patricia-kailis-story-page/>

<https://www.spinnakerhealth.org.au/news-events/vale-dr-patricia-kailis-am-obe/>

<https://www.jewellermagazine.com/Article/8862/Kailis-Jewellery-co-founder-Patricia-Kailis-passes-away>

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/perth/programs/breakfast/dr-patricia-kailis-obe/12165128>

Obituary - The Age, 22 April 2020

A Patchwork of People – Chatham Past and Present by Susan Barnett and Julia Ashby.

## **Looking a long way back – the Surrey Hills Toll Gate**

Road tolls – There's nothing new! In 1876 the Port Phillip Gazette reported that the toll gate in Delany's Road (Canterbury Road) had been re-instated, as of 5 October 1876 - with special half-price discount rates for citizens of Nunawading Shire wishing to cross into Boroondara.

Can you imagine, all traffic stopping in Canterbury Road near Broughton Road in order for a toll to be collected? The fees were: meat cattle - one halfpenny, horses - penny halfpenny (1.5d); pedestrians – 1 penny; two-wheeled vehicles – three pence to nine pence and a four-wheeled vehicle – four pence to nine pence. These changed with time and not surprisingly they were not universally appreciated!

The toll gates were a local affair as was the provision and maintenance of the roads. There was a Nunawading Road Board and a Boroondara Road Board. They were the precursors of the Shires and later the City Councils.

Toll gates had existed in the Nunawading Road District from 1865. Road travellers had to pay to move between the districts, and the revenue collected was to support operating and maintenance costs. Having obtained government approval and publicised erection of a toll gate in the government gazette, the Road Board built the gates and then rented them to the gate keepers, who bid for the right to collect tolls from all vehicles which passed by according to a fixed scale of charges. Infrastructure included building gate houses and provision of lanterns for use at night.

Locally the main toll gates were located at:  
Crossman's Road (now Elgar Road) and Whitehorse Road (Melbourne side) – built in 1865  
Delany's Road (now Canterbury Road) near Broughton Road, near the Hotel Royal – built in 1866  
Ballyshanassy Road (now Burwood Highway) at Elgar Road corner – built in 1867  
Moloney's Road (now Riversdale Road) – also built in 1867.



HUMBERSTONE'S ROYAL HOTEL, SURREY HILLS.

Andrew Lemon, in his history "Box Hill", includes a map which shows the sites. As well as the ones above, there were others scattered around the district on minor roads. Understandably, not everyone liked the toll gates. The gate on Moloney's Road was removed in the middle of the night in 1868 and carried off.

In 1877, the Government legislated to close down all gates in Victoria, so most disappeared about this time, although a few chose to keep going for a year or so.

Has anyone seen any photos of these toll gates or come across the identity of any of the gate keepers?

## **Local and Family History at Boroondara Library Service – Emily Grant, City of Boroondara Library Service**

The Local and Family History team at Boroondara Library Service has been as busy as ever during the lockdowns of 2020/21. Although house history information requests have reduced slightly, family history research questions have increased.

While access to physical resources has been tricky during this time, we are more than happy to help find information in the items that we have, including scanning book pages within copyright laws.

Library closures has had one benefit. The Library's subscriptions to Ancestry Library and Find My Past, which are usually only available on site, have been made available to library members at home. To log in to Ancestry Library, use the following link and enter your membership number and PIN.

<https://login.boroondara.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https%3a%2f%2fancestrylibrary.proquest.com>

To access Find My Past, email the Local and Family History team with your library membership number and we can then forward you the log in details. If you are not currently a member you can sign up on the Library website.

Great local materials you can access online through Ancestry Library include early rate books. City of Camberwell rate books are available for the years 1857-1927. City of Hawthorn rate books are available for the years 1868-1903. City of Kew rate books are available for the years 1862-1899.

You can find the rate books by:

- Clicking on the "Search" tab at the top of the screen
- Then click on "Card Catalogue"
- Narrow search to "Australia"

- Narrow search to “Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills”
- Narrow search to “Tax Lists”
- Select “Camberwell and Waverley, Australia, Rate Books, 1857-1927” for City of Camberwell records or “Victoria, Australia, Rate Books, 1857-1927” for City of Hawthorn and Kew rate books. You can manually search the rate books by the “Browse this collection” box on the right hand side. Rates were recorded in order of the way the rate collector walked, so once you get used to the route they walked, you can find the street easier in subsequent years.

Electoral rolls are also available through Ancestry Library until 1980.

You can find electoral rolls by:

- Clicking on the “Search” tab at the top of the screen
- From the drop down, click “Census and Voters Lists”
- On the right there will be a box that says “Featured data collections”, click “Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980”
- From here you can search a person’s the name.

If you would like to manually look through the rolls, on the right there is a box that says “Browse this collection”. Use the filters to find the roll you are looking for.

The Sands & McDougall Directories are great source of information when researching neighbourhoods and people. They were like an address book of the time. The State Library of Victoria (SLV) has digitised every five years of the directory, and is going to be filling in the gaps over time. You can search them here:

[http://cedric.slv.vic.gov.au/R/?func=collections&collection\\_id=3907](http://cedric.slv.vic.gov.au/R/?func=collections&collection_id=3907)

The University of Melbourne has also digitised the early years of the directory from 1857 to 1880. You can access these here:

<https://omeka.cloud.unimelb.edu.au/melbourne-history/exhibits/show/melbournedirectories/browsemelbournedirectories>

There is an increasing number of digitised local maps available online also. Most Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW), parish and real estate subdivision maps have been digitised by the SLV. All of these are really great to see how an area has developed over time.

Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) also has an interesting platform that they share their map collection on call Map Warper. It even allows you see an historical map overlaid with a modern map. You can visit Map Warper here: [https://mapwarper.prov.vic.gov.au/maps/geosearch?show\\_warped=1](https://mapwarper.prov.vic.gov.au/maps/geosearch?show_warped=1)

Be sure to check both the SLV and PROV collections when researching maps, as they hold different maps and items.

I hope these tips help with your research and if you have any questions, please contact the Local and Family History team on [localandfamilyhistory@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:localandfamilyhistory@boroondara.vic.gov.au) or by using the Ask a Librarian form on the Library’s website.

Emily Grant

Local and Family History Lead