

January-February 2021

Issue 208

Established 1976

Celebrating 45 years



Warrandyte Historical Society



INCORPORATION No: 13313L

ABN 55 398 927 524

PRESIDENT

Margaret Kelly

9844 4684

SECRETARY

Diane Phillips

9844

MUSEUM

111 Yarra Street,
Warrandyte, 3113

9844 4176

Closed at present.

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 67,

Warrandyte 3113

EMAIL ADDRESS

info@whsoc.org.au

WEB

whsoc.org.au

ISSN 0158-0493

2021—A New Year

It's been something of a mixed start to 2021. Everyone seemed happy to farewell 2020 as the year of COVID. By the end of the year we could say goodbye to lockdowns, curfews, working from home and home schooling. For a while restrictions gradually relaxed and life seemed to be returning to near normal. Then more cases popped up and Victoria once more was plunged into a lockdown.

It is safe to prophesy that 2021 will also be a different year in general and for the Society. The uncertainty about future COVID restrictions has led the committee to curtail activities over the next six months.

The committee has decided the following, in the best interests of our members, volunteers and the general public.

- The museum will remain closed to the end of June (subject to review).
- No general meetings in enclosed spaces will be held before the end of June. Hopefully the AGM which is held late in July will be possible but that decision is deferred until nearer the time.
- School and other museum visits will not be held in the first half of the year.
- Small archive groups can operate if permitted within restrictions at the time and under the strict protocols already in place.
- An outdoor garden event is planned for 18th April. Depending on restrictions at the time it may have to be by invitation only. Details to follow.

The committee trusts our members will understand the rationale behind these decisions. It will review them month by month and instigate changes where possible.

Acknowledgement of Country.

The committee created the following acknowledgement of country to be included in the newsletter, on the website and Facebook. Member feedback welcomed.

Warrandyte Historical Society acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as traditional custodians of the land on which Warrandyte resides and of the river Birrarung on which it is centred. It pays its respects to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and emerging, recognising that Indigenous people never ceded sovereignty of this country and remain strong in their enduring connection to land and culture.

Acknowledgement of Country for the use of Warrandyte Historical Society as approved by Elders of the Cultural Heritage Unit of Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation – 3/2/21

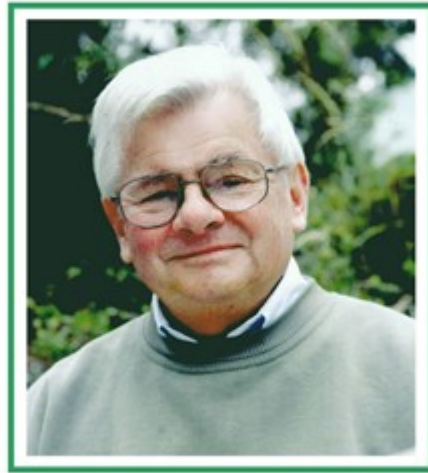
Key Diary Dates

The Museum remains closed at present.

April 18th Garden Event

Save this date, more details later

Vale Clifford Green OAM—President 1983-85— Valerie Polley



Cliff Green led such a full and active community Warrandyte life it is difficult to highlight just one part of his achievements. He himself is now a part of Warrandyte history but he also played a major role in ensuring historical stories were told. He loved the old timer's tales, the local ghost stories and the family histories.

Over the years Warrandyte history has been documented and preserved through the pages of the Warrandyte Diary, the newspaper he founded in 1970 and also edited for many years. Its importance cannot be overstated.

Those who attended the Diary Duo talk organised by the WHS in 2016 will no doubt recall Cliff talking about how the early newspapers were put together on the Green's kitchen table because there was no office. The nearest thing to an office was the yellow post box for contributions located on the cypress tree in the centre of the town, still affectionately known as the Diary Tree.

He spoke of the two rules he had in the early days. If someone was attacking Warrandyte the *Diary* went after them with no holds barred. If inside Warrandyte the *Diary* took both sides and aimed to be fair and equal in its coverage.

Cliff also loved to tell the story of how he came to write the screenplay for the iconic Australian film 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' in the 1970s and its Warrandyte connection. Author of the book, Joan Lindsay wanted well known writer David Williamson, but he had too many commitments and put forward Cliff's name. As Joan had right of refusal in the matter, she met and questioned Cliff but on finding out he lived in Warrandyte she gave willing assent. Cliff discovered a further historical connection. Joan had often spent time at 'The Robins' the house in North Warrandyte owned by her artist cousin Penleigh Boyd and his family. Another possible Warrandyte connection was that in her book she had named the Woodend livery stable owner, Ben Hussey. Given the Warrandyte-Ringwood coach service in the 1920s was run by Bill Hussey it could be supposed this may have provided some inspiration.

In 1983-85 Cliff found time to become the President of the Warrandyte Historical Society (WHS). During his term of office, an historic Slab Hut in North Warrandyte was discovered. Cliff was foremost amongst those determined to save it, convincing the two local Councils to purchase it and the National Trust to take it on. That it is still there is a testament to his persistence, and his belief that Warrandyte must retain evidence of its early development. He commissioned many historical pieces for the Diary from notable writers and historians. The Society is grateful for his long-term interest and support that has contributed so much to the preservation of the town's history over the past 50 decades.

Cliff had a finger in so many Warrandyte pies. He was involved in community advocacy, political affairs, environmental matters, community artistic activity and historical issues. He had a talent for motivating others, for working with a variety of politicians across party lines and councils and local residents. He always placed Warrandyte foremost and centre to his work and I believe the Warrandyte we know today is in a large part down to Cliff. He was also a wonderful raconteur who could hold an audience with an endless fund of stories (while often having to turn to his wife and society archiver wife Judy for the finer details).

Cliff Green cont'd

The first issue of The Warrandyte Diary appeared in December 1970. Cliff died in December 2020 just two days shy of his 86th birthday. It is fitting that the December date marked the 50th anniversary of that first Diary. What an amazing legacy.

Cliff was a true luminary, a warrior for Warrandyte, a visionary and creator, a mentor and wonderful friend to me and many others within the Historical Society.

WHS extends sincere condolences and sympathy to wife Judy, his family and his many colleagues and friends.

He leaves enormous shoes to fill. He will be missed.



Cliff at his computer in his A-frame studio, Webb Street 1980s



Cliff at the opening of the Bruce Bence Walk with Phil Honeywood MP 1995



Cliff and sister Betty Cole at Menzies Australia Day Awards 2001



Cliff at the Diary Duo talk, Grand Hotel, October 2016

Advocacy News Update

Gold Memorial Cairn

The Society and Parks Victoria have been seeking funds to undertake work on the Gold Memorial Cairn in Gold Memorial Road. Recently the Society investigated applying for a Living Heritage Program grant. However following discussions with Heritage Victoria staff it became apparent that the criteria for funding could not be met. While the Park itself is of State Significance, the Memorial Cairn is not individually listed. It was suggested that (and the fact the memorial is located on government land) precluded an application.

President Margaret Kelly and Valerie Polley met with Chief Ranger Faye Williams and other park rangers at the site in early February to assess the situation. It is apparent that the park does not have the funding to undertake a full restoration of the cairn, neither do they wish to over restore it. The ranger staff intend to initiate a clean-up and improvements round the site which is looking neglected and run-down. WHS will apply for a Bendigo Bank Grant in the next round, perhaps in association with FOWSP so that some cleaning and repointing can be done and the plaque re-lettered.



Bid for UNESCO goldfields recognition

The Society wrote to Manningham Council to see if it could become a party to this project and the following is taken from Council's response.

'It is our understanding that preparing a bid for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage places to UNESCO is a long and financially involving process.

The bid currently being prepared for the gold rush era sites involves 13 Councils in western Victoria, including Ballarat and Bendigo Councils, and has been in development for several years. It is understood that each Council provided significant investment in resources and funding to undertake research and provide reports to justify their requests.

UNESCO bids require the support from the State Government before they are presented to the Federal Government for their review. Should the Federal government agree to the bid, the request is included on a list of possible sites for submission to UNESCO. The World Heritage committee of UNESCO meets once a year to consider applications from around the world. Applications presented to UNESCO can only be submitted by the Federal Government.

Very detailed documentation is required in support of a bid. In addition to the bid advocating the importance of a site to a nation, the bid must also compare the site to other similar sites from around the World to demonstrate its world importance.

Although we acknowledge the historic value of Warrandyte and its unique gold heritage, we regret to advise that Manningham Council is currently not in a position to becoming a party to the bid under preparation. Based on discussions with Ballarat Council, a member of the 13 Councils of the existing bid, it is understood that the process currently undertaken by the other 13 Councils is far progressed. This decision is based both on timing and the unavailability for financial resources to be provided by Council to support the level of research and investigation required to prepare a bid of this nature.

Irrespective of the above, Council is committed to working closely with the Warrandyte Historical Society to continue to preserve, promote and celebrate the unique heritage of Warrandyte through other means. We also thank you for bringing this to our attention.'

WHS is disappointed that unfortunately once again Warrandyte's place in the State's gold history will be overshadowed and ignored should the UNESCO bid succeed.

Cont'd

The Old Pound site at 90 Pound Road



The Society wrote to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning regarding the future of this site which was the old pound which dated from the 1850s. The site has come under heavy visitor pressure over the summer months and has become further degraded through unauthorised car parking,

In late January WHS received advice from Matthew Lynch, Strategic Planner at Manningham Council that an internal meeting was held to discuss the land management possibilities for Pound Reserve and whether Council would be prepared to

take on this responsibility through a Committee of Management. Input from the various areas of Council was being sought to determine the feasibility of the request. Advice was also being sought on the crossover and whether Council installed it and whether it is still required. Matthew said that further information on the matter would be provided once all comments have been received but at the time of this newsletter no further advice had been received.

298 Warrandyte-Heidelberg Road

WHS wrote to Council about this heritage listed property being allowed to deteriorate perhaps with a view to demolition. The following is taken from a letter from Council late in 2020.

Re: 298-302 Warrandyte-Heidelberg Road, Warrandyte I refer to your letter dated 4 November 2020. As you are aware the above property is heritage listed under the Manningham Planning Scheme - identified as HO80 in the schedule to the Heritage Overlay (HO). In planning schemes, heritage properties receive a higher level of planning protection than properties that are not heritage listed. Protection is provided from the array of additional planning permit triggers that apply to them under the HO. One of the planning permit triggers is for demolition. Landowners wanting to demolish heritage buildings for redevelopment purposes must obtain a planning permit before demolition commences. Any planning application must justify proposed demolition works and comments would be sought from Council's Heritage Advisor before a decision is made. However, in instances where a heritage building is being neglected, there are no powers under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 that Council can apply to compel a landowner to maintain their building. This is also the case for non-heritage listed buildings. Despite this, Manningham Council remains committed to the protection of heritage listed properties through the services made available to the community.'



Recently Moreland Council refused a bid to raze an uninhabitable Edwardian home in Melbourne's north to avoid encouraging what one councillor described as "demolition by neglect". The Council intends to work with the owner to achieve an acceptable outcome. The State government recently proposed new laws to prevent developers from benefiting from the unlawful demolition or neglect of precious heritage. It is to be hoped this happens soon before more of our heritage buildings disappear.

Bridge Toilet Block

Finally some good news. Congratulations to WHS member and stonemason James Charlwood on the brilliant stone restoration work on the toilet block at the bridge. Also plaudits to Council for undertaking a sympathetic renovation for this Warrandyte landmark.

Tales from the Past

Although the museum was closed for much of 2020, there were still enquiries and donations being made. In early December Bret Boyd called to offer some family letters. The letters were written to his father, Glendon Boyd, when he was in hospital with polio in 1951. Until the introduction of a vaccine in the early 1950s polio was still a scourge with the number of deaths at their highest in Australia in 1951.

The letters were written by Glendon's cousin June Scott. June's mother Claire Scott ran a milk bar in Warrandyte in the early 1950s. The letters give a delightful picture of life in Warrandyte at that time, being entertaining and informative to a young person in a hospital ward. They are all written by hand. They address him variously as Dear Glendon, Dear Glen and once as 'My Dearest Cousin Glendon Robin John'. June signs off quite formally, sometimes 'Your loving cousin June Scott'. Just once 'I remain, Your cousin, June Scott'.

The first letter is dated August 6th 1951. It opens saying how delighted they are that he was feeling better, and calling him a silly sausage for getting sick. She says how high the river is running, and how attractive it looks flowing between flowering wattle and ferns.

All the letters contain many stories about Glen's black dog and the trouble he gets into with his Aunt's dog Laddie, fighting with other dogs, also cats (their favourite enemies), birds and anything that moves.

The second letter described changes to their building, she says he will hardly recognise their 'Ranch of Warrandyte' when he returns. June reports that the people next door have also bought a very nice Morris Oxford sedan car. She also describes a trip to the pictures and a square dance at the hall.

The third letter of September 5th tells him about an enormous bonfire up on the hill and more stories about his dog. She says the river is still high but no one was camping, perhaps as it was cold.

The final letter responded to one from Glendon. He had obviously spent time out on a verandah in sunshine. He listened to Bob Dyer's shows and it would seem had backed some horses (even though a little young). The last reference in the letter was of Essendon hopefully winning the Premiership. So he enjoyed the football as well.

Bret said his grandfather Jonathan (Jack) Boyd also spent some time in Warrandyte living at Pound Bend in the 1960s and 1970s. These stories are welcome additions to the archive, helping to describe a time long past.



Glendon Boyd and his dog.

Warrandyte Historical Society

Some of the Business Partners who support us.
Please support them

Other contacts:

Treasurer: David Carty 9844 1920
Group Visits: Museum answering machine 9844 4176
Archiving: Gina Bevan-Jones 9812 2357

General enquiries and messages can be left on the museum answering machine or fax.

Phone: 9844 4176

email: info@whsoc.org.au

Find us on facebook



www.facebook.com/warrandytehistoricalsociety

Thanks to Nillumbik Shire and Manningham City Councils, Warrandyte Riverside Market and Warrandyte Community Bank for ongoing support



Phone: 0409 233 318
info@bcreative.net.au
<http://budgetwebsites.melbourne/>

Quinton's Supa IGA
402 Heidelberg/Warrandyte Road,
9844 3089

Folkart
232 Yarra Street
9844 2466

Traditional Folk Arts
42 Stony Creek Rd, 9844 2036

Chris Chapman
Director & Auctioneer
Jellis Craig North East Group
ChrisChapman@jellisraig.com.au
Phone: 03 9431 1222
Mobile: 0421 736 502

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Warrandyte Quality Meats
Goldfields Plaza, 9844 1563

Rainbow Plumbing & Civil
23 Station Street, Diamond Creek
9438 2100

Ruby Tuesday
Jewellers
90 Melbourne Hill Road
9844 4600

Membership Application Form 2020-2021—Subscriptions due now

If paying by EFT; first email your completed form/details to secretary@whsoc.org.au or mail to PO Box 67, Warrandyte 3113. Please include your surname online as the reference for your payment.

Name: Warrandyte Historical Society Inc.
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 120391867

If you pay by cheque, mail payment and completed form to:
Warrandyte Historical Society
PO Box 67, Warrandyte, 3113
Please ensure email addresses are correct.
Please encourage friends and family to join and add their support.

Membership Application Form

I/we wish to become a member of the Warrandyte Historical Society (WHS) for 2020-2021 year.
I/we support the purposes of the WHS. I/we agree to comply with the Rules of the WHS.

NamePhone:.....

Family Members (Associates).....

Address.....

.....P/code.....

Email address:.....

Membership Type: Member (\$20 Single, \$30 Family - allows for one voting member)/
Community Organisation (\$30)/Business Sponsor (\$150). (Circle the appropriate category.)

I wish to pay by cheque/EFT (Please circle)

NB: New memberships are subject to Committee approval.

A copy of the Rules can be viewed at the Museum or on request to secretary@whsoc.org.au.