



No. 200

NEWSLETTER

Footscray Historical Society

May 2020



Cut-Paw-Paw Sanatorium c 1878-1884.

State Library Victoria Accession no: H2199

Sanatoriums – too close for comfort

In 1882, the authorities acted to defend the most densely populated area of Australians from outbreaks of disease such as Asiatic cholera, bubonic plague and smallpox. The Central Board of Health secured 49 acres on Kororoit Creek Road, west of the rifle range, as the site for the Cut-Paw-Paw Sanatorium, Wyndham.

By one account, three Williamstown nabobs, Richard Grimwood, John Joseph Shillinglaw and Murray, built the facility. Local councils contributed to the cost an amount matched by the Victorian Government. Over time, Williamstown councillors became more vocal in opposition to the sanatorium, denying any responsibility.

The design of the facility reinforced the value of fresh air.

All the fever cottages are apparently well ventilated, both by the turret system, distributing the air from the ceiling, and also by means of timber tubes placed at the sections of the walls.

The Herald 17 December 1889 p 1

However, odours wafted in from the neighbouring swamp, nightsoil deposit and abattoirs.

In 1894, Cr Maddock of Prahran described the Cut-Paw-Paw Sanatorium as “a barbarous, heathenish, outlandish, insanitary place – in fact, a monstrosity.”

The Age 12 June 1894 p 6

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Quarantine Hospital, Coode Island.

Weekly Times (Melbourne) 4 March 1905, p 18

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Three years later, the Central Board of Health, headed by Dr Gresswell listed drawbacks of the ruin including:

- lack of drainage
- proximity to railway line (noise pollution)
- draughty
- badly lit
- no proper means of bathing, cooking or disinfecting
- only 10 beds

Once authorities condemned the sanatorium, they set about designing a new one. Coode Island was conveniently close to the built-up areas of Melbourne. Naturally, Footscray councillors objected to a new sanatorium being across the river from their constituents.

In March 1900, Dr Gresswell sketched out facilities to be erected at Coode Island:

- a ward for males and a ward for females, with observation room between
- quarters for eight nurses and a sister in six-person cottages
- bacteriological laboratory
- disinfecting room
- engineer's house
- kitchen and laundry
- morgue

Iron sheets were to be bolted together for walls, allowing for dismantlement down the track. The surface of floors was asphalt, considered easy to disinfect.

The outbreak of bubonic plague in Sydney early in 1900

accentuated the urgent need for the new facility. In May, Mrs Chillers of Geelong succumbed to a disease at home. Suspecting she died of the plague, authorities sent her "contacts" to the quarantine station at Point Nepean. The public were acutely aware of the remoteness of Portsea from Melbourne.

The Coode Island Sanatorium cost £11,500 to build. By the time it was completed in December 1900, fears of the "Black Death" here had subsided. The Cut-Paw-Paw Sanatorium closed for good in 1901.

Henry Ernest Searle was its most famous inmate. In 1888, he successfully competed in England for the sculling world championship. The following year, on the return voyage he took ill, most likely with enteric fever. After the ship berthed at Williamstown, Searle was admitted to the sanatorium. He died there but was buried in NSW. He was 23 years old.



Henry Ernest Searle (1866-1889).

Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney) 14 September 1889 p 19

On Coode Island, the new facility made it possible to quarantine victims of measles, meningitis, venereal disease and, more rarely, leprosy. In February and March 1919, Spanish Influenza patients were treated at the Coode Island "emergency hospital". Of the 50 patients admitted, eight died. Mosquitoes and rats continued to menace the caretaker, the scant patients and those who attended to them.

In 1904, the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital opened, treating patients with diphtheria, poliomyelitis, scarlet fever and all other serious infectious diseases.

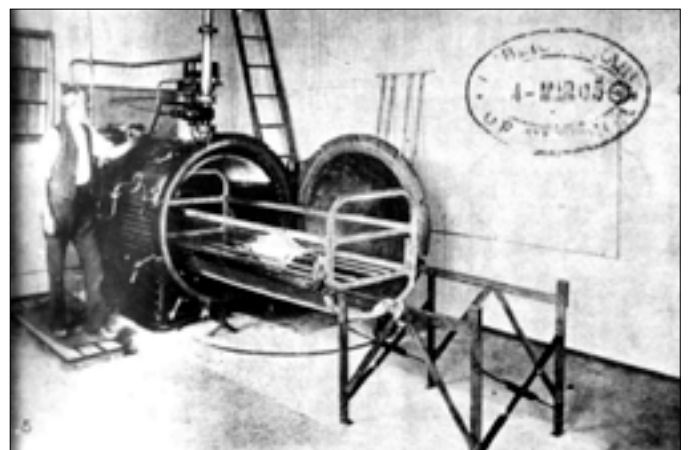
In the early 1900s, animals were quarantined on 240 acres of Crown Land on Coode Island.

Carmel Taig



Interior of the female ward at Quarantine Hospital, Coode Island.

Weekly Times (Melbourne) 4 March 1905, p 18



Equifex disinfectator (seen from receiving side of disinfection block).

Weekly Times (Melbourne) 4 March 1905, p 18

The Modern Bishop Hatto

Dr Gresswell,
Chairman of the
Melbourne Board of
Health.

The Arena (Melbourne) 26
June 1902 p 5



The harpies who prey on the health of our State
Decreed that the measles had grown out of date,
That typhoid was getting such excellent care,
It was time they invented a new brand of scare.

After donning a while their considering hats,
And calling to council some elderly rats,
They made them a vow and pledged it in tonic,
To frighten the folk with a touch of bubonic.

Every day there came fresh cases
From the least suspected places,
Stores and shops which never saw
Sight of broom or brush before;
Pubs with lots of nickel plating,
Tons of dirt beneath the grating,
And in kitchens whence arise
Fumes of filth and thrup'ny pies.

At last Dr. Gresswell appointed to watch
The health of the city, and paid for to scotch
The germs of disease "wot we 'appens to cotch,"
Engaged a large army of two-legged cats,
Gave them three bob a dozen to catch all the rats.

Though the Dr intended the rats to out weed 'em,
The price was so good that some started to breed 'em.
To the tips youngsters went where they found them in
bunches,
And brought them in schoolbags along with their lunches.

But despite all the efforts the Doctor put forth,
The rats kept on coming from South and from North,
From East and from West, from lowland and high-land –

He decided to build him a house on an island.

I'll build me a castle where no rats can intrude,
On the picturesque, sweet-smelling Island of Coode.
All who suffer from plague to my fortress can fly in,
"Twill make a nice place for a patient to die in.

But just as the builders their labours had done,
The Doctor discovered the place was o'er run
With millions of mice and rats by the ton.
The more he explored his new quarters, the more
Rats, rabbits and mice and more vermin he saw;
"Ah! Ah!" he exclaimed, "I'll tar all the shore."

But e'en when the coast was all coated with tar,
The rodents ne'er thought such a trifle a bar
To entering a land where they live in such clover;
For the high tide managed the tar marks to cover,
At low tide they burrowed, or simply jumped over.

Yet though the rats come to him over and under,
The Doctor will never own up to his blunder;
But swears he'll yet beat them and hang the expense,
His latest suggestion's a vermin-proof fence.

What this will avail him we cannot foresee,
But this is the thing that is puzzling me:
Why a hospital built, from the State treasury,
Should be built on the odorous low-lying flats
Of filthy Coode island, the island of rats.

DINGO

The Arena (Melbourne) 26 June 1902 p 5



Laundry and bathrooms (left) and disinfecting chambers (right) at the Quarantine Hospital, Coode Island.

Weekly Times (Melbourne) 4 March 1905, p 18

Quarantine

Catherine Reichert recalls visiting Coode Island. Her observations match those of the journalist (The Age, 5 August 1939 p 26) who described it as “a featureless and apparently useless stretch of country”.

When I was a child my father would take my older sister, brother and me for a walk on Sunday afternoons. I remember one Sunday going to Coode Island. Beth and I in our Sunday best, cream pleated skirts, we went across the stepping stones to Coode Island and our skirts got splashed with salt water – a disaster. We went across the barren expanse to the beach to see the ships passing to Victoria Dock. Near the beach there was a rectangular expanse of asphalt with some corrugated iron at the edges. My father explained that this was the site of the Quarantine Station used when there were ships arriving with victims of the plague. Apart from that there was nothing but a barren stretch of land to the shanties of Dudley Flats. We did not go there, but retraced our footsteps to home, where my mother was not well pleased with the effect of salt water on our good skirts.

Coode Island is very different today. Then, in its barren windswept state, it was obviously a good empty place for a quarantine station. By 1909 it was quarantining animals and in 1915 the land was transferred to the Defence Department for accommodation of soldiers. During the influenza epidemic in 1919 it was the site of an emergency hospital.

My brother told me that he was nine years old when the diagnosis of scarlet fever was made, that would have been in 1935. He was the only one affected and he was whisked away to Fairfield Hospital in the Fairfield Hospital ambulance. There was a visit from the Footscray Council Health Officer and my mother was instructed to fumigate his bedroom. This was done with Sulphur Candles, which were like present day mosquito coils. They were lit and the room closed for a designated period. I do not remember any other precautions, but I was only six years old. At that time, we children shared one comic each week and I remember that we had to be extra careful and quick to read it so that it could be posted to Max at Fairfield. That was important to a small boy who could not receive visitors. In recent years, he told me how awful it was and how lonely he felt.

In 1937 came the devastation of the poliomyelitis epidemic. Its designation then was usually Infantile Paralysis, which illustrates its effect on the community. From memory Max and Beth continued to go to school but I was quarantined at home because I remember feeling very lonely.

My schoolwork continued with a series of booklets that I worked through, using my mother’s Singer sewing machine as a desk. My memory is of terrible boredom and no supervision. I do not believe that I learned much during that time, which from memory was not a very long period. It certainly did not affect my further scholastic



Catherine Reichert.

Footscray Historical Society

achievement. The time passed and I returned to Hyde Street School. Thereafter there were children who had been nursed at Fairfield Hospital with poliomyelitis and now suffered the aftermath of the disease.

I remember passing the Scout Hall in Hyde Street, which became an offshoot of Yooralla. Through the door one could see the two rows of cots and beds and the children in splints. Wal Hopkins has told me that as a 15-year old Scout he and his colleagues would go each week to move the cots and beds and scrub the floor of their hall. There were other children who were nursed at home and they would be seen wheeled in extended wheelchairs in the streets. The after-effects of the disease have continued to affect people for the rest of their lives.

The next polio epidemic occurred in 1949 when I was a second-year trainee nurse. I had completed my first year at Fairfield Hospital nursing mainly children suffering from diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, mumps and meningitis. We were required to spend the next 18 months at a general hospital and I was working at the Alfred Hospital. My friends were at other hospitals and we were anxious during the epidemic that we may be needed back at Fairfield where there was an influx of patients. We offered to return to help staff the newly opened wards but were instructed to continue our course. When we returned to Fairfield in 1950, the epidemic had subsided but there were still polio patients who continued to need care – mostly the ones who relied on respirators to breath.

These young adults continued to live at Fairfield and when it closed a few were still there and were transferred to Austin Hospital.

Quarantine has been a method of dealing with infection since ancient times. It has been effective in saving lives and has also given us many literary records of how people have dealt with it. It will be interesting to see what books both learned texts and fiction come from this period.

Message from the president

My best wishes go out to all our members and friends of the Footscray Historical Society, in these trying times, we are experiencing with this terrible COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you are all keeping healthy.

Now we have a good opportunity to take stock of what we have collected over many years and to cull what is no longer required. I have found a number of things pertaining to events which happened in the past, connected with Maribyrnong, especially Footscray. If you come across anything of historical interest to our area, please retain it and consider donating it to Ercildoune.

We are totally unsure when Ercildoune will be re-opened to visitors. We still have volunteers on hand to assist you, if you require answers to research questions.

Our secretary Steve and treasurer Maree, are both busy as usual. We are indebted to them for all the effort they put in, especially at the moment. Other volunteers are doing a great deal of research at home as well. Margaret continues to look after our beautiful garden.

I am delighted to announce that three rooms upstairs have been leased to a young couple Tom (art historian)



Above and below: J.H. Hooper/Arch Hoadley Victorian villa, 10 Geelong Road, Footscray.

Steve Wilson



Efforts by Footscray Historical Society to save these heritage homes in Geelong Road have been unsuccessful.

and Zoe (visual artist). We wish them well in their endeavours. Many thanks to Maree and Steve for organising this, which will be a boon to our finances.

Despite sterling work from Steve, Pam, Don, Carmel, Catherine, Maree, Hugh, Rod, John Lack and others, we were unable to save the heritage homes in Geelong Road, from demolition. The respective bodies responsible for this vandalism are to be condemned.

John Lack is to be congratulated for all his work to do with the publishing of Rick Keam's great book, *Keilor to Footscray: Mr Solomon's Maribyrnong*. It is an excellent production and a great read. Rick has been very generous to our Society with his wonderful book. If you ring Ercildoune you can obtain copies.

I hope you all continue to look after your health.

Ian Johnson



Above and below: John Robertson Queen Anne villa, 8 Geelong Road, Footscray.

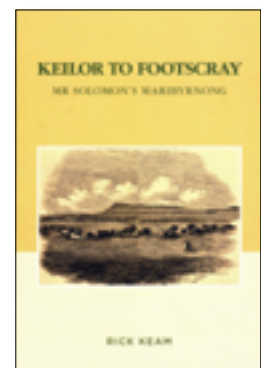
Steve Wilson



Keilor to Footscray: Mr Solomon's Maribyrnong

In 1835 the name 'Merriburnong' was given to a sheep run imposed upon the traditional land of the Marin balug, or salt-water-river people. Before a punt was installed near the junction of the Saltwater River and the Yarra at Footscray, a circuitous track from Melbourne to Williams Town and Geelong crossed the river at 'Solomon's Ford'. But where exactly was it, and who was Solomon? Rick Keam has sought answers by walking the

riverbank and re-examining contemporary documents and historic photos. His fresh account of the Solomon era is placed in a wider context, from Charles Grimes' 1803 exploration, through the degradation of the river as an urban-industrial drain, to its renaming and rehabilitation as today's Maribyrnong. Footscray Historical Society congratulates Rick Keam on his achievement. Act now to add to your local history library. Only \$29.95 per copy.





Captain A.A. Borket (New Zealand) addresses returned soldiers at Brooklyn, c 1919.

Advertiser (Footscray) 27 October 1917p 3y

Robinson's Cookery Book

Catherine Reichert shares the significance of a cookbook that has been in her family for a century.

The centenary of the WWI Armistice has been celebrated, we have remembered the influenza pandemic which followed it and now it is time to consider the aftermath. The soldiers who returned to Australia and who survived the pandemic did not always have an easy time. Some returned to farms or jobs, but many were unemployed. Some were enterprising in finding ways to make a living.

Among recipe books I have inherited from my mother and aunt is one example of such enterprise. It is entitled *Robinson's Cookery Book* compiled by William Naylor (late AIF). The obverse of that title page bears the following:

Introduction

In presenting this small Book of Recipes and Useful Household Hints to the public, I am well aware that there are many books of this nature on the market, but most of these have recipes of an expensive nature, while in this



little book I have prepared a number of useful and economical recipes suitable for the average income. Each recipe has been fully tested.

William Naylor

The salesman handling this book must be strictly honest and of an excellent character. By purchasing this book you are giving employment to Unemployed Returned Soldiers, who are out of work through no fault of their own.

William Naylor

For those who, during the coronavirus pandemic, are looking for new recipes while they are in isolation, here is one of William Naylor's:

Raspberry Cake

Beat 1 egg and 1 cupful of sugar, and add 1 cupful flour, ½ cupful milk, 2 tablespoons raspberry jam. Stir well, then add 1 teaspoonful baking powder. Bake 20 minutes in a cake dish.

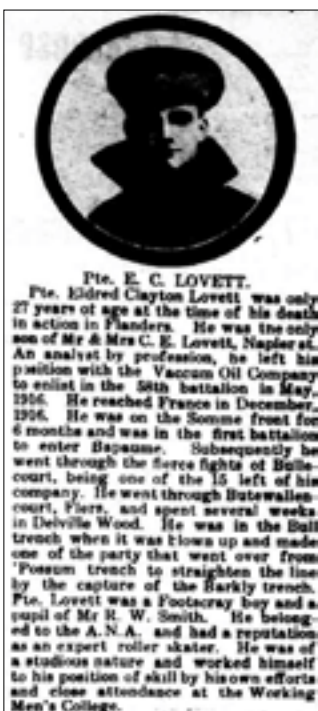


Lovett memorial tree, 26 April 2020.

Carmel Taig

Footscray Park: Update on the Soldier Tree planted in 2017

An oak tree in Footscray Park is the living memorial to Pte Eldred Clayton Lovett who was killed at Polygon Wood on 25 September, 1917. His family lived at Myrtle Grove, just east of Ercildoune.



Advertiser (Footscray) 27 October 1917p 3

During the mid 1960s the original Lovett memorial tree was removed due to being diseased. The area in which it stood was subsequently lost when Ballarat Road was widened.

On Grand Final Day, 2017 I joined Cr Zakharov, Footscray Historical Society committee members and friends in planting a replacement oak tree just inside the Ballarat Road boundary, east of the Memorial Gardens.

On Anzac Day, I visited Footscray Park and noted the tree is doing well. It has a distinct northward lean so may take a while to match the height of the original. It was 20 feet high before its demise.



Dave Matthews' drawing of the Soldier's Tree in Footscray Park, Dec 1941.

Advertiser (Footscray) 27 October 1917p 3

Thomas Howie, Patent Maker Footscray



Footscray chaffcutter, Flinders Ranges 2019.

Frances White

On a recent visit to Arkaroola north of the Flinders Ranges in South Australia we happened to stop at an interesting property to camp. On a walk through the home paddock we came upon a chaffcutter sitting in the Mallee bush with the maker stamped “T. Howie, Patent Maker, Footscray”.

A little research yielded that Howie was a well-known name in the manufacture of farm implements. Born in Scotland, he operated a workshop in Footscray for many years in Whitehall Street at the back of his house. He died at home in 1936, aged 91.

The factory survived almost intact until at least 2000 when it was recommended for preservation in the Maribyrnong Heritage Report – Industrial Places (2000). Unfortunately, this was not acted upon.

Frances White

Royal Agricultural Show Safety Chaffcutter Competition

In connection with the Royal show, Mr. G. T. Chirnside offered £50, to be allotted £40 to the first and £10 second prizes for safety chaffcutters. The conditions were that the exhibitors should submit an apparatus or contrivance for attachment to a chaffcutter which would be best adapted to prevent accidents. ... It was also provided that the competition was to be judged by three judges – a

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Yarraville Mouth Organ Band: March quarterly meeting

Footscray Historical Society was delighted to have Heather Mavric, Secretary YMOB, and Ivan Krmelski, President YMOB, attend Ercildoune on 15 March 2020. Their presentation combined warm reflections on their experiences with the band, sharing of memorabilia and screening of amateur film.

The club dates back to 1933, when Ernie Weybury set about equipping teenagers with donated harmonicas. Dedication of club members, led by Arthur Cardell, is evident in footage of the erection of the A.J. Cardell Hall and its entertainment of patients in hospitals and aged care residents. Film also captured the mid-1950s fashion. What’s not to love about the frocks, tweeds and hairdos? A separate film documents YMOB’s performance of various numbers. It was great background music for our afternoon tea.

Keith O’Brien delighted guests by donating to YMOB harmonicas from his family collection. We join with him in thanking Heather and Ivan for a stimulating presentation. It reminds us of what is distinctive about this part of the world.



Keith O’Brien donating a harmonica to the Yarraville Mouth Organ Band at Ercildoune on 15 March 2020.

Carmel Taig



The Super Chromonica from the Hohner Factory, which Keith O’Brien donated to YMOB.

Carmel Taig



A.J. Cardell Hall, interior.
Warren Kirk



In the 1880s Thomas Howie & Co.'s factory was at 102 Whitehall Street Footscray.

Footscray Historical Society

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feeder or owner, a farmer, and engineer – and sheaf hay, loose hay or straw was to be cut by the machine in uniform lengths.

This competition took place on the show grounds yesterday. There were 26 machines submitted for the test. The judges were: Messrs W. Ross, of Miners' Rest; Adam Hastie, of Werribee; and T. Howie, of Footscray, assisted by Mr G. Merrett, as steward. The judges decided that the most points were won by the following: First, Cliff and Bunting, Melbourne, Second, N. Newton, Werribee. ...

About 19 tons of hay were provided by the society for the trials. It is thought the present competition will be a prelude to the Government passing an act to provide for safety appliances being attached to all chaffcutters, and thus minimise, or prevent to a large extent, the accidents which have so frequently attended the use of the machines in the past.



The competition is severely criticised by leading implement manufacturers. So pronounced is the dissatisfaction that a protest has been made against the award. A request has also been preferred for a new-trial. Grounds of complaint are that the judge is said to be personally interested in the manufacture of chaffcutters, and that another prominent manufacturer, is on the council which elects the judge. ... It is said that over twenty implements were dealt with between 2pm and 5pm, when the award was decided upon. This, it is claimed, was a farcical trial of the value of the elaborate and expensive machinery which was submitted to the test.

The Age 24 August 1910, p 12

Further historical information on Thomas Henderson Howie, (Dundee, Scotland 1845-Footscray 1936) and his wife Catherine Hay Ross (1852-Footscray 1925) is below:

HOWIE—ROSS: On the 27th December, at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. A. McVean, Thomas Henderson Howie to Catherine Hay, only daughter of Mr. Andrew Ross, No. 6 Jeffcott-street, West Melbourne.

Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers 30 January 1873, p 15

THOMAS HOWIE
Original Maker and Inventor of
New Improved All Steel Frame
Mallee Disc Cultivator
WITH NEW IMPROVED PATENT BEARINGS.

THOMAS HOWIE'S
STEEL FRAME CULTIVATOR.

PRICES OF DUPLICATE PARTS.
In Ordering, be careful to say Right or Left Hand, or for Rebuilding or First Fork Machines.

Main Bearings, revolving fork, per pair	45 0 0	Fork Castings for 2 1/2 inch Frame & 30	10 0 0
Main Bearings, fixed fork, per pair	1 0 0	Fork Castings for 2 inch Frame & 30	10 0 0
Inside Bearings, right and left, per pair	1 4 0	Front Wheel, 5 iron-hub, without hub	15 0 0
Outside Bush, main bearing, two oil pipes & 2	7 6	Front Wheel, 5 iron-hub, with hub	3 0 0
Inside Journal for main bearing, A1	6 0	Iron for 6 iron wheels	3 0 0
Outside Bush, for inside bearing one oil pipe & 2	7 0	Spindle on Wheel's axle	1 0 0
Inside Journal, for inside bearing one oil pipe & 2	6 0	Front Wheel, wood, with iron hub and front	1 0 0
Steel Washers, A1, A2, & 2	2 6	Cast Steel Wipers for front fork T.H.	1 0 0
Front Fork Washers, with oil cap	1 0 0	Spring for Fork	7 6
Thin Washers Intermediate	4 0	Drivers Bolt	15 0 0
Oil and Washer, steel disc plate A1	2 6	Fork, forged complete 1 1/2 inch make	15 0 0
Imbedded Washer, steel disc plate A1	2 6	Cultivator forged with oil cap	15 0 0
Bull drawing pin 1 in long & 1/2	7 6	Spindles 1 1/2 square steel 1/2 1/2 Hex nuts	15 0 0
Bull drawing pin 1 in long & 1/2	7 6	Fork, forged complete 1 1/2 inch make	15 0 0

When ordering Castings and Parts for repairs please note there are two sizes of disc make (14 inch, now made 1 1/2 inch).

Bearings for All Makes of Disc Harvesters in Stock.

THOMAS HOWIE,
Agricultural Engineer, Whitehall Street, FOOTSCRAY.
Late T. Henderson & Co., Melbourne and Footscray.

Advertisement for Thomas Howie Cultivator.

Footscray Historical Society.

Above (inset): T.Howie logo, Flinders Ranges 2019.

Frances White

HOWIE Thomas Henderson:

Place of birth: Dundee Scotland
Place of death: Footscray, Age 91
Died:1936 4099/1936.

Victoria Births Deaths and Marriages

Wills And Estates: Thomas Howie, late of Whitehall Street, Footscray, Implement maker, left £6102 realty and £6461 personally to his children.

Herald 20 July 1936, p 3

E.R. Warne and Sons

E.R. Warne advertisement.
Independent 23
January 1866 p3

FOOTSCRAY VENETIAN BLIND, DOOR, AND SASH FACTORY
B. R. WARNE
 BARKLY STREET, FOOTSCRAY.
 And at
 ANDERSON STREET, YARRAVILLE.
 Sashes and Frames, Doors and Door Frames, and every description of Joiner's work manufactured on the premises at Melbourne Prices.
 VENETIAN BLINDS FROM 10s. 6d.
 Repairs of every description. Estimates given.
 N.B.—Furnishing Undertaker.

We all enjoy a bit of detective work. Recently a search on Trove turned up a photograph assigned the title "Undertakers business of E R Warne & Sons, Footscray or possibly Yarraville". It is held in the State Library Victoria (SLV) as part of the John Etkins Collection. Solving the question of location, involved consulting the 1895 MMBW map and Sands & McDougall directories on the SLV website.

Edwin Richard Warne (1827-1907) was born in London to Richard and Mary Warne. E R Warne married Mary Susannah (nee Nash)

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Maidstone

Can we interest you in a new local history study group? It will focus on the area bounded by Mitchell Street to the north, the Railway Line to the south, Rosamond Road/Summerhill Road to the east and Ashley Street to the west.

The area has a very rich history both Indigenous and immigrant. In 1851 Peter Inglis bought 640 acres from the crown, making him the area's first white settler.

The area's formal title is Section 16, Parish of Cut Paw Paw. Over the years it has been called Bottomley's

Paddock and the Maidstone Estate. It included a subdivision known as the Sunny Hill Estate which was between Williamson Road and Mitchell Street and comprised 171 allotments.

The Facey family lived on the Maidstone Estate. In his book *A Fortunate Life* Albert Facey describes watching houses being moved into or out of the estate.



Tony Kelleher, who has researched the area and has lots of old documents and plans is willing to facilitate such a group which will be part of the Footscray Historical Society. Tony can be contacted tkellehe@bigpond.net.au [Note there is no "r" in Tony's email address.]

Town of Maidstone, North Footscray, 1886. Troedel & Cooper Pty Ltd, SLV H2010.128/24

Maidstone School

For some back Mr. W. M. Clark has been urging on the Education Department the necessity of creating a new state school in the vicinity of Suffolk street to meet the wants of the population springing up in West Footscray. Two sites were selected by an Inspector, and with the present cheese-paring policy which involves future heavy outlays, The Department chose the cheaper one. As this latter site is surrounded by quarry-holes, and the roads leading thereto only exist on paper, the residents, by petition signed by 87, objected to it, and asked that the one chosen by them should be purchased. The petition was duly presented, and Mr. Clark strongly urged that the request it contained should be complied with, but the only answer to the representations made is the following letter, which has been handed to us for publication.

"Education Department, Melbourne, 15th April 1891, memorandum for W. M. Clark, Esq, M. P. With reference to his inquiries at this office on the 13th inst, and the memorial from residents of Maidstone, messrs, Joseph Facey, John Auld, S. Woods and others, upon the question of a school site for the locality, Mr. Clark is informed that the Department has offered to purchase from Messrs Burrell and Walkenden a site in the Summer Hill Estate, on certain conditions. If these conditions are complied with, a conveyance will be prepared; if not, the offer will be withdrawn."

W. H. Handfield. for Secretary."

The Independent (Footscray) Saturday 18 April 1891, p. 2.



E.R. Warne and Sons, Barkly Street Footscray.

SLV Accession no: H2005.34/107

From previous page

in 1849 and they sailed on the Prince Arthur to Victoria in 1853. They settled in Footscray, raising three boys and four girls (one who died aged 3).

In the depression of 1860s E R Warne was declared insolvent, and again in 1875. The unfortunate man put his financial problems down to sickness, bad debts and losses on contracts. He declared his occupation to be 'carpenter and contractor' indicating there were too few burials to warrant him confining his activities to undertaking.

E.R. Warne's reputation remained intact and the business survived into the second half of the 20th century. He served on Footscray Council in the 1870s, wearing the Mayoral robes in 1898. When Edwin's wife Mary died in 1899, she was given a huge send-off, with 10 vehicles from the firm leading a cortege of dozens of private vehicles. There's no report of Edwin's funeral eight years later.

Established in 1856, Warne's firm and the family home were located at 137-139 (later 291) Barkly Street, west of the site where the Barkly Picture Theatre was built in 1914. Another branch of the undertaking business opened in Yarraville before the turn of the century. Yarraville addresses included Birmingham Street, Anderson Street and 56 Somerville Road.

E.R. Warne's eldest son Ernest Richard Warne died in 1889 of 'throat consumption'. Prior to his death, he resided with his wife Ruth in North Road Newport.

This left Walter Arthur Warne the remaining junior partner in the business. Walter married to Rosie Weiland in 1889, and 137 Barkly Street became their home. A volunteer with the Belgravia Fire Brigade, Wally was



Detail of 1895 City of Footscray MMBW plan showing the location of the E.R. Warne property.

SLV MMBW Plan City of Footscray 243

regarded as one of the best reel-men in the state. He also served as president of Footscray A.N.A. at the turn of the century. He died in 1918, aged 48. The couple had only child, Eveline Lottie 'Queenie' Warne.

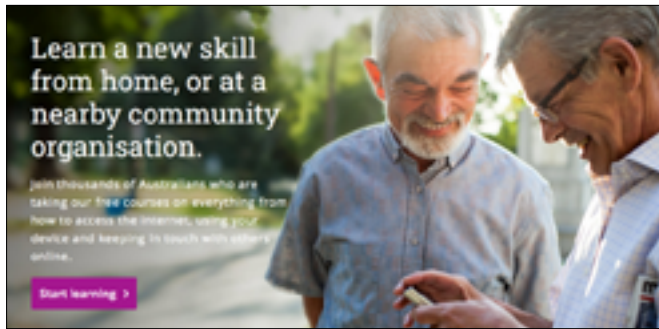
One of Wally's sisters, Louisa Ann Warne, remained single and lived in Byron Street Footscray. His married sisters also lived locally. Clara Ellen Warne married Alfred William Gullock and Lydia Warne married William Welsford. You may have the remaining pieces of the puzzle. I'm yet to find out what happened to the youngest son Victor Edwin Warne (1872-1957). If you know his occupation and where he settled, please let me know.

Carmel Taig



Coronavirus requirements

All events scheduled to take place in May 2020 have been cancelled, due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Our volunteers continue to serve, while observing social-distancing requirements. Feel free to ask us for assistance with your research into any aspect of this district's history.



Computer & Devices Class

For Seniors: connecting via Skype, WhatsApp, FaceTime

Are you 50+ years? Need a helping hand with video calls? Find out how to make a video call using your phone, tablet or computer. Footscray Historical Society invites you to join in the **Be Connected** program.

It's free of charge and can be arranged by appointment with Don Mooney at Ercildoune. In sessions held on Tuesdays from 10am to noon there will be a maximum of four people at a session of no more than two hours.

For more information email Don Mooney – donjustdoit@gmail.com

Executive Committee 2020

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Members	Don Mooney
.....	Hugh Basset
.....	Pamela Mulready
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.....	Roger Mitchell

CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19



Email or phone your enquiries to volunteers

A gentle reminder to resubscribe

At Ercildoune, volunteers are making great strides receiving, conserving and making accessible archives of the Footscray district and advocating for heritage conservation. The Society's success depends on the generosity of its members.

June 30, 2020 is the renewal date for all members. Check the date on the back of your membership card to see if you may have paid in advance for the 2020/2021 year



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Contribute by contacting Carmel Taig

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Footscray Historical Society appreciates the support of Katie Hall MP, newsletter sponsor for 2020. Thanks Katie!