



*Preserving our Heritage for the Future*

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**Help Us!**

A lady, doing some research on Rev. Alexander Robert (AR) Edgar, contacted the society. He was born in Tipperary, Ireland in 1850. After coming out to St Arnaud with his parents, he discovered his calling and was ordained at Wesley Church. As this church was bordering Melbourne's slums, he started a series of Sunday lectures and discussions on working conditions, wages, evils of drink and many other topics to help the poor. He also assisted in the formation of Tally Ho in Burwood.

A friend of Ringwood's Rev. Porteus, father of Stanley, he came to Ringwood to recuperate. He stayed at the parsonage in Bedford Road, and had a very active part in the Ringwood Methodist Church, with his wife taking Bible class and his daughter playing the organ.

Going back to the lady, she was after a photo of the Methodist parsonage. I thought it may have been on

Main Road, opposite the station, but I found this 1940 photograph in a lovely hiding



spot in the archives. It says it was in Bedford Road.

**The Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 8pm at Federation Estate.**

**Architecture of Ringwood Houses**

Samantha Westbrooke, is from Helen Lardner Conservation & Design, a company that provides heritage research and consultancy, particularly in the area of architecture, will take us through the development of housing in the Ringwood area.

Samantha is a registered architect and has a broad experience in undertaking research, and has completed large projects for major companies and government departments.

Unlike some inner Melbourne suburbs, Ringwood is seemingly devoid of early architecture such as terrace housing and blue-stone/sandstone buildings.

But this is not the case. Ringwood has been occupied since

the 1850s/60s yet the housing has been simple but effective.

Beyond that era, housing design in Ringwood has been more innovative than inner suburbs because new sections have been continually opened up for development.

Also one of our members, Greg Wade, will do a cameo role as well as talking about his passion, cameras.

## Last Meeting

A wonderful meeting took place last month, firstly with Gerry Robinson reading a very picturesque travelogue of travelling along Canterbury Road in the 1920s.

Next Graeme Tamme answered a few questions that were posed in his talk back in April.

Finally, our main speaker, Anita Barker, took the floor and gave a presentation on the children of the early licensees of the Coach and Horses Hotel. Materials were discovered at the site due to the Eastlink Freeway archeologically excavations. 200 boxes of artefacts were excavated - 188 fragments, 95 artefacts, 16 dolls (10 out of 14 made in Germany).

Anita mentioned that children are not recorded in voter's rolls - they are the forgotten people, and very hard to trace. She thanked the historical society for making school records, photographs and other material available to aid in their identification.

She "unearthed" a previously undiscovered area of children's toys, the dating and cataloguing of all varieties of dolls, marbles, etc. In fact, by the time this newsletter reaches you, she will be in Ireland, doing further research and presenting some of her discoveries to museums and organisations.

The families, of the hotel, were predominately Irish—Wiggins, Mashiters, O'Mearas. The O'Meara children resided in Ringwood from 1906-1908, prior to this they lived in South Mel-



Demolition of the buildings from the converted Coach & Horses Hotel on 4th May, 2005

bourne and from 1909-1911 lived in Surrey Hills.

Ringwood's early Irish heritage doesn't stop there. Postmistresses Martha and Mariannie Thomson were both born in Derry, the Geraghty family of East Ringwood were also Irish, a number of families around "Kennedy Corner", near the intersection of Warrantdyte and Loughnan Roads, were from Armagh, plus there were many more.

Anita showed a very interesting number of photos and handed around many of the pieces. A wonderful gesture on her part, as these items are still under control of Heritage Victoria, and have a high heritage value, not only to Ringwood, but to Victoria.



The site undergoing investigation in June, 2005. Unfortunately time was not on the archaeologists side, with a job that often takes years to complete.



## RINGWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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building (ring Russ to gain access)

## Preserving our Heritage

Our website is  
[www.rhs.org.au](http://www.rhs.org.au)  
Go and check it  
out!

## Supper Roster

Please mark these in your diary. Bring milk and biscuits/cake. All the rest supplied. Others to assist.

<b>June</b>	McDonalds
<b>July</b>	Gerry Robinson
<b>August</b>	McKeons
<b>Sept</b>	Smart
<b>Oct</b>	McKeons
<b>Nov</b>	Ainslie Scott and Francis McLean

## Sad News

One of members, Sylvia Ferguson, passed away on 24th April, 2008. She had been living at Greenway Gardens, Heathmont for the last couple of years.

Our kind thoughts are with Sylvia's family and friends.

## Newsletter

With 10 meetings a year—and 10 newsletters - it is very difficult to maintain 4 pages, as well as articles for the local newspaper and radio. The 4th page is usually reserved for a local historical article but this can take up to 5-6 hours to prepare. I'll do my best to keep up the standard but don't be surprised by a 3, or even 2, page newsletter some months.

P.S. I've made the typing a little larger, following a request, but that's about as big as I dare!

## Archives

One acquisition this month, a 25th anniversary mug from the Ringwood Cadbury's factory but no chocolates inside.

Also Gwen Horman kindly lent her scrapbooks containing very interesting and historically valuable items on the days as Mayoress and of Ringwood East.

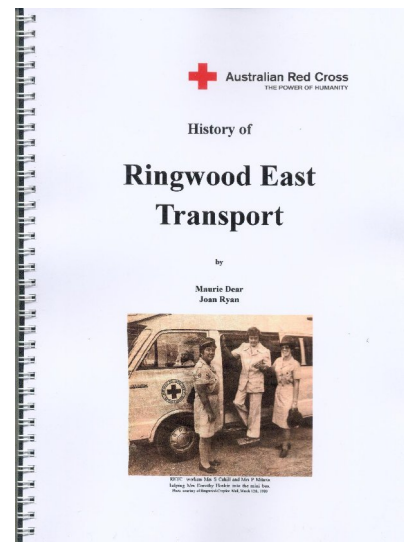
## Work at the Archives

The archivist is back to working sane hours. There is a lot of work to do at the archives. Please help out where you can.

## Handyperson Required

We need some shelving done at the archives, to accommodate the rapid increase in material. If you have some wood-working skills, please let someone on the committee know.

Also we are in need of a projector/computer stand for our presentations, rather than drag out a whole table. It could be built in either wood, aluminium or tubular steel, as long as it folds up to fit in a car boot.



## Book Launch

Your president had the pleasure of attending the launch of the Red Cross Ringwood East Transport Group by Joan Ryan and Maurie Dear at Ringwood East Community Hall.

A fine work, which will contribute to East Ringwood effort in November. The Mayor, Cr Tony Dib, was present, as was Cr Jo Taylor.