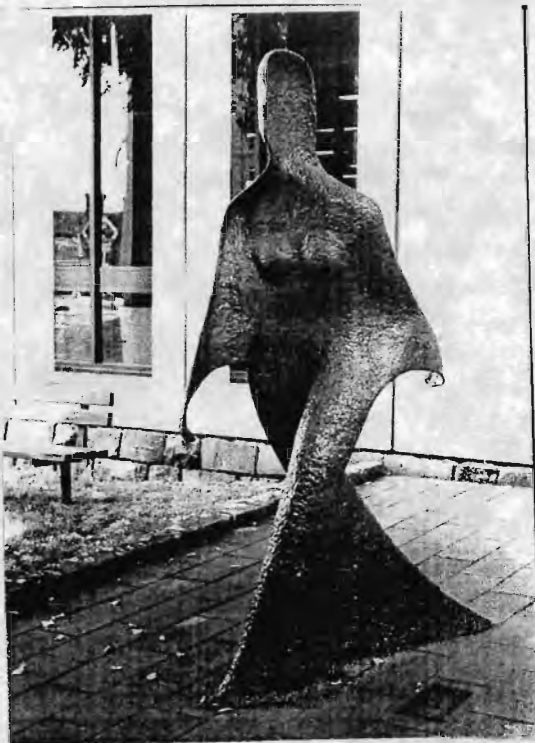


PLAQUES AND OTHER TREASURES



CAMBERWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

A WALK ALONG CAMBERWELL ROAD

When Camberwell Historical Society decided to publish a walking 'trail', it was clear a link with Civic history would be a good starting point.

The area around the Civic Centre has proved rich in remembrances of past times.

Some of these important items are almost invisible – largely un-noticed and passed by, they nevertheless tell something of their stories to the curious.

It has been our endeavour to provide further background in each case; a map to facilitate easy location appears on the back cover.

Because of the variety of plaques and other treasures to be found along Camberwell Road, we have limited this publication to that fine thoroughfare.



Tram Shelter

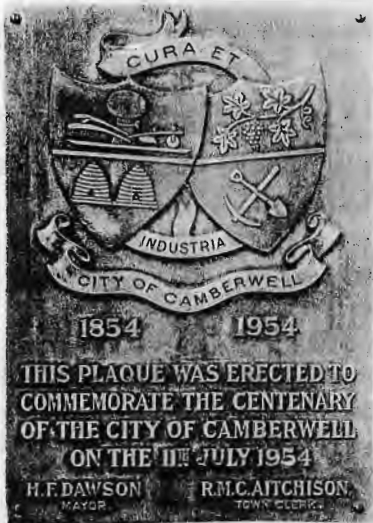
1. We suggest that the walking 'trail' begin at this point, then, if preferred, a short drive to 2. will continue the walk.

The unusual tram shelter in Fordham Gardens adjoins Tram Stop No. 50 (opposite Smith Road).

The shelter provides seating on all four sides, the better to protect travellers from the elements.

Constructed by the former Hawthorn Tramways Trust, the shelter was originally positioned at the corner of Riversdale and Wattle Valley Roads. In the mid-1990s the shelter was moved to its present site.

An identical shelter is situated at the corner of Riversdale and Highfield Roads.



*Plaque on the wall
of Boroondara's Property
Office*

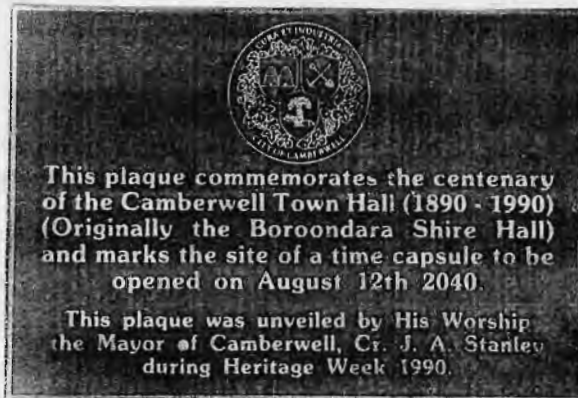
2. This bronze plaque is affixed to the wall of Boroondara's Property Services Unit Building (adjacent to Tram Stop No. 43).

Camberwell began its local government career as the Boroondara Road District on 11 July 1854.

An area of 23.75 square miles comprised the districts of Camberwell, Hawthorn and Kew.

The 'Progress Press' of 14 July 1954 reported Camberwell's area of 14 square miles made it the third largest metropolitan area and the wealthiest council outside the City of Melbourne.

In 1890 Camberwell had 1200 buildings and 4416 people. Towards the end of 1952, there were 25,667 buildings and a residential population of 98,391.



Plaque commemorating the Centenary of Camberwell Town Hall

3. The above commemorative plaque in the lawn border at the corner of the Camberwell Library Building acknowledges the Centenary of the Camberwell Town Hall.

The building, with its landmark clock tower, was constructed at a cost of £10,000 and opened in 1891.

The time capsule referred to contains material about 1990's car, house, cinema, grocery and pet food prices; stockmarket prices also feature. Sporting events, pictures and sketches of houses, the history of the Camberwell area and events of 1990 are included as well.



A.L.G.W.A. Plaque

4. Passing the entrance to the Library on the Civic Centre Driveway, a very tall lemon scented gum (*Eucalyptus Citriodora*) identifies the location of a plaque at its base (pictured above).

The 'Progress Press' of 28 March 1970 reported that the 7th Annual Conference of the Australian Local Government Women's Association was held in Camberwell Civic Centre in April 1970.

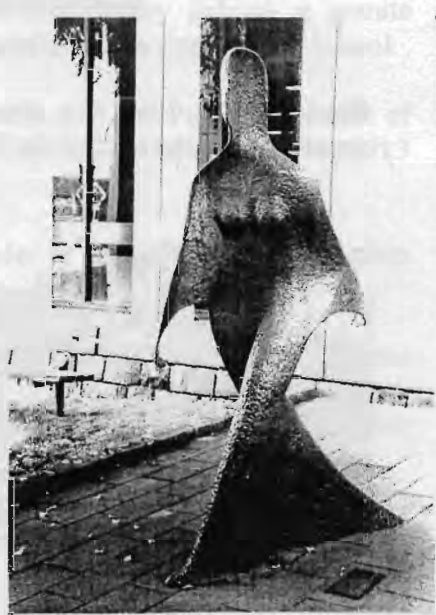
Cr. Zillah Crawcour from Geelong was a speaker and chaired the Conferences's second and third sessions. The tree was planted at the conclusion of the fourth session on 19 April 1970.

5. A few steps past the Crawcour plaque the Mayoresses' Court is seen to the left. The Court was opened in 1980.

The bronze sculpture entitled 'The Mayoress' was unveiled in March 1982.

The sculptor, Michael Meszaros, designed his work to symbolise the role of Mayoresses of the City of Camberwell.

Without suggesting particular likenesses, the graceful lines represent the characteristics of the progressive energy and femininity of all Mayoresses.



The Mayoress

6. Walking down the wide steps immediately in front of the Civic Centre building, one sees a large bush in the lawn to the left.

The bush, an Aleppo Pine (*Pinus Halepensis*), is a vigorous descendant of the original Lone Pine at Gallipoli.



Aleppo Pine (*Pinus Halepensis*)

On 6 August 1999 the above plaque was unveiled, that date being the anniversary of the start of the battle of Lone Pine on 6 August 1915.



Primary School No.888

7. Primary School No. 888 (formerly State School No.888) celebrated its 130th Anniversary in 1997.

The history of this School is important, mirroring the growth in the area's population and increase in amenities; the changing of its location and later extensions to the original building also tell their stories.

Inside the main entrance of the School a brass tablet is dedicated to the memory of Patrick Moloney, 19 years a teacher at the School, who died on 31 May 1916.

Patrick Moloney also served for six years as the first Headmaster of Canterbury State School.

Camberwell Primary School became Victoria's first English/French Bilingual Government School in 1991.



Granite drinking fountain

8. In the small public garden beside the Primary School, a granite drinking fountain is dedicated to the memory of a former pupil of the School.

Cr. Henry Rooks is recorded as being a Justice of the Peace, President of Boroondara Shire in 1900 and Mayor of the City of Camberwell in 1910, 1913 and 1926.

Henry Rooks (1864–1930) was a coachbuilder in Camberwell in partnership with his brother Edward.

9. The walker will traverse the junction to the Rivoli Cinemas at 200 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn.



The Rivoli Cinemas

Originally built on the current site in 1940, extensive renovations were undertaken in 1999 and the present complex offering eight screens opened for business in May 2000.

The 1940's cinema presented a stunning example of Art Deco architecture. Art Deco, also called Style Moderne, originated in the 1920s, developing into a major style in the 1930s. The style featured a streamlined, geometric look; characteristic motifs included nude female figures, foliage and animals.

Note: An excellent pamphlet describing the history of the Rivoli Cinemas is available in the foyer.

10. Returning to the Camberwell side of the junction, the walker will arrive at the Victoria Teachers' Credit Union (VTU) Headquarters at 277 Camberwell Road.

In the VTU's glassed-in foyer a bronze sculpture of a female figure entitled 'Semi-Reclining Figure' is seen.



Semi-Reclining Figure

In September 1982 Tom Fantl was commissioned to create a sculpture to embody the human qualities of the Credit Union. His female figure was installed in 1984.

Tom Fantl was born in Prague (then Czechoslovakia) and migrated to Australia in 1949. During 1976-77 he worked in England as personal assistant to world renowned sculptor, Henry Moore.

11. Camberwell Court House at 311 Camberwell Road was built in 1939 at a cost of £3,759.

The original Camberwell Court House was part of the 1890 Boroondara Shire Hall; what was once the court room is now part of Camberwell Library.



Camberwell Courthouse

The red brick building, set at an angle across a corner site, was designed in 'Streamlined Moderne' style.

Justice was dispensed in this building until 1989. The Court House is now occupied by the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices.

12. Camberwell's R.S.L. Hall at 403 Camberwell Road was opened on 18 October 1959.

The Monument to the Fallen fronting the Hall is a sturdy Cenotaph; as well as a bronze wreath an A.I.F. badge is also affixed.

The original R.S.L. Hall was located in Canterbury on the corner of Canterbury Road and Keats Street. The Canterbury Memorial Home Units (providing accommodation for veterans) were opened on 17 August 1980 on that site.

A large memorial tablet honouring those who fought in the Great War is seen in the open porch.



R.S.L. Monument

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We thank Michael Challenger for allowing us to quote from his book 'Historic Court Houses of Victoria'; the photograph at 11 is Michael's also.

Mia Castaldi, Colin Singleton and staff of Camberwell Library were generous with their assistance, as were the staff at the State Library.

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Val Goldsworthy



Camberwell Historical Society Inc. is a volunteer organization whose purposes are to foster historical interest and knowledge, to compile and keep historical records of the district, to promote the interchange of information among its members by lectures, discussions, excursions and other activities, to facilitate liaison with other history groups in the district and to participate in community projects.

We are affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

The Society holds six general meetings annually, arranges four excursions and produces six newsletters.

Prospective members are invited to contact the Society's Secretary at :-

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CAMBERWELL ROAD WALK

