

EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



March 2026

NEWSLETTER VOLUME TWENTY-SEVEN • No. 1 • ABN 61 280 547 708

Aims

A full Statement of Purposes appears in our Documents of Incorporation but briefly the aims of the Society are as follows:

To foster an interest in the history of East Melbourne.

To build an archive of material relevant to the history of East Melbourne.

To promote interchange of information through lectures and tours.

To promote heritage preservation.

Committee

President	Tim Holland
Vice-president	Barbara Paterson
Hon. Secretary	Sylvia Black
Hon. Treasurer	Malcolm Howell
Committee Members	Diane Clifford
	Jill Fenwick
	Ian Hind
	Lisette Malatesta
	Marita McCabe

Contributions and Suggestions

We invite contributions relating to the history of East Melbourne from our members. Articles of up to 1000 words will be considered for publication. Small articles and items of interest are also welcome.

We would be pleased to receive your suggestions and ideas for activities, guest speakers, excursions, or anything else you might like us to organise on your behalf.

Please contact any member of our committee.

Membership

Membership of the East Melbourne Historical Society is open to all who are interested in the history of East Melbourne.

Enquiries: [Diane Clifford](#)
Email: dianeclifford1@gmail.com

Annual subscription **\$ 30.00**

Guests are welcome at individual meetings **\$ 5.00**

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Affiliated with
The Royal Historical Society of Victoria

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The Members and Committee of the East Melbourne Historical Society respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung people of the Kulin nation, and pay respect to their elders past, present and to come.

President's Letter

We commence another year with the promise of some very engaging events and activities, and look forward to enjoying them with you in person and in print.

However, I think it is most appropriate for me to highlight and pay tribute to Sylvia Black, who was honoured with the award of an OAM in the recent Australia Day honours.

Sylvia was one of the very first members of the EMHS when it was founded in 1999, and it was not long before she took on the role of secretary. In that role she has done the regular secretary duties, including fielding a constant stream of enquiries from around the world, often from people with historic family connection to East Melbourne.

In addition Sylvia has been a prolific and diligent researcher on local matters over the decades, and her elegant written handiwork is evident in the large number of her contributions across our excellent website.

Organisations like the East Melbourne Historical Society rely totally on the efforts and enthusiasm of its members. As it is, and as I have often said at official functions, EMHS has been blessed in this regard over its lifetime with the contributions of many. Sylvia has been a key person in our organisation since the foundation of the EMHS, both in work done and in her leadership role. Her contribution to local history of the East Melbourne area has been profound, and her award is greatly deserved.

I look forward to enjoying our EMHS activities with you during the year.

Tim Holland, President
March, 2026

Welcome to our New Members

Charmaine Simpson	Michael Rosenfield	Claudia O'Leary	Sue Jennion
Stephen Simpson	Jenny Rosenfield	Paul McCabe	Alex Evans
Vivek Malipatil			

INTERVIEW WITH GREGORY AND MARK

By Marita McCabe

Join me as we continue our conversations with East Melbourne residents and hear their wonderful experiences of our suburb. Gregory Ladner and Mark Grenville have called East Melbourne home since the late 1980s. Over the years, they transformed a deconsecrated Lutheran church into a magnificent abode filled with an inspiring, eclectic collection of art and furniture. Stepping through the front door is like entering another world — a sensory delight from the moment you arrive.



*Mark Grenville (left) & Gregory Ladner (right)
'Boy and His Bear' Melbourne Book Launch, 2022.*

Why did you come to East Melbourne?

Before the financial crash of the late 1980s, Gregory and Mark sold their first house in Clifton Hill. They had renovated a Victorian home stripped of most of its original features. Gregory spent just \$30,000 — \$6,000 of which went towards a fabulous 1930s pink chandelier. He knocked down internal walls and installed a floor of diamond-shaped chipboard inlaid with pine strips, stained white and polished to resemble marble from front to back. The success of that project set them up well for their next endeavour.

It was Mark who first came across Saint Marks Lutheran Church, just down from the General Store. The property had been purchased by a developer who had since gone under — a common story of the time. Mark was excited by the find; Gregory, however, refused to even look at it. Mark persisted, and eventually Gregory stepped inside. Within two minutes he saw its potential. “We must have it,” he declared.

They approached the bank with an offer, but the bank rejected it, as it was owed considerably more. The property was instead put to auction, where Gregory and Mark ultimately secured it for less than their original offer. Although the site carried a permit for 25 apartments, Gregory and Mark chose to create what is essentially a one-bedroom home — a choice they sometimes joke may have been a mistake.

What Gregory saw in those first two minutes was the potential for a garden. He removed the roof of the main church area, leaving the walls and original windows intact, and created a serene Japanese-style garden with pools, a waterfall, and a stone bridge weighing several tons. The neighbourhood was initially aghast as the street was closed for three days during construction — not the most charming first impression — but the couple eventually won over the community. Gregory still smiles when people ask, “Was the tree there originally?” in a space where pews once stood.

Gregory had, in fact, admired the area long before purchasing Saint Marks. Years earlier, he visited the house opposite with his employer, Lillian Wightman, the owner of Le Louvre, the iconic couture salon that lent its glamour to the “Paris end” of Collins Street. The house — a magnificent Victorian Gothic residence then operating as a rooming house — made an impression on Gregory, even with its gas stove sitting on a stair landing. He wandered through it mentally redecorating, and it was then that his affection for East Melbourne began.

Despite the existing 25-apartment permit, obtaining approval for Gregory and Mark’s vision proved exhausting. More than twenty objections were lodged by residents several blocks away. One councillor — known for always wearing a distinctive brown corduroy suit — became particularly obstructive. She preferred a mock Georgian house with a formal garden, matching portico, and symmetrical path. After much perseverance, Gregory convinced her to visit the site and charmed her into seeing his vision.

Because of the depth of the block, the pair incorporated two apartments at the rear. They note, a little ruefully, that if the property were sold today, a developer would likely demolish everything and reinstate the 25-apartment plan.

What was East Melbourne like when you first moved in?

When Gregory and Mark first moved in, they immediately fell in love with the suburb’s proximity to the city and the beautiful gardens at the end of their street. Daily walks around the Fitzroy Gardens with their beloved dogs quickly became a cherished routine. Though mobility issues now prevent Gregory from long walks, Mark has joined a group of neighbours who meet at 8 am each morning, except Thursdays, for walks that extend as far as the Botanic Gardens, Fitzroy, and Collingwood.

East Melbourne’s village atmosphere was one of the first things they noticed. Having previously lived in South Yarra, where neighbours seldom spoke, they were struck by the warmth of their new community. Greetings were exchanged, stories shared, and friendships formed with ease.

At the heart of the village stood the East Melbourne Store, then owned by Norm and his wife Anna. Norm knew everything happening in the area — and often everything about everyone. While Gregory and Mark were renovating, they would ask Norm for updates on their own project, as he seemed to know more than they did.

Gregory fondly recalls making a joke about cooking an exotic recipe, then asking Norm, “Have you got any candied South American green bull ants?” Norm replied “Oh, I think we’re out of them, but let me see,” and returned from his own kitchen with exactly what was needed. Norm was a confidant, counsellor, and constant presence in the neighbourhood. He even organised the funeral of a local gentleman who passed away with no living relatives.

When Norm and Anna retired a decade ago, the community held its breath — but the store passed into the capable hands of Lisette, who has enhanced its legacy. The general store is now a vibrant gathering place offering excellent coffee, legendary toasted sandwiches, and fresh Portuguese tarts.

What types of changes have occurred in East Melbourne?

East Melbourne has always been elegant, thanks to its beautiful terraces and wide, tree-lined streets. The suburb once contained several boarding houses — the last being Queen Bess Row, now transformed into three magnificent residences. While the mid-20th century saw many heritage homes replaced with plain apartment blocks, even these later acquired a certain charm. In recent years, some have been replaced with elegant low-rise developments, improving the streetscape.

What do you love about East Melbourne and what is not so great about East Melbourne?

Parking is a challenge. When Gregory and Mark added a double garage to the front of their home during renovations, the woman in the corduroy suit was horrified. But the garage has saved them endless frustration, despite the occasional car blocking their driveway.

The suburb’s vegetation has also evolved. Rows of deciduous trees now replace unsuitable natives like stringybarks, bringing the streetscape into harmony with the area’s English architectural character. Gregory has personally contributed, replanting the central street beds after years of council neglect. Although complaints were lodged, council inspectors ultimately praised his work and now help maintain it.

Not all council decisions have been as well received. Gregory and Mark lament the recent installation of numerous speed bumps and traffic signs — “twenty-seven signs at one intersection alone,” Gregory exclaims — calling it the worst change they have witnessed in their decades here. They argue that simply lowering the speed limit to 30 km/h would have cost a fraction of the expense.

Can you ever see yourself leaving East Melbourne?

When they first renovated Saint Marks, Gregory and Mark imagined they would sell it after a few years and begin another project. That was 35 years ago. Today, they can’t imagine living anywhere else in Melbourne. Recently, Gregory inspected a glamorous apartment coming up for sale — not the original one he viewed years earlier from the crane, but a later addition to the street. Though tempting, the moment he stepped back into the tranquility of their Japanese garden, the idea of moving evaporated.

They divide their time between Melbourne and Noosa, and Gregory admits he could see himself living in Noosa one day, where he has a fantastic studio. Yet every time they return — whether from overseas or from the Sunshine Coast — they look at each other and ask, “Why did we ever leave?”

What advice would you give to someone moving into East Melbourne?

When asked what advice they would give to anyone considering a move to East Melbourne, their response was immediate: “If you have the opportunity, just grab it.” They emphasise the suburb’s proximity to the city and its tranquillity — a quiet enclave with no reason to pass through unless you live here. The nearby MCG brings bursts of colour during AFL matches, with crowds that are lively yet well-behaved.

Community groups, tennis courts, a kindergarten, and excellent local restaurants contribute to the suburb’s charm. Geppetto’s, their long-time favourite Italian restaurant, has been serving the neighbourhood for 45 years. Gregory has flourished in retirement, writing a memoir and recently returning to painting. His first solo exhibition at West End Art Space was a triumph, and his memoir, *A Boy and His Bear*, is available from the EM General Store.

HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

By Lisette Malatesta

This summer, thirty history enthusiasts were led on a fascinating walk through East Melbourne. Starting in the native bush area of the Fitzroy Gardens, Lisette traced the suburb’s history from the land of the Wurundjeri to the rapid development of the colony. The tour took an architectural lens to East Melbourne’s evolution, shaped by its grid of streets, building fashions and materials, while sharing insights into the buildings’ former uses and the influential residents of the past to present.



We look forward to offering more historic tours in the future.

For expressions of interest for future tours please email dianeclyfford1@gmail.com or visit East Melbourne General Store for more information.

*East Melbourne Historical Walking Tour
18 February 2026, Fitzroy Gardens
Photo Andy Russell*

JOSEPH REED'S HOUSES

By Sylvia Black

It is a joy to see unfolding the meticulous restoration of the house at 186 George Street. It is one of three terrace houses and many years ago the balconies of it and its neighbour at No 184 were removed. The third house at No 182 luckily remained intact providing a template for the future. The middle terrace was restored to such applause that it won an Australian Institute of Architects award in the Heritage section in 2011.



182-186 George Street, 2026. Photo Sylvia Black

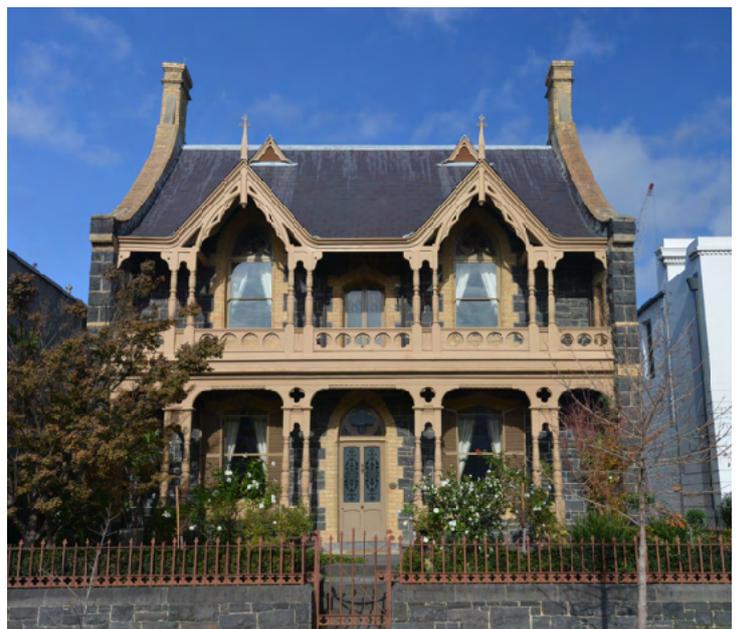
The terraces were completed in 1857 to the design of Joseph Reed. Reed, by himself and later in partnership with Frederick Barnes as Reed and Barnes, was extraordinarily prolific, designing many of Melbourne's landmark buildings such as the State Library, the Royal Exhibition Building, Scots Church and the Independent Church, both in Collins Street and Ripponlea, to name a few.

The George Street terrace appears to be his first residential building, and his only terrace building. It is of unusual design.

The Regency style carved wooden verandahs sit under bracketed eaves, slightly recessed from the projecting party walls. This way the verandahs seem integrated into the overall design of the building rather than as a decorative add-on.

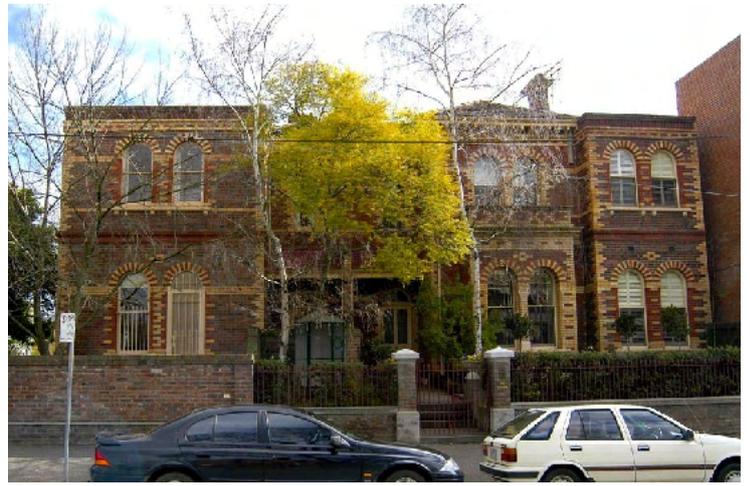
Conservation architect, Nigel Lewis, in an article entitled *Persian and Islamic Architecture in Melbourne: a personal search*, in the *La Trobe Journal* No 89 of May 2012, suggests that the eaves above the verandahs are cantilevered forward in a way that 'may have drawn inspiration from Middle Eastern or Mughal porches or garden pavilions'.

The Melbourne Mansions Database compiled by Emeritus Professor Miles Lewis reveals a number of houses in East Melbourne designed by Joseph Reed, each of them different. Many are still standing.



Gothic Villa, 2017. Photo Gavin John

Gothic Villa, 157 Hotham (1860-61) was built for Clement Hodgkinson, surveyor and, more particularly, the designer of the Fitzroy Gardens. Domestic Gothic is not a style common to early Melbourne and again Reed showed a preference for doing things differently. The bricks used in the house came from the Brunswick brickworks of his favourite supplier, John Glew. Glew, as it happened, was a neighbour, living just down the road at 81 Hotham Street.



Koorine, 2002. Photo Darryl Stanisich

In 1863 Reed visited Europe and returned with an enthusiasm for the polychromatic brickwork seen in many of the Romanesque buildings of Lombardy, Italy. Koorine, formerly Canally, on the corner of Powlett and George Streets, built in 1864, is perhaps his earliest experiment with the style. It predates St Michael's, formerly the Independent Church, in Collins Street and Rippon Lea.



Virginia, 1963. Photo John T Collins

At 116 Wellington Parade, now the fertility clinic, also built in 1864, Reed has opted for yet another style. As its original name, Corinthian Villa, suggests the influence here is Greek Revival. The house's main decorative feature of grand order pilasters is rarely seen in Melbourne's domestic architecture. The most recent name for the house, Virginia, curiously invokes thoughts of the antebellum style of the southern United States, a style which itself was derived from the Greek Revival.

118 Gipps Street, on the corner of Powlett Street, was originally known as The Bungalow after the previous house on the site. Later it became Crathie and later still it mysteriously morphed into Crathre, as it is still known. This house is built to a pattern that is commonly seen in Melbourne's older suburbs. The Powlett Street façade is

asymmetrical, with a bay window on one side and a verandah on the other. Yet even here Reed has led the way. It is believed to be the earliest house to use this format. The blind windows on the Gipps Street façade are another rarely seen feature. Reed used them previously in his design for the Royal Society of Victoria building at the top of La Trobe Street.

East Melbourne is lucky to have so many examples of Joseph Reed's houses still standing and bearing witness to his extraordinary versatility.



Crathre, 1880s EMHS

26, 28 VALE STREET

By Tim Holland

Those taking a walk through the Punt Road end of Yarra Park may notice the very distinctive turreted Federation-style house on the corner of Berry Street and Vale Street. This is 28 Vale Street, and is part of a pair with the adjoining No.26. This pair of houses has had some interesting owners and tenants over the years.

With their use of red brick and terracotta tiles these buildings contribute to the predominant use of those materials on houses in Vale Street. Their design is an adaptation of a suburban style of the time to terrace house-building, with a successful use of the corner location to emphasise the turret and bay window.

The two houses were built in 1910 by R J Wilson of Ormond Road, Moonee Ponds for Henry Fowler Ransford, customs agent. Henry Ransford never lived in either house but his two sons, Vernon Seymour Ransford and Clive Ainslie, lived in the corner house until about 1919. They called this house Chandos. The house now bears the name “Yarra Park” above the veranda, as can be seen in the photo.

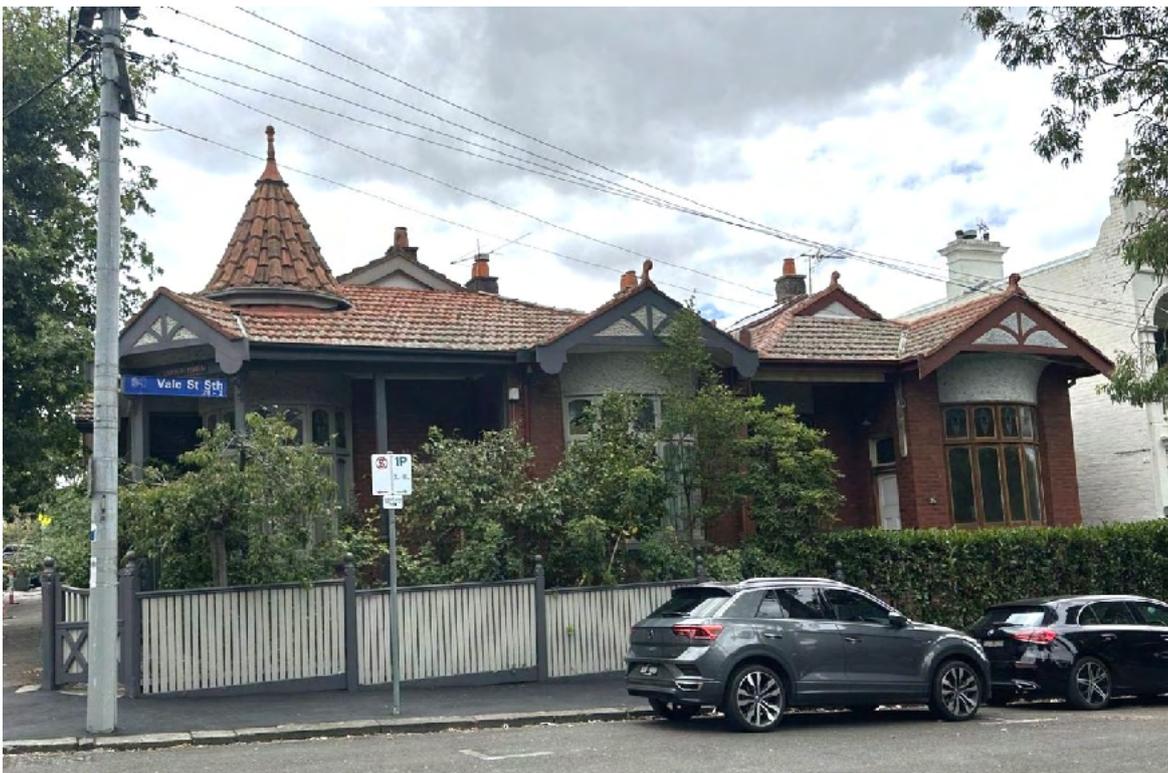
Like his father, Vernon was a customs agent professionally; however cricket was Vern Ransford’s first love, and he was very good at it. After commencing his playing career at the Melbourne Cricket Club he achieved the distinction of opening the batting for Victoria for over 20 years, and playing 20 Tests for Australia before the First World War. He was secretary of the MCC for many years, and president of the Melbourne Football Club in the mid-1920s. His address would have been very convenient in his time as a cricketer when playing home games for Victoria.

Chandos was sold in 1920 and the new owner and occupier was Lowell Thomas Oscar Pedler. Pedler had served in the Great War with some distinction, winning the Military Cross, but subsequently had 'lost his nerve' and was eventually relieved of his command and sent home in disgrace. On returning home he found a job as a shunter at the Jolimont railway yards, handy to Vale Street. His main interest however, was gambling. He was a licensed bookmaker and produced a newsletter providing tips for his readers. In 1926 he was charged with running 'a common gaming house' at 28 Vale Street, but managed to escape conviction.

In 1926 Chandos was again put on the market along with its neighbour, No. 26. This is curious since there is no indication that the second house had left Ransford's ownership. The owner was prepared to sell the houses together or separately. For the pair the asking price was £3850, or best offer. According to the rate book this resulted in Pedler retaining ownership of No. 28 while his wife, Irene Myrtle Pedler, was listed as the owner or ratepayer of No. 26. They did not occupy either property.

Tom Pedler died in 1934 and No. 26 was put up for sale in 1935. The new owner was Albert William Walter Burnham, welder. No. 28 remained in Pedler's estate until the 1950s.

Circa 1984-1985 a group of musicians rented No 26. In early 1985 these tenants formed a band named The Mullanes. They first performed publicly in mid-1985 and secured a record deal with Capitol Records, and later that year they moved to Los Angeles to record their first album. Capitol Records asked that they change their name and the name they chose was Crowded House, alluding to the lack of space in their small rented house in the Hollywood Hills. It has long been a legend in East Melbourne that the name of that famous band referred to their Vale Street house. If the story is not true it should be!



26-28 Vale Street, 2026. Photo Tim Holland

BENJAMIN LEE: A MAN WHO LEFT HIS MARK

By Sylvia Black

Robyn Annear's new book, *Shutter City*, is a collection of early photos of Melbourne's CBD. What makes the pictures particularly interesting is that she has looked at them close-up and picked out and discussed small details. In examining a photo of Bourke Street taken from the corner of Exhibition Street and looking west she has highlighted two shops next door to the corner on the northern side.

One of the shops was the business belonging to B Lee, ironmonger. Unfortunately the original building has been swallowed up by the Paramount Centre but in its memory the lane behind is known as Lees Place.

B Lee, or Benjamin Wright Lee, is remembered in East Melbourne as the first owner of Victoria Terrace, 51-57 Simpson Street (1886); Elizabeth Terrace, 59-65 Simpson Street (1873) and Sophia Terrace, 1111-1113 Hoddle Street (1876). Elizabeth was the name of Lee's wife, and eldest daughter; Sophia was another daughter.

Benjamin Lee was born in 1820 in Bury St Edmonds, Suffolk, England. He arrived in Melbourne on 19 May 1849 as an assisted immigrant aboard the *Ann Miln* with his wife, and baby daughter. He gave his occupation as coachmaker, the same as his father. His early days in the colony have gone unrecorded but a legend has developed that, in that first year, he and two others built Melbourne's first hansom cab. His skills as a coachmaker lend some plausibility to the story.

Lee did not continue to work as a coachmaker but rather focused his attention on becoming an ironmonger. He appears in the 1851-52 City of Melbourne's Valuation Books as the occupier of 177 Bourke Street, a weatherboard shop with one room behind. Next door was an apparently identical property. By 1854 he had bought both properties. By the following year these have become a single brick house of two rooms plus shop and sheds. In the following years, with more additions, Lee ended up with a three-storey building consisting of the shop with a dwelling of nine rooms above, and a cellar below. Lee fathered twelve children (two died in infancy) and no doubt he needed every one of those rooms.

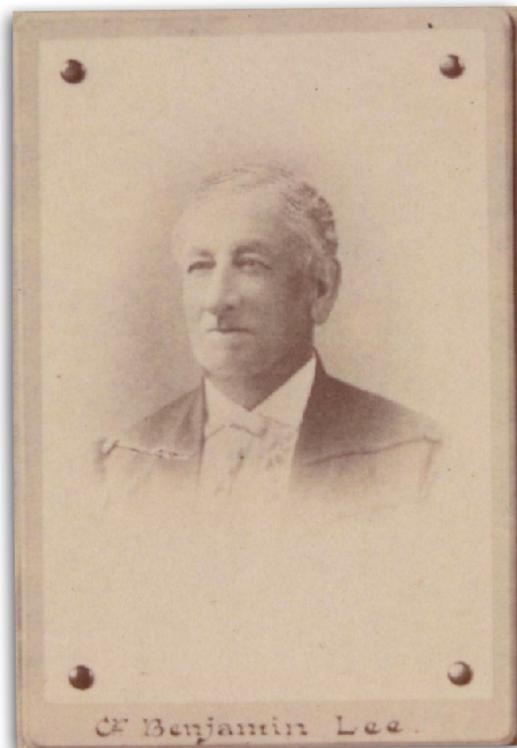
He had picked the perfect time to set up as an ironmonger. Melbourne was flooded with gold seekers keen to equip themselves with all the necessary gear before setting off for the diggings. His shop was filled with a wide variety of stock. Shovels obviously were in high demand, but advertisements in the papers revealed a wide variety of items such as candles, grates, ranges, greyhound slips and couplings, bird cages, mallets and stove ornaments. But the largest number of ads was devoted to clogs – 'best English made, also French clogs, with elastic straps'. 'Lancashire and dancing-clogs always in stock'. Clogs with their thick wooden soles were popular as a way of elevating the wearer's feet above the mud and sludge of the streets in a less sanitary age.

His business was highly successful and he put his profits into real estate, purchasing a considerable number of properties around the inner suburbs including in Lee Street,

Carlton. Another reminder of his time on earth. A property in Canning Street, Carlton was named Henrietta Cottages after yet another daughter.

He was also civically minded. He was a member of the Australia Felix Lodge of Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows from his earliest days in Melbourne. In 1872 he was elected as councillor for his local Gipps Ward, and served on the Melbourne City Council until 1893. When the Harbor Trust was first established in 1877, he was appointed to represent the City Council. He was also appointed a justice of the peace in 1888,

Benjamin Lee died on 30th May 1899 at Vaucluse, Richmond. It was only after his death that his East Melbourne properties were sold.



Cr Benjamin Lee, 1892. Photo Johnstone, O'Shannessy & Co. State Library of Victoria.



Benjamin Lee's shop, 1874. Detail of photo by Charles Bayliss. Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

OTTO B HUG: MAN ON THE MOVE

By Sylvia Black

OTTO B. HUG, ... diagnoses the patient without asking questions or any bodily examination, will describe the exact locality of pain and disease and inform patients whether curable or not. Swiss and American herbs used. Patients at a distance can have their cases diagnosed by sending a lock of hair cut close to the head; no other person must touch patient's hair. ...

So read an ad in *The Age* on 24 Feb 1897. Another advertisement added that he 'can also be consulted in German, French, Italian, and Spanish Languages'. *Table Talk* on 24 Jan 1901 contributed some background:-

Otto B Hug ... described himself as a "Swiss medical somniloquist." Born at Baden, near Zurich, famed for its hot springs, it is said that at nine years of age, he had a most singular experience. After lying in a cataleptic fit for seven days, the most eminent medical men pronouncing life extinct, he was nailed down in a coffin with a glass cover, but when the coffin was lifted a slight movement was heard inside, and he was found to be alive. A serious and lengthy illness ensued, the boy fancying the coffin was for ever pursuing him on wheels, which caused him to be placed in the private asylum at Burgholzli for twelve months. During this time he had several cataleptic fits, in one of which he diagnosed the case of the doctor who was holding his hand. This gentleman had an abscess forming on his arm through poisoning whilst performing an operation, and the boy correctly described the symptoms and pains from which he suffered. Dr. Le Fevre, the eminent French practitioner, being on a tour through Switzerland, was astonished at his marvellous power, and, being an expert, undertook to cure the catalepsy, and educate him in diagnosing diseases. Dr. Le Fevre took the boy to Paris for four years, and at the age of twelve he went to Paris and elsewhere in France publicly diagnosing cases brought to him. They then travelled throughout South America, Otto Hug diagnosing the cases, and the doctor treating herbally according to the diagnosis. A severe attack of yellow fever at Rio Janeiro was the cause of his return to Italy and France.

Hug arrived in Queensland in 1878 and from there he travelled around Australia and New Zealand advertising his skills as he went. In 1882 he married Emily Edwards at the East Melbourne home of Hugh Junor Browne (father-in-law of Alfred Deakin). Browne was a spiritualist and was possibly able to accept Hug's unusual talents less critically than others might have done.

Hug's career continued in a peripatetic fashion until 1895 when he bought the house at 42 Wellington Parade. It was then called Torrington but he renamed it Helvetia. It stood on land now occupied by the Garden Avenue apartments. It is hard to imagine now its exact location – the streetscape has changed so dramatically. But it had a frontage of 132 feet to Wellington Parade and was roughly in the middle of the block. It was a large house, built right on the western boundary of the land, with stables at the back, while the eastern portion was taken up with an orchard and a large fernery.

Soon after Otto and his wife moved into Helvetia *Table Talk* on 17 Jul 1896 reported that they had entertained a very large company at their home 'when cards, music, and dancing made up a most delightful evening's entertainment. The drawing-room was set apart for

music, and this was of an excellent order. Card playing was indulged in by many of the seniors in the morning-room and dancing was carried out with great spirit in the ball-room'. The Brownes were among the guests.

Unfortunately the Hugs were not allowed to enjoy their home for long as in 1899 it was among several properties compulsorily acquired by the Victorian Railways in preparation for the new railway line through Jolimont. It was not demolished then but seems rather to have been used as a site office, and perhaps as a place to park equipment.

In January 1903 the property was sold back into private hands with a special note added to the terms: a small part of the land being over the railway tunnel, would be leased to the purchaser for a term of ninety-nine years at a peppercorn rental. It was not until 1938 that the property was sold for demolition, along with the neighbouring two terrace houses, to become the Garden Avenue development.

Meanwhile the Hugs moved across the road to St Ives on the corner of Vale Street, where life took a considerable turn for the worse. From late 1900 until 8 January 1901 the following ad appeared in various Adelaide papers:-

OTTO B HUG, the Swiss clairvoyant, regrets being unable to keep his Adelaide and Broken Hill engagements owing to severe illness, brought on by over work. Will advertise date of next visit as soon as strong enough to travel. Patients can have their medicine renewed by sending to Melbourne address St. Ives, Vale-street, East Melbourne. Hair diagnosed as usual. Fee, 10s 6d.

He died on 10 January 1901, aged only 44.

BISHOPSCOURT'S CORROBOREE TREE

By *Liz Rushen*

Have you noticed how well the River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) outside the front door of Bishopscourt is looking these days? For approximately 500 years, the original tree stood on this elevated site, the Wurundjeri reputed to have held corroborees in its shade. A significant tree when Bishopscourt was built, its location determined the site of the residence. It became the focus of many social occasions and at the end of the nineteenth century, Bishop Moorhouse used to sit beneath the tree, enjoying its shade while planning his sermons. In August 1981, the tree was added to the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees on the advice of Dr Churchill of the Royal Botanic Gardens. By this stage, the tree was 17.5 metres high, the spread of its canopy was 13 metres and the circumference of the trunk was 3.8 metres. At the beginning of 1997 this giant tree lost one of its two remaining branches following several hot, windy days and Archbishop Rayner was concerned that the remaining branch might fall and endanger people. Consultants were called in and all advised that the tree and stump should be removed, which was undertaken in April 1997, with the permission of Heritage Victoria. In 2002, a small *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* was sourced from a nursery and planted to replace the original tree. However, after 11 years, this tree had failed to thrive due to poor root development and was removed. On 27 March 2013, Liz Rushen was invited by Joy Freier, accompanied by Helen Page, to plant the current tree which was a

small seedling from another *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* growing on the boundary of the garden. It is this tree which provided shade for the East Melbourne Group's very successful Christmas Picnic in December, following a tradition of 180 years of Bishops court garden parties.

EMHS is investigating the possibility of having a plaque made to commemorate the event, which will stand at the foot of the tree.



Liz Rushen with Helen Page and Joy Freir with the new Eucalyptus Camaldulensis

Bishops court, 27 March 2013

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 15 April at 7.30 p.m.
East Melbourne Library, 122 George St, East Melbourne.

Fritz Hart: An English Musical Romantic at the Ends of Empire.

Professor Peter Tregear, with Anne-Marie Forbes, is co-author of a long-overdue biographical study of Fritz Hart which explores and assesses the substantial and lasting contributions this remarkable musician made to the musical life of England, Australia and Hawai'i. From 1914 Hart was the director of the Albert Street Conservatorium and for a time he and his family called East Melbourne home.

Cover image: Flying high in East Melbourne, 2026. Photo Liz Rushen