

CANTERBURY HISTORY GROUP



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Newsletter February 2022

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Greetings to all members and friends of the Canterbury History Group

Our first meeting for the year will be our AGM
on Monday February 28th at 8 pm.
 in The Parish Centre, St Paul's, Church Street, Canterbury.

Speaker: Ann Hawker will talk on architect John Beswicke (1847–1925) and the houses he designed in Canterbury and surrounding suburbs, with a focus on Tourmont at Fintona.

Ann is the archivist at Fintona Girls' School where she was an English and History teacher for 34 years. Ann and her husband Bruce have lived in Canterbury and have a strong family connection with the suburb. They are both members of the Canterbury History Group.

An upgraded Covid Plan for the centre applies : well-fitting masks must be worn inside & at this stage only those with proof of double vaccination can enter. Remember to bring phones.



A plaque commemorating Alfred Golding and his former factory & hall in Canterbury Road

We are pleased to announce the unveiling of this plaque that will be placed on the site of the former Golding's factory and hall in Canterbury Rd. Alfred Golding 1845-1927 built the boot and rubber factory in 1897 with a hall above it which became a venue for Canterbury celebrations and community life for many years. We are very grateful for the generous donation of this

plaque from his grandson Douglas Golding. It's been given in memory of his father Herbert Golding who survived Gallipoli but died in August 1916 of wounds on the Somme.

The celebrations to accompany the long-awaited opening will take place on **March 17th from 2 pm to 4 pm** at Camberwell Hockey Club, 15 Carinda Road, Canterbury.

Dates of Planned meetings for 2022 :

Monday 28th March: Annual Dinner: at 7 pm, at Chicken or the Egg, Maling Road, Canterbury

Speaker: Loretta Smith author of 'Spanner in the Works. The Extraordinary story of Alice Anderson and Australia's first all-girl Garage' The dinner was cancelled last year but will hopefully go ahead.

Tuesday 26th April at 8.00 pm after the Anzac Day weekend. Note the change to Tuesday.

Monday 23rd May at 8.00 pm

Monday 27th June at 8.00 pm NB in July and August, CHG has a recess with no meetings

Monday 26th September at 8.00 pm

OCTOBER History Month.

Monday 24th October: History Week Dinner

Monday 28th November CHG Annual end of year lunch at 12.00 noon

Farewell Stuart Warmington 17.2.1922 – 8.1.2022



We were very sad to hear of the death of Stuart Warmington on 8th January. Stuart was a founding member of Canterbury History Group and a good friend to many of our members. He was outgoing, positive and enthusiastic about heritage. Even when he could no longer attend meetings, we looked forward to seeing him at our November lunch. When his sight failed, his daughter Sally would read him our Newsletters. We had looked forward to celebrating his 100th birthday this month, but sadly that was not to be.

L: Stuart Warmington in his son Tim's Bookshop in Maling Road, 2016 He is signing copies of the 3rd edition of 'Visions of a Village' by the late Don Gibb, illustrated by himself. Stuart's beautiful line drawings have helped to keep this book in print since 1995.

Both Stuart and Don waived their royalties on this 3rd edition and Canterbury History Group continues to benefit from their hard work and generosity. The book is still selling well.

We're most grateful to Sally Warmington who has provided the text of her eulogy on which this article is based. We send the family our sympathy and express our gratitude for all that Stuart accomplished for the group and our community and for what he meant to his many friends.

Stuart Warmington was born on 17th February 1922, the youngest of 4 sons, his brothers being John, Wilson (Jim) & his twin Ian. Their father James was from Tullyvallen in Co Armagh, Ireland and emigrated to Australia in 1910 where his cousin H V McKay was the owner of the Sunshine Harvester factory, after which the suburb was named. It's believed that James originally worked for H V McKay and they lived nearby, in King Edward Avenue, where Stuart was born. Stuart remembered the cortège passing their house after McKay died, which was in 1926 so he would have been 4 years old. Their mother Alice was born in Melbourne to Scottish immigrants. James and Alice met in Sunshine and married in England in 1917. After James returned from the War, the four boys arrived in under 3 years, all brought into the world by their uncle, Dr John Adamson.

After their mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, the family moved in 1933 to Rosanna for the clean air and country atmosphere. Stuart loved their new home, called The Gables, where they kept milking cows. He wrote that when his mother died in 1936, it was the blackest time of their lives. To cope with the loss, he threw himself into his drawing and painting, producing a prolific amount. Stuart's grandmother Elizabeth Adamson lived with them and helped with the care of her grandsons.

Stuart spoke with affection of his mother, who was an artist and a talented pianist who introduced all her sons to the piano, and Ian later became an accomplished pianist himself. Stuart enjoyed listening to classical music all his life, and in the last two years when he was almost blind and unable to move around, it gave him great pleasure and comfort.

Stuart and Ian attended Ivanhoe Grammar and Stuart had fond memories of his time there, later illustrating a book about its history. He finished school in 1939, and around this time the family moved to Moorwatha, a home on 15 acres in Rosanna, surrounded by wide verandas.

In 1940, Stuart started his architecture course at Melbourne Technical College - now RMIT. However, the following year his studies were interrupted when he enlisted in the army. Ian and Stuart were in the 2/8th Australian Armoured regiment of the A.I.F. and after training in Puckapunyal, were stationed at Milne Bay in New Guinea from 1943-44. During that time, Stuart entertained his comrades by drawing cartoons featuring their escapades. This no doubt helped them cope with the long nights on guard duty, drenching tropical rain, mosquitoes and alternating periods of boredom and terror.

In 1944, Stuart and Ian were transferred to Queensland and the 42nd Landing Craft company. Later that year, Stuart got word that his request to be discharged to resume his studies was granted. Back in Melbourne, he pursued his architecture course at night, working during the day as a draughtsman. He completed the final year of his course in 1948 at the University of Melbourne Architectural Atelier, where he was awarded the Grice Bronze Medal. He worked for Frederick Romberg before setting off in 1950 for the UK to work, travel and visit relatives. Stuart took some trips with his older brother Wilson, in an old London taxicab, travelling around Europe with a group of young architect friends.

On his way home on the P & O ship *Orcades* in 1952, Stuart met a lovely young woman called Rae Kell who was returning to New Zealand. A year after that, Rae was back in Melbourne, and they were getting married. After Bobbie was born, Stuart designed their first home, completed in 1955. It was a lovely house and featured in *Home Beautiful* magazine, but Rae felt very isolated in semi-rural Greensborough with 3 little ones, after Tim & Sally were born.

In 1960 the family moved to Hawthorn and Peter and then Annabel arrived. The family remember it as a happy place where they were able to play in the street until teatime and there was a real sense of community. However, they outgrew the house and Stuart and Rae wanted them to be closer to the schools they had chosen. So, in 1964 they moved to Barkers Road, Kew.

Stuart's architectural career and his family were growing at the same time. For a couple of years after returning from overseas, he worked with John and Phyllis Murphy, architects he had known from student days who remained lifelong friends. Soon after he started his solo practice, he was engaged by the City of Sunshine, designing many of their major buildings over the next decade. In 1962, Stuart met and employed Edgard Pirrotta, and they worked closely together in East Melbourne and later at Barkers Road, in the front rooms of the family house, which became his office. Edgard made contributions to many of Stuart's designs, notably the stunning glass mural adorning the Sunshine Civic Centre. Stuart was highly regarded in the profession for his innovative, beautiful and functional designs.

Stuart's father died in 1970 and his stepmother Rita several years later. After leaving solo practice, Stuart worked with a large architectural firm before changing direction to focus on Heritage architecture. In 1982, his twin Ian died suddenly after a heart attack which was particularly hard for Stuart as they had been through so much together.

A new era began in 1984 when the Warmingtons moved to Scott Street, Canterbury. They loved living there, with the Maling Road shops, friendly neighbours and beautiful houses, gardens and trees. Stuart took a position as a Heritage architect with Australia Post and enjoyed his travels around the country where he documented in detail all the historic Post Offices. He also played a major part in the restoration of the GPO in Melbourne.

After he retired, Stuart had more time for two of his enduring passions – making art and researching and writing about local heritage. He was one of the founding members of the Canterbury History Group. His involvement with the group was a great source of pleasure over many years, and members' achievements and friendship meant so much to him. He collaborated with the late historian Don Gibb, illustrating the book, *Visions of a Village*, with detailed and charming line drawings of historic shops in the area, especially in Maling Road. He continued his artwork, often drawing historic homes in the area for their owners.

In 2001, Stuart completed a short Warmington Family History, with copies shared with the family at home and at Tullyvallen. Of his surviving brothers, John died in 2007 and Wilson in 2010, so Stuart was the only one remaining.

There were challenging years ahead, starting in 2011 when Stuart underwent successful surgery for bowel cancer but he never regained the same level of mobility and independence. The next year, his beloved wife died following a major heart attack - a loss felt deeply, as they had been together for 60 years. Then after Stuart moved into Trinity Manor, the family was shocked to hear of the sudden death of his son Peter, aged 52, from heart disease. Stuart drew comfort from the happy times they'd spent together and wore the straw hat that Peter had given him, every day from then on.

Stuart joined enthusiastically in most activities offered at Trinity Manor especially anything that involved music, and relished any opportunity to mix with people. In 2015, he was very pleased to share his art with family, friends and staff when an exhibition of his artworks was held there. The family were able to take him out and he enjoyed spending time with his extended family.

The past two years were hard. During the first lockdown in 2020 the family were unable to visit Stuart, his mobility declined, and he had a fall that put him in hospital. He was never able to walk safely again and became confined to his wheelchair. 2021 was better in some respects, because the family were able to visit 4 times a week and took turns to phone him every evening.

A week after Christmas, a Covid outbreak led to residents isolating in their rooms. When Stuart tested positive, he had mild symptoms at first, but deteriorated rapidly on the third night and died the next morning on Saturday 8th January. His daughter Sally was with him at the end, holding his hand.

Stuart was admired for his positive outlook, kind and gentle nature, irrepressible sense of humour and grace in adversity. He was a person of integrity and an unassuming man of many talents.



Above R: Stuart Warmington, incapacitated but still painting.
Above L: Stuart and Rae Warmington at their holiday house in Birrgerurra, probably in the 1980s