

## Waverley Historical Society



*"Waverley House," the original of the suburb name, Waverley*

At a public meeting held on 20th August, 1962 at the 'Bondi Beach Esplanade', it was resolved: - "That a Society be formed and that it be named 'The Waverley Historical Society'". The Constitution of the Society was adopted on 19th November, 1962.

*"The objects of the Society shall be to encourage the study of Australian History, the advancement of the knowledge of, and the study of, every aspect of the history of Waverley and district and any other matter of historical interest,' and for the collection and preservation of records of any of the said matters."*

The foundation members were a very distinguished group. Amongst them were Bernard T. Dowd, F.R.A.H.S. (author of "The Centenary of the Municipality of Waverley 1859-1959"); Rev. E. Pattison Clarke, M.A., of St Mary's Church of England; Rev. R.C. Coleman, L TH AASA, of the Waverley Methodist Church; Rev Rabbi Dr Harry Freedman, ph.D., B.A., Chief Minister Central Synagogue; Sydney D. Einfeld, M.H.R. for Phillip; the Hon Abram Landa, LL.B., M.L.A. for Bondi; His Honour Judge Gregory B. Thomas LL.B, B.Sc., B.E., District Court Judge of N.S.W.; John W. Metcalfe, B.A., F.L.A., Principal Librarian Public Library of N.S.W.

Judge Thomas, the Society's Foundation President, delivered the first Paper, entitled "Anniversary Day", which was the name then given to Australia Day. Throughout its 30 years the Society has presented a long series of lectures of historical interest and visits to historical sites. Booklets have been published on such subjects as: "Bronte House and Robert Lowe", "La Vicomte de Laperouse", "Thomas West Convict Transportee", and a nine-volume series compiled by Hon. Life Member Jack Atkins on a wide range of local interest subjects.

The Society's original choice of letterhead was an image of 'Waverley House' which gave its ' name to the municipality. The house had been built in 1827 by Barnett Levey who was the first Jewish free settler in Australia and founder of the Theatre Royal, Australia first legitimate theatre. Today, the Society's letterhead features the Emblem of the Waverley Council, of two dolphins and Neptune's trident, adopted by Council in 1915, and which is symbolic of Waverley's seaside location.

The Waverley Historical Society begins 1993 under its President Douglas Cumming with a membership of 110 persons.

*Compiled by Waverley Library from sources in the Local History Collection for Heritage Week, 1993*