

MORNINGTON
& DISTRICT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

May 2015

Newsletter No. 269

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have replaced our display for the Centenary of the Red Cross Society with one highlighting recruitment posters for WW1. We thank the Victorian Red Cross Society for the loan of several pieces for that display and Murray Adams for giving us the recruitment posters (and the book launch photos p. 4 and p.7).

The launch of Val's book went very well, with over 70 people attending. We now have copies available for sale. Details elsewhere in this newsletter. Books may be purchased from the Museum, or Farrells at this stage.

We had an interesting couple of days with the Cruise Ship visits, with a number of visitors to the museum on both days. A further three visits for early next year have been scheduled, two during January. If you feel you can offer to assist us for a 3-hour shift, please contact David.

The Museum is going to undergo some restoration work by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. There will be scaffolding all around the building, but it will still be able to be open to the public on weekends. They are inspecting and replacing deteriorated wood on surfaces outside the building. The windows will be extensively refurbished. Much of the work is being done to try to ameliorate the damp conditions which have existed in the building for many, many years. Let's hope this situation is rectified once and for all.

The launch of Winty Calder's latest book *A Journey along Balcombe Creek* will be held at The Briars. We were represented on a committee established by Winty to assist her. If you would like to attend, see the details p.2

The piece Vicky has written on the visit by Diane Basilone Hawkins started with an enquiry through our website from someone in Western Australia asking for our assistance to locate Citation Oval and nearby Motels. We thank Barry McDaniel, the Shire's archive officer and a former US Marine for his assistance and generosity in giving Diane a place to stay. Thank you also to Vicky for giving Diane many hours at the Museum to do research for her documentary.

Diane White

U.S. FILM PRODUCER VISITS MUSEUM
THE LEGACY OF A HERO

We were delighted to welcome Diane Basilone Hawkins to our museum in March. [see photo p.6] Diane is the niece of Sergeant John Basilone (1916 – 1945) who served with the United States Marine Corps and received the United States highest military award for bravery - the Congressional Medal of Honor at a ceremony at Citation Reserve, Mount Martha on 21st May 1943. He was the only enlisted marine to earn the Medal of Honor, Navy Cross and Purple Heart in World War 2. In 1943 elements of the 1st Marine Division spent about 9 months at the Balcombe Army Camp in Mount Martha following the Battle of Guadalcanal. The producers of the Pacific mini-series which screened in 2010 interviewed Diane to assist in the accurate portrayal of her uncle as he was one of the featured characters.

Diane is based in New York and is president of the Sgt John Basilone Foundation which aims to support veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder by financing programs that research and treat the condition. She is currently producing a documentary *The Legacy of a Hero* based on her uncle's life and the men who served with him. As part of her research she recently visited Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima where her uncle served and Mount Martha where he was based for most of 1943. We provided her with copies of a number of pictures and articles she selected from our collection relating to the Marines visit. If you are interested in reading further, the foundation website is www.johnbasilone.com

Barry McDaniel has kindly donated to our museum a DVD with photos of the Marines during their time in Mount Martha and Melbourne. Barry escorted Diane to a number of places of significance to the Marines during her visit to the Peninsula.

Vicky Sapkin



You are invited to attend the launch of Winty Calder's *A Journey Along Balcombe Creek*. Friday, May 29 4 PM to 6 PM at the Briars Information Centre, Nepean Highway Mount Martha.
RSVP May 26 9580 9617 or saunders45@optusnet.com.au

Dates for Your Diary 2015

Website: <http://morningtondistricthistory.org.au>

QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND JUNE 7 (Sun) and 8 (Mon)

MUSEUM OPEN 10am to 4 pm

GUIDED WALKS 10.30 and 1.30. Call Vicky 59 735191

TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 10.30 am \$5

Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room

Enter off Separation Street

COFFEE MORNING

Treasures. Bring along something you treasure to share with us.

TUESDAY 14TH JULY 10.30 am \$5

Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room

COFFEE MORNING

A Brief History of Mornington

Diane will give the talk she gives to groups and to schools.

MONDAY 3RD AUGUST

BUS TRIP 9.00 a.m.

A guided tour behind the scenes at Hamer Hall at the Victorian Arts Centre.

see details p. 6

TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST 10.30 am \$5

Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room

COFFEE MORNING

History Highlights of the Port Phillip Coast

Graham Patterson is a coastal walker and author who uncovers fascinating natural and human history clues on his journeys.

Dates for Your Diary 2015

Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203 ABN 7515 1057 105

TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 10.30 am

Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that this is the 3rd Tuesday.

Your committee will report on the activities and financial statement of the Society

NEW MEMBER

Janis Lambert-Grose

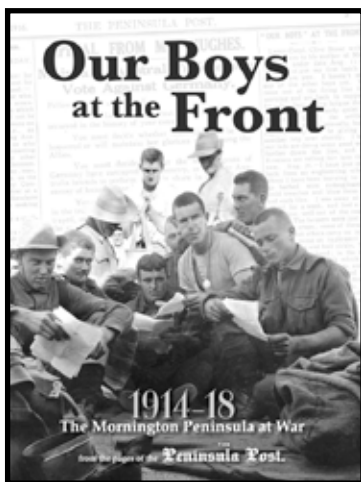
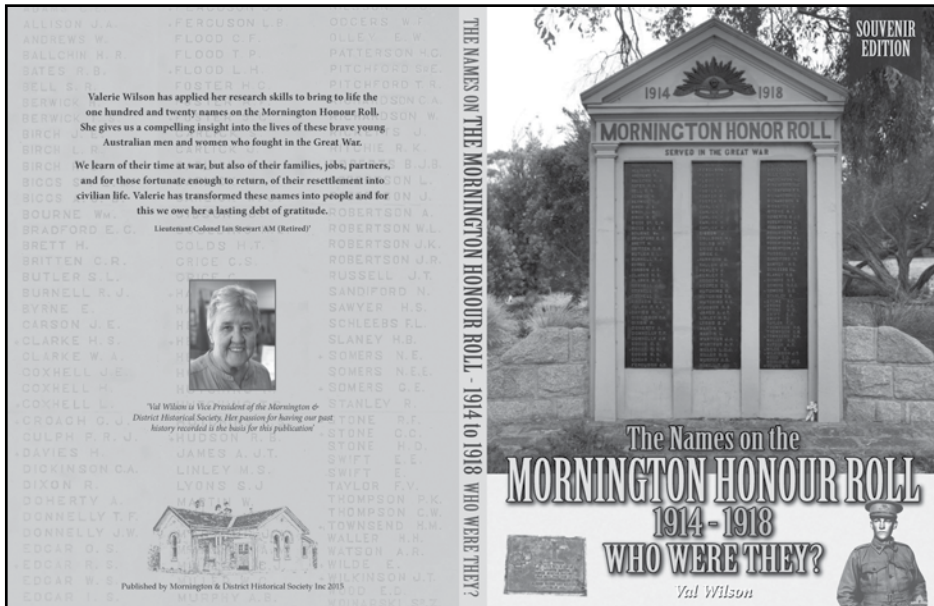
We hope you enjoy your membership with us.



Section of the audience at the book launch April 24

LATEST PUBLICATION NOW ON SALE

\$20



Purchase This Award- Winning Book
For The Special Price
\$35.00 (including DVD) Save \$5

PURCHASE BOTH BOOKS for \$45.00
Save \$15.00

BUS TRIP details - [wait for Janet]

Monday 3rd August

Depart 9.00 a.m.

Bus stop Main Street (opposite Ross Street)

\$40 per person (lunch at own cost)

For bookings, contact Janet on 9787 8685 or
0407 500 510 or post this form with your payment

Name.....

Telephone

No. of seats

Enclosed \$.....

The Secretary, PO Box 71, Mornington 3931



Vicky with Diane Basilone Hawkins at the Museum



*(top) Lt Colonel Ian Stewart launches Val's book
(above) Val addresses the audience*

Mornington & District Historical Society Inc. A00041916W
PO Box 71 Mornington 3931
Museum: Corner Main Street and Esplanade
Open 1.30 - 4.30 Sundays or by appointment
Donations to the Historical Society of \$2 or more are tax deductible