

MORNINGTON  
& DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

May 2016

Newsletter No. 273

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

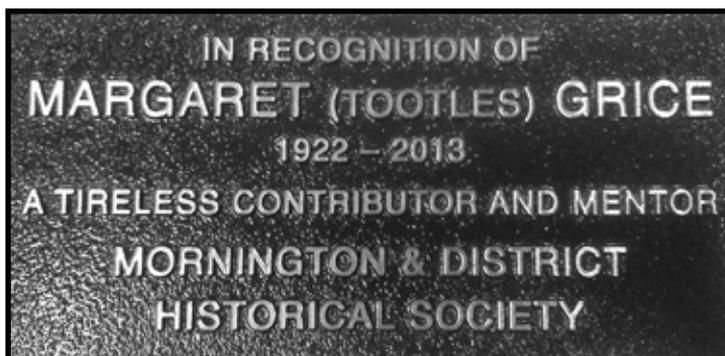
Repairs to the Museum have at long last been completed. The clean up was rather a drama, but we have the displays back in good clean order at last. We are now looking to make the back room area a better work and storage space.

We have been particularly pleased to receive two new items into the collection. One is a bound copy of the centenary year of *The Leader* newspaper. Date? The other is a photograph album of *Rubra* Mt. Eliza. This was built for Dr. George Teague, uncle of Violet Teague. Violet, many of you may know was the artist who painted the famous mural in St. James the Less. *Rubra* was then owned by the Masterton family who were coal merchants, and then by Sir Lawrence Hartnett. The house was used by Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner during the filming of *On The Beach*. It has been altered over the years as you will see from the photographs, but this album also shows the interior in detail. A very nice addition to our collection.

One of our members asked the committee to consider something to recognise the many years of valuable service Margaret (Tootles) Grice gave to the Historical Society and the Museum. We have decided that a plaque on the seat outside the Museum would be a fitting acknowledgement. We hope you can sit on the bench and contemplate the voluntary work we all do to keep the history of the area alive.

Val's Cemetery Walk on Easter Monday was a great success with about 50 participants starting out. If you have not been on one of these walks, I recommend it as it is informative and fun.

*Diane White*





*Rubra 1930s (top) and in modern times (above)*

# Dates for Your Diary 2016

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

## **TUESDAY 10TH MAY 10.30 am**

MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE MEETING ROOM

### **COFFEE MORNING - Rob Austin**

Rob is a Cultural Heritage Manager and the elders of the Boon Warrung have asked him to speak on their behalf to groups like ours. Rob is from the Watubaluk and Dja Dja Warrung people.

## **TUESDAY 14TH JUNE 10.30 am**

MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE MEETING ROOM

### **COFFEE MORNING - TREASURES**

Bring along a treasure and share the story surrounding it. This is a popular morning and many real treasures are unearthed.

## **TUESDAY 12TH JULY 10.30 am**

MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE MEETING ROOM

### **COFFEE MORNING The Grand Hotel**

Joy Cullen and Murray Adams will bring the history of this beautiful old hotel to life.

## **TUESDAY 9TH AUGUST 10.30 am**

MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE MEETING ROOM

### **COFFEE MORNING Victoria's First Settlement**

Keith White will present the story of the 1803 Sullivan Bay Settlement at Sorrento

## **TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 10.30 am**

MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE MEETING ROOM

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

# Dates for Your Diary 2016

Museum Phone ( 03) 5976 3203 ABN 7515 1057 105

## **BUS TRIP - THE HOUSES OF OUR GOVERNORS**

Our next bus trip is to Government House, where we will have a guided tour of this beautiful and very interesting old mansion, then on to the nearby Governor Latrobe's Cottage.

The date : Thursday 15th September, 2016.

The cost: \$55 per person which includes the bus and entry fees.

Lunch at own cost.

To book ring Janet on 03 9787 8685

Payment is due at time of booking or by 15th August.

## **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND**

In conjunction with the Jazz Festival, we are offering guided walks on the Sunday 12 and Monday 13.

Morning - **Main Street walk starting at 10.30**

Afternoon - **Esplanade and Park walk starting at 1.30**

Cost is \$5 per person

Please be at the Museum 15 minutes prior to start.

Enquiries - Vicky 0412 989 749

The Museum will be open between 10 am and 4 pm

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Silvia Krambeck, Marion Bowring, Lachlan and Janice Campbell, Lesley Beasley and Jennie Althorp

We hope you enjoy your membership with us

**DONNELLY BROS.** 

(Late A.I.F. 1914 to 1919.)

Notify that they have opened a  
**First-class Butchers' Shop**  
 In Main Street, Mornington.

**NONE** but the very best quality of Beef and Mutton sold.  
 Families waited on for orders.

ALL SMALL GOODS MADE ON PREMISES.

*Donnelly Brothers advert in The Peninsula Post 1920*



*We lay a wreath each Anzac Day. Val lays this year's wreath*

## **MORNINGTON MEMORIES OF WWI THE DONNELLY BROTHERS.**

Tom and Jack Donnelly were the sons of Tom and Susan Donnelly of Mornington; they were also the grandsons of Isaac Swift.

Isaac was a very early pioneer of Mornington - an 1854 map of the area shows "Swift's Hut" clearly marked. This was situated in the Bungower Road area and was where Isaac Swift conducted a slaughtering business.

Tom Donnelly aged 20 years enlisted not long after war was declared in 1914. He served with the 21st Field Artillery, and sustained gunshot wounds to his hand and knee, but went on to serve five years with the A.I.F.

Young brother Jack said he was 18 years when he enlisted six months after Tom. In reality he was only 15 years of age. He was seriously wounded in France but returned home in 1919 for discharge.

A family member related the following stories:

In Gallipoli one night, Tom and his mates were defending a frontal attack. Then they realized they were being flanked and had to run up the beach with the Turks chasing, to form a new line.

One of them had been about to throw a hand grenade but in the panic forgot he had in it in his hand. They yelled at him to drop it but he didn't understand. They all started laughing at the stupidity of the situation.

Eventually one of them had to knock him over or they would have all been killed.

Later in the war, in France, Tom and his veteran mates were watching on a position on a hill a clumsy attack that was being made by a new unit down below, one which had just arrived at the Front. They were all laughing at the silly mistakes they were making. Tom asked what unit it was and when he was told said: "Oh my God, my brother's in that".

Tom and Jack returned to Mornington and together opened a butcher's shop that proudly advertised *Late A.I.F. 1914-1919*.

*Val Wilson*

**NEW ITEMS FOR SALE** Available from the Museum

**Fridge Magnets** Mornington Bathing Box \$3.00

**Postcards:**

*Old Mornington Seaside* \$2.00

*Weeroona, Hygeia & Ozone Steamboats* \$2.00

**Books:**

*Coastal Guide To Nature & History Port Phillip Bay* \$30.00 by  
Graham Patterson

*Coastal Guide to Nature & History 2. Mornington Peninsula Ocean  
Shore, Westernport, Phillip Island & French Island* by Graham  
Patterson

**Children's books:**

*Koala Lee Lee's Mornington By The Bay* \$19.95 by Amanda Keast

*The Train At Balnarring* \$15.00 by Nani

*Bert The Blacksmith* \$15.00 by Nani

**BUS TRIP REPORT**

On 10th March we visited the Jewish Museum in St. Kilda. We had a guided tour to learn about the early history of Judaism and the Jewish life and culture in Australia. We then visited the Synagogue across the road, where the significance of the various traditional ceremonies was explained.

Lunch at Leo's Italian restaurant in St. Kilda which has been operating since it was opened in 1956, just in time for the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

We had planned to have a short visit to the St. Kilda Botanical Gardens which was established in 1861 on a former gravel pit, but rain meant we had to view it from the bus. Another time perhaps.

*Janet Groves*

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