

MORNINGTON
& DISTRICT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

Newsletter No. 275

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

You will see elsewhere the list of your new committee for the next twelve months. Bob and Margaret Race retired from the committee and we thank them both very much for their time, support and assistance, particularly making sure tea and coffee were served. We welcome Janice and Jill and hope you get to know them.

Apart from our Annual General Meeting in September, we had two book launches. We were guests of Paul Kennedy when his book *Fifteen Young Men* was launched. We hope that you have all been able to get your hands on a copy of this very poignant telling of the Mornington Football Disaster. If not, see us for a copy. Next May will be the 125th Anniversary of this accident and we are working with the Football Club and others to organise a commemoration. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

We organised the launch of the book written by our Joy Cullen in close collaboration with Margaret Fallaw: *Wolfdene - The Families and Functions of a Mornington Historic House*. About 25 guests gathered in Margaret's living room for this. Many of the guests had happy memories of the time when they lived there.

If you have not seen our display in the Museum why not pop in over the Christmas break. It is called *Threads, Needles and Whalebone*. The display has given us a chance to show the public some of the clothing articles we hold in our collection and has created a new talking point for visitors.

The Shire has decided on Young Terrace for the name of the laneway running off Beatty Avenue, in honour of Horace Young who served in the First World War.

Have any of you been somewhere and heard a good speaker on an historical subject? We are always looking for good speakers for our coffee mornings. Ring Diane 5989 2219.

History Week. We weren't successful with our nomination of the Main Street Audio Tour in this year's Community History Awards, but we have had our fair share of these over the years after all. Our Leslie Moorhead Lecture went off with some French flair and Val's Cemetery Walk was again well attended. We did have a number of people through the Museum for our Seniors History Week special.

We have just had our Council install fold-down bollards so we can stop people parking in our spots. This one lasted only 3 days!!!! Thanks to the Council workers who quickly mended it.

Diane White



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2016/17

President: Diane White

Vice President: Janet Groves

Secretary: Dawn Fisher

Treasurer: Vicky Sapkin

Extraordinary Members: Val Wilson, Derek Smith, David Price, Joy and Peter Last, Janice Campbell, Jill Bowe

MAIN STREET AUDIO TOUR

If you are in Main Street over the summer holidays, there are a couple of ways you can access the Audio Tour. Firstly if you are passing the plaques, we have affixed a QR code to them. If you have a mobile device with internet connection, you can download a QR Code Reader app from the iTunes store. Alternatively, you can go to our website and listen and also have a look at images.

Dates for Your Diary 2015

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

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 12.00

OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Bring along a plate to share

THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 9.30 - 3PM

OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

AUSTRALIA DAY

Second hand book sale. Fire Brigade History Display.

Walks @10.30am

TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 10.30 \$5

MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE ROOMS

COFFEE MORNING ABORIGINAL ART

Robert Austin will share his indigenous knowledge.

Please bring a plate to share

MONDAY 6TH MARCH

BUS TRIP DETAILS TO COME

Historic Places on the Southern Peninsula

FACEBOOK

We now have 415 'likes'. Follow our posts for news about our events, items in our collection and history of the area. You can view our Page on www.facebook.com/morningtonhistoricalsociety OR click on the Facebook icon on our website

Dates for Your Diary 2015

Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203 ABN 7515 1057 105

FOR SALE at the Museum

Fifteen Young Men by Paul Kennedy Published by Penguin Random House \$35.00.

Paul lives locally and is an ABC News 24 sports presenter. He has been fascinated with the story of the Mornington Football Disaster for many years. He presented a television documentary for the 120th anniversary and has found more details while researching for this book.

The Wolfdene Story - The Families and Functions of a Mornington Historic House \$15.00

Written by Joy Cullen in close collaboration with Margaret Fallaw. *Wolfdene*, built in 1858 is one of Mornington's earliest buildings and has witnessed the growth of the township for 158 years.

The Names on the MORNINGTON HONOUR ROLL Who were they? By Val Wilson \$20

A Journey Along Balcombe Creek by Winty Calder \$45.00

NEW MEMBERS

Ms Susan Dixon, Ms Anna Froelich, Mr Terry King,

Mr Karl & Mrs Edna Lowe, and Mr Barry McDaniel.

We hope you enjoy your membership with us.



Paul Kennedy author of Fifteen Young Men and Janet Groves - whose great-uncle Charlie Allchin died in the accident.



Our Libby showing an enthralled group of students items from 'the olden days' and giving them a taste of what history is all about.

TALES FROM BEYOND.

Mr. Charles Wright of the Mistletoe Hotel, one of the oldest publicans in Victoria died Friday last and was interred in the Moorooduc Cemetery on the following Tuesday.

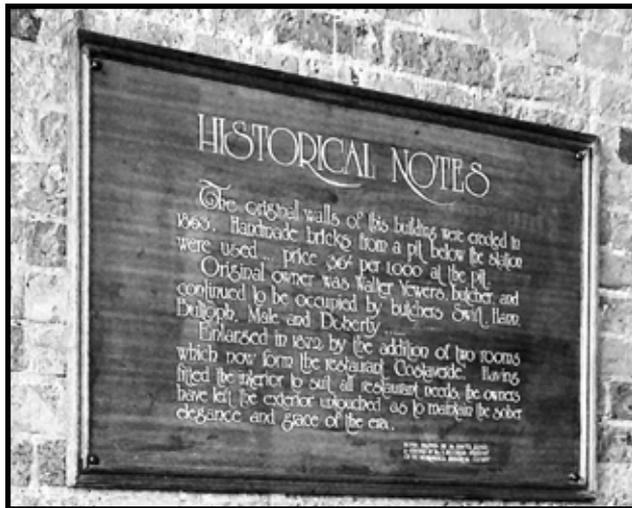
So says the *Argus* of June 12th 1903. Charles Wright a music hall entertainer and entrepreneur arrived in Melbourne in the 1860s, the time of the Gold Rush and the money was flowing. He quickly became part of the pub and entertainment scene and was the owner of the Mistletoe Hotel, McKenzie Street Melbourne from 1870. Although holding more than one license was illegal he also ran the Colosseum in Bourke Street where "patrons danced all night." He also had an interest in the Melbourne Gin Palace.

Charles amassed a huge fortune and upon his death in 1903 his will stated that 50 Pounds was to be spent on a tombstone over his grave at Moorooduc Cemetery, 60 Pounds was to be spent on a memorial window at St. Columb's Church Hawthorn. There was a bequest to his daughter of 1000 Pounds, but the bulk of his wealth was left to charity. The estate was to be divided and invested and interest to be paid half-yearly for the many charities and hospitals listed. The real estate in Mornington was to be leased and the money to be paid to the treasurer of the Mornington Shire Council for the relief of the poor of Mornington and Hastings. Although there was an unhappy letter to the editor in 1906 whose author claimed that, since the establishment of the so-called Charles Wright Fund for the Poor," I have not heard of one person in Hastings who has benefited to the extent of one shilling. All the poor of Hastings have received are fresh air and sympathy. Mr. Wright may as well have taken them with him."

Due to the cost of fencing and the new State Land Tax the properties were sold, the money invested and the interest put in the care of the Mornington Shire Council for the relief of the poor. These payments continued until 1940.

The former Mistletoe Hotel was the site of an archaeological dig earlier this year when 250,000 artefacts dating back to Melbourne's earliest days were uncovered.

Val Wilson



Someone brought this sign into the Museum to stop it being sent to the tip. A new business had moved into the old Males Butchers Shop and we offered it to them. They are delighted and have hung it in pride of place, right at the front door. Thanks Joy and Peter.



Photo of our visit to Latrobe's Cottage (and Government House). Thank you Janet for organising this trip.

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