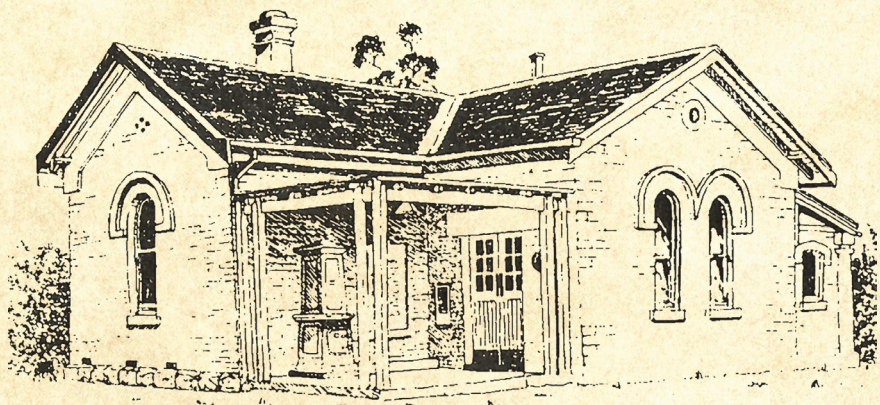


MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

February/March 2021

Newsletter No. 290



President's Report

Welcome back everyone and let's hope when we all get vaccinated, we can have something of a normal life again. It is hard to plan too far out.

We will be having our coffee mornings at the **RSL rooms in Virginia Street** this year. There is ample parking and space to social distance. Apologies for this February newsletter arriving in March.

The Museum will be closed at least for March for the Council to paint the building inside and the woodwork outside. There are plans for Council to apply for a grant to have the paintwork removed from the outside bricks and brought back as near as possible to the original. But, that may take some time. They are replacing the carpet too which was a nice surprise.

We only had two schools participate in the Helen Broad History Prize 2020, but they were very pleased to do so. The Padua College prize went to Hanna Johansson, Balcombe Grammar prize went to Sachin Srikanth.

Diane White

DAVID SHEPHERD'S STORY

" I was born at the Somerville Hospital 23rd November 1926. My father had a farm bounded by Park Lane, the Railway line, Main Hastings Rd and Bungower Rd. I walked with all the children to the Somerville State School till Grade 6 and then by bus to Frankston High School up to form 5. I chose the Commercial course; book-keeping, typing, and shorthand.

When I finished high school WWII was on and the Frankston manpower officer ordered me to my father's farm as food was required. When I was 21 I heard that the corner of Moorooduc Rd and Tyabb Rd was for sale and I worked on buying the property. We grew fruit trees and ornamental trees and sold the trees in Victoria and interstate.

I married and built a house and sheds on the Moorooduc Rd frontage. When my working life was finished we bought the house in Queens St Mornington where today I live alone".

David proudly told me that the Shepherds were awarded a certificate and medal at the 1886 Colonial and India Exhibition in London in recognition of the first consignment of fresh fruit to London in the late 1800s. A case of fruit was sent to Queen Victoria with later consignments of fruit being sent to England....Roger



MORNINGTON & DISTRICT

Dates for You

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

Visitors warm

TUESDAY 9TH MARCH 10.30am - \$5 **COFFEE MORNING**

Mornington's Picture Show Man
- Ian McCann

Ian has a long connection with Mornington and he has many stories to tell. Come and join us at the RSL Rooms, Virginia Street Mornington

TUESDAY 13th APRIL 10.30am - \$5 **COFFEE MORNING @ RSL Rooms.**

Speaker to be arranged

TUESDAY 11th MAY 10.30am - \$5 **COFFEE MORNING @ RSL Rooms.**

Speaker to be arranged

TUESDAY 8th JUNE 10.30am - \$5 **COFFEE MORNING @ RSL Rooms.**

Treasures. Bring along a treasure and share its story with us. This is always a popular gathering.

We thought you might like to see these images which were sent to us. Some we have not seen before. Murray Studios produced post cards and card folders in the 1940s.



Children's Playground



Overlooking Mornington

T HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

ur Diary 2021

ollow us on Facebook Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203

rmly welcomed



ound, Mornington



Main Street, Mornington



Mornington



Yacht Club, Mornington

WHAT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DOES

FORMED: 1964 - The first Historical Society on the Mornington Peninsula. Our responsibility is the old Mornington Shire area: Mornington, Mt. Martha, Mt. Eliza and Moorooduc. We hold the stories of the rich history of this area on behalf of the community.

MUSEUM:

Since 1968 the Historical Society has operated the museum in Mornington's former Post Office (built in 1863). The position in town is excellent for passing traffic, but the building is limited in size and used for the following:

- Storage of collection. As well as artefacts from the area, we house a collection of Postal and Communications items. We also hold a unique collection of The Peninsula Post newspaper which we digitised ourselves.
- Display space for visitors to view exhibitions,
- Work space to maintain and catalogue the collection and to organise displays.

Damp is a continuing problem. The building is structurally sound but some more maintenance needs to be done. A long overdue painting for the interior walls is planned for March 2021. The Shire's Heritage Planner is recommending that the render that covers the original external brickwork of the building be removed to help alleviate the damp problem and prevent further deterioration of the bricks.

EDUCATION:

- We give talks to other community groups.
- We give talks to schools and/or offer them visits to the Museum
- We give tours of the township of Mornington and the Mornington Cemetery
- We answer requests for information from the public and the Shire
- We are part of the Shire's tourism structure. Many visitors are from overseas.
- We keep a watchful eye on heritage matters in collaboration with the Shire's Heritage Planner. This has often required many hours of research.

PUBLISHING OUR HISTORY:

In recent years we have written and self-published a number of award-winning books/booklets which include *Our Boys at the Front - The Mornington Peninsula at War 1914-1918*, *The Names on the Mornington Honour Roll 1914-1918 Who Were they?*, *The Wolfdene Story* and *Mornington Heritage Walks*. We also reprinted *The History of Mornington* by Leslie Moorhead. We have also produced a Main Street Walk with plaques with QR Codes for access to audio information.

MEMBERSHIP:

Like any other club, we have to support our members, as this is where our volunteers come from. We have monthly meetings, we organise events and activities of an historic interest for our members and the public, we provide a quarterly Newsletter and now maintain two websites and a Facebook page with over 1,100 followers.. We provide an important social connection for people interested in the area's history.

FUNDING:

We are a not-for-profit volunteer organisation, with a registered charity status and are self-funded, relying on membership fees, museum entry donations, book sales and revenue from activities and tours. We keep our expenses to a minimum. We have successfully applied for grants over the years for special projects. Council's contribution is the maintenance of the building which they were offered from the Commonwealth and took over ownership in 1988, the Bicentennial year. Council also supports us through the Local History Network. An estimate, based on the number of voluntary hours M&DHS provides, costed at the community rate of \$27.50ph, totals \$80,000 annually.

LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK

After Council amalgamation in the 1990s we were asked to form a Local History Network with the other eight historical societies on the Mornington Peninsula. This has grown to include all not-for-profit history groups, with just a couple run for profit, in total over twenty groups.

In the early 2000s, we all decided that we needed assistance to run more efficiently as a network, so with Council approval we successfully applied for an Arts Grant to employ a Local History Officer. Sally Robins was appointed and her initial part-time position was expanded and Council embedded her position in the Library and Arts portfolio. Sally has initiated a survey to assess the needs of the Historical Societies in particular and we now have a coordinated collections database. Through Sally, a digitisation officer was appointed to ensure that all our collection items were recorded ready to be incorporated into the database.

After Sally had spent a number of years recording the needs of the Historical Societies, last year she successfully put to Council the Local Historical Development Plan. The rich and diverse history of the Peninsula is worthy of this Plan.

Another issue which Sally identified was that the Council had a diverse collection of valuable historical items for which no one was employed to curate, so the materials were inaccessible. Thankfully, a part-time officer has been appointed to undertake a scoping survey of this material.

Diane White - President

VALE

We had the sad news that Stuart Calder, Winty's husband passed away. Stuart was a great supporter of the Historical Society as well as the Mornington Peninsula National Trust.

Then we heard that David Shepherd has passed away too. Our thanks to Mornington Probos for providing David's story which we include in this newsletter.

We are wondering whether you, our members might provide a similar short piece and some images for future newsletters. It is a great way to get to know each other, don't you think?

FOR SALE - *Please contact the Museum:*

FIFTEEN YOUNG MEN

by Paul Kennedy - Published by Penguin
Random House \$35

THE WOLFDENE STORY -

**The Families and Functions of a
Mornington Historic House**
by Joy Cullen \$15

THE NAMES ON THE MORNINGTON HONOUR ROLL

Who were they? *By Val Wilson* \$20

**A JOURNEY ALONG BALCOMBE
CREEK** *by Winty Calder* \$45

READY AND WILLING, WE

**STRIVE TO SAVE - The story of the
Mornington Fire Brigade 1917-2017**
by Colin Fisher \$20

OUR BOYS AT THE FRONT - from the pages of *The Peninsula Post*.

This award winning book including DVD
disc on World War 1 is now reduced to \$30

WORLD WAR 1 POEMS

Selected from *The Peninsula Post* \$15

**REV GEORGE COX - A MAN OF
MANY PARTS** *by Joy Cullen*

\$15.00 per copy plus postage.

Thanks to the Mornington Peninsula Shire for their support.

Mornington & District Historical Society Inc. A00041916W

ABN 7515 1057 105 - 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