

MORNINGTON
& DISTRICT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

February 2016

Newsletter No. 272

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Repairs to the Museum are underway and continuing... We will have to close the Museum for a couple of weeks for them to be completed. Unfortunately we were not able to open on the day in January the cruise ship came to Mornington. As you can see from the photograph, the workmen were busy all over the building.

Visitors to the Museum over the Christmas period seem to have enjoyed our displays, according to the comments in our Visitor's Book. Thank you to everyone who has given up their time to enable us to be open over the holidays, including the cruise ship days. On Australia Day we had over 100 visitors plus children through. Our walks on that day were very well attended. Thank you Vicky, Janet and Michael for escorting our visitors and telling them of the many tales of early Mornington.

Val has kindly offered to take people on a cemetery walk over Easter, see details on our **Dates for Your Diary** p.3

Our first schools' visit is on 15th February. Last year we had a number of schools visiting the Museum and the cemetery as part of their discovery of Mornington and the area's history.

Val and I have been asked to give presentations to a number of community groups.

Diane White





George as found by Val after the workmen had left. She said he refused to come down off the counter!



Australia Day Walk Tours. Michael with his group.

Dates for Your Diary 2016

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

SUNDAY 6TH MARCH

Cruise ship visit to Mornington
Museum open 9.30 - 4.00

TUESDAY 8TH MARCH 10.30 am \$5

Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room
COFFEE MORNING - Stuart Gooley
History of Mornington Yacht Club

THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 9.00 am

BUS TRIP - meet opposite Ross St.

JEWISH MUSEUM and SYNAGOGUE.

Lunch and visit to the St. Kilda Botanical Gardens.
\$50.00 fare and entrance. Lunch at your own expense.
Book with Janet on 9787 8685 or 0407 500 510

MONDAY (Easter) 28TH MARCH 1.30 pm \$5

Mornington Cemetery, Craigie Road (inside gates)

CEMETERY WALK with Val Wilson

Walk takes approximately 1½ hours.

Comfortable shoes recommended. Enquiries: 5975 2958

TUESDAY 12TH APRIL 10.30 am \$5

Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room

COFFEE MORNING - Rob Austin

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

Dates for Your Diary 2016

Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203 ABN 7515 1057 105

TUESDAY 19TH APRIL 10.30 am

Old Post Office Museum

VOLUNTEERS COFFEE MORNING

TUESDAY 10TH MAY 10.30 am \$5

Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room

COFFEE MORNING - details next newsletter

MUSEUM CLOSURE

Please note that the Museum will be closed between
16th February and 4th March for repairs.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We need to have a membership drive. If you know anyone who may be looking for a new interest, please introduce them to our society. Tell them how good we are....

FACEBOOK

We now have a Facebook Page!

If you are on Facebook please 'like' us so you can follow our posts for news about our events, items in our collection and history of the area.

If you aren't on Facebook you can still view this page on www.facebook.com/morningtondistricthistoricalsociety OR click on the Facebook icon on our website

HERITAGE REPORT

We were recently notified that the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme Amendment C189 had been placed on exhibition and asked to comment on the proposal which involves:-

1. Beleura Hill Character Study Area as generally bounded by The Esplanade, John Rowell Lane, Tallis Drive, Shandon Street, walkway and Tanti Creek.
2. Mornington Peninsula Investigation Areas Study of Mt. Martha. This involves Birdrock/Clarkes Avenue precinct including Birdrock Ave, Osborne Drive, Shanns Ave, Azure Place and Jeannine Ct, Finch Street, Morrisons Ave and parts of Clarke Ave.

The amendment involves changing the Design and Development Overlays involving subdivision of large blocks. If the subdivisions are allowed in small blocks this could detract from the character and heritage of the areas. The Full C189 Amendment is available on the Shire's website.

The Society entered a submission agreeing with the Council proposal but personally I feel the horse has already bolted as several places have long been subdivided.

Derek Smith

HELEN BROAD HISTORY PRIZE RECIPIENTS 2015

Toorak College: Sienna Scott
Mornington Secondary College: Jenna Missen
Padua College: Teagan Clough
Balcombe Grammar: Lucy Mowatt
The Peninsula School: Lily Kefaledalis
Mt. Eliza Secondary College: Lucy Grigg

We present this prize to encourage the study of history. The students are chosen by the school. They are presented with a framed certificate, a copy of Leslie Moorhead's book *Mornington in the Wake of Flinders* plus an iTunes voucher. We feel very pleased that we can do this and the schools are very supportive.

RESEARCH THE CAKE SELLER.

We recently had a query via our website from Stefanie of the University of Texas asking if we had any knowledge of Mrs Ann Hicks of Schnapper Point, Victoria.

Well we had a little; it was a typewritten note by the late Doreen Townsend recalling early residents of Mornington.

Apparently Mrs. Hicks lived on Billy Goat Flat. She kept her coffin in the house in case of emergency. Some said she slept in it - others said she kept her bread in it. She would always show it to visitors for a small consideration.

Further investigation revealed a fascinating story of Mrs. Hicks formerly a Hyde Park cake seller. She had been ejected from the cottage she held by royal favour so that the contractor for the sale of cakes in the Great Exhibition should not be interfered with.

Mrs. Hicks claimed the cottage was granted to her grandfather for saving King Edward from a watery grave when his horse bolted into the river. Having given up on obtaining compensation from the Royal Family, she procured funds by the writing and sale of a booklet *The Cake Sellers Story*, published by Charles Dickens, the famous author.

Arriving in Australia in 1853 Ann Hicks lived for eleven years on the Jim Crow diggings near Bendigo. She claims during this time to have been 'stuck up' three times, and lost her house twice before joining her son who had apparently moved onto Mornington.

The imminent arrival of the Prince of Wales set Mrs Hicks off once again on her claims for compensation, writing letters to the Editor and to the Prince himself.

The reply - written by Mr. Elliott C. Yorke

To Mrs. Ann Hicks, Old Hut, Beach, Schnapper Point, Mornington, formerly of the Cottage, Serpentine River, Hyde Park, London.

Toorak, 3rd January 1868

Madam, I am directed to inform you that the calls upon the bounty of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh are so great and numerous that H.R.H. is unable to comply with your request-

Your Obedient servant Eliot C. Yorke

I love the *story* in history.

Val Wilson

MAIN STREET AUDIO TOUR

There are a couple of ways you can access this audio tour. Firstly if you are passing the plaques, we have affixed a QR code to them. If you have a mobile device and it is Internet active, you can download a QR Code Reader app from the iTunes store. Below is a sample QR code that you can scan to download the introduction to our Audio Tour.



Alternatively, you can go to our website to listen and also see some related images.

VOLUNTEERS COFFEE MORNING

Please join us for discussion and sharing of the experiences you have when you volunteer in the Museum.

If you are considering volunteering, you are also most welcome. We will give you a sneak look at some of the collection which is not on display.

Ring Diane 5989 2219 for more details.

FOR SALE Contact the Museum:

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

A Journey Along Balcombe Creek by Winty Calder
\$45.00

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