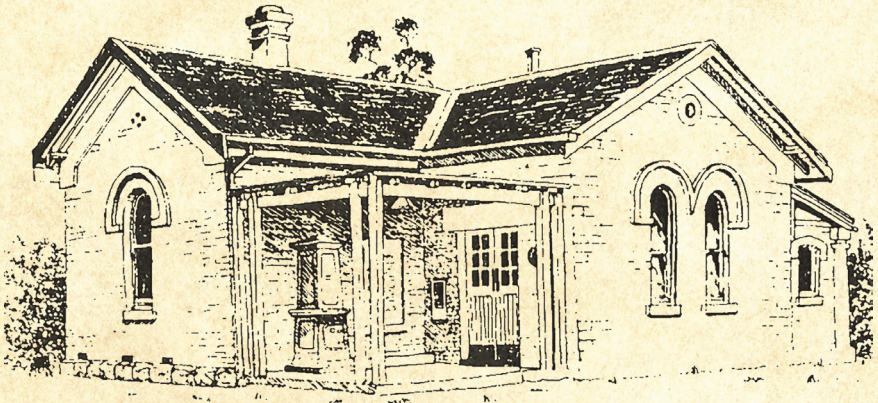


# MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

## NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Newsletter No. 287



## President's Report

Firstly, Apologies for this newsletter being late. I have had a bit of a problem getting ourselves onto the NBN.

On your behalf, thanks must go to our retiring committee member, Janice Campbell. Janice was a thoughtful member of the committee and with a lot of experience and she had many good ideas which have enhanced events and the workings of the committee. Janice and Lockie are still actively involved.

We welcome Val back and also welcome Yaqirah and Joy onto the committee and hope they will enjoy their time with us.



**Diane receiving OAM from Governor Linda Dessau.**

In September I took my family to Government House to watch me receive my Order of Australia Medal. It was a very proud occasion for all of us. I must thank those who nominated me and feel very honoured and humbled to have received such an accolade. These awards are never achieved on one's own, so thank you all for your support over the years. I was pleased that at the same time, Shirley Davies the former President of Hastings Western Port Historical Society also was recognised for her work in history - and more...

For some of you, we have sent reminders that we had not received your membership contribution for this year, 2019/20. We would love to keep you as members but if you do not wish to continue, could you please drop Dawn a line to let her know.

We pay insurance to cover all of our members, even if you aren't able to attend our activities and as we all know, costs of everything are rising, but our earnings are not. If you could let us know what you wish to do, that would be great.

We feel we have organised a varied number of interesting activities for next year, the first one is a visit to the Baluk Art Centre and we will come out with a feather headdress, which might be just in time for the Mornington Cup!

Elsewhere, there is a piece written by Val on the Moorooduc Quarry. I have very vivid memories of dad taking me and my sister to the quarry and on a road quite high above. This was in his old T model Ford tray truck - a very early utility-type vehicle. The only glass was the windscreen all the other windows were I think isinglass sewn into canvas. We thought the quarry was huge - which I think it was. Most memorable was an enamel sign above the windscreen, "Persons travelling in this vehicle do so at their own risk" I leave this for you to cogitate on.

*Diane White*

## Helen Broad History Prize

Joy presented this annual award to the Padua student selected - Madeleine Jamieson. Joy says Madeleine was very happy to receive the certificate and book this year.

The rest of the awards will be presented by us in December.

### **Your Committee for 2019/20**

**President:** Diane White

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Dawn Fisher

**Treasurer:** Vicky Sapkin

### **Committee Members:**

- Janet Groves
- Derek Smith
- David Price
- Val Wilson
- Yaqirah Herut
- Joy Cullen

# MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

## Dates for Your Diary 2019

Website: <http://morningtondistricthistory.org.au> Follow us on Facebook Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203

*Visitors warmly welcomed*

**FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER 12 noon**  
**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** Old Post Office Museum

Join us and bring a plate to share.

**MONDAY 27TH JANUARY**  
**AUSTRALIA DAY**

The Museum will be open all day between 11am and 4pm

**TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 10.30 am \$10.00 pp**  
**BALUK ARTS CENTRE 6 Bruce Street Mornington**

Continuing with our further understanding of our First peoples, we will be given a talk about the Current exhibition they are holding and then be Shown how to make a feather head piece.

Afterwards we could go to the next street for Coffee or an early lunch at Commonfolk Coffee Company, 16 Progress Street

**WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY. 9.30 \$45**  
**BUS TRIP - Leaving from bus stop opposite Ross Street to NOBELIUS MUSEUM at Emerald Lake.**

History of nursery workings in the early days of Emerald.  
Cost includes bus trip, museum entrance And morning tea on arrival.  
Choice of restaurant, cafe or bring a picnic. Contact Libby 0409 149 089

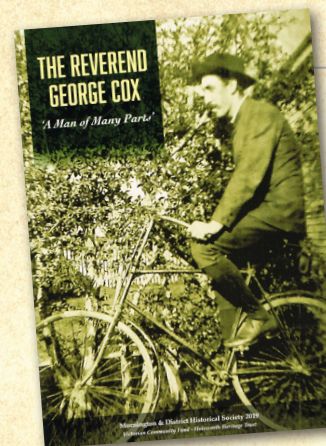
**TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 10.30 am \$5**  
**COFFEE MORNING** Mornington Fire Brigade Rooms

**THE BEACH BOXES.** Our Vicky will give us a talk on the famous Beach boxes on our beaches.

**TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 10.30 am \$5**  
**COFFEE MORNING @ Fossil Beach, Mt Martha**

We will visit the ruins of the old cement works to see what Ian Stevenson has done with the Council to preserve what is left and to educate any visitors to the site.

Afterwards we can go to the Dava for coffee and/or lunch.  
More details in February newsletter.



### FOR SALE

**Rev George Cox - A Man of Many Parts**  
by Joy Cullen

\$15.00 per copy plus postage.  
Available from the Old Post Office Museum.

Mt. Eliza Quarry



## Moorooduc Quarry

This 25 hectare Reserve lies within the National Trust Recorded Landscape Unit, "Mount Eliza South East Face".

At its highest point the Reserve provides one of the best views from Mount Eliza across the plains to Western Port.

Early in the 1850s lime burners stripped the land of much of the timber, notably the casuarina species to fuel their lime ovens.

The quarry is believed to have been started in 1887 by a David Munro who used the stone for ballasting railway lines in the district. Rock at the quarry was blasted with explosives, then loaded by hand into horse-drawn "Dobbin carts".

The rock was then taken to the steam-powered crusher located about halfway down the hill, loaded into larger carts and transported by rail to the Frankston-Mornington rail line.

In 1923 the Frankston-Hastings Shire Council purchased the site and commenced quarrying, using the stone for decorative building work, road making, railway line ballasting, and repairs to the Mornington Reservoir.

In 1927 electricity replaced the steam crusher and from 1935 the cartage of stone by rail was replaced by trucks. This form of cartage continued until the closure of the quarry in 1961 when the quarry floor began to fill with water.

With the closure of the quarry, the lake filled and became a popular swimming spot.

Action by concerned local groups resulted in Frankston Council designating the area a Flora and Fauna Reserve in 1973. It was progressively fenced and closed to all by pedestrian traffic.

Details sourced from records held at the Mornington & District Historical Society

## Trip to Heronswood & McCrae Homestead

A lovely day was had by 17 people on Friday 30th August when we had a trip to Heronswood and McCrae Homestead. The sun came out and the Peninsula looked like spring had sprung and you had to feel lucky to live where we live.

Brian, the gardener at Heronswood took us on a garden tour telling us the history of the property, the many varied and wonderful trees and plants, companion planting, heritage seed preservation and insect interaction. Many of us felt we could have listened all day!

Those of us who had been at the coffee morning where John Hedley spoke about slate roofing took particular note of Heronswood roof which John has repaired. So interesting to hear that this slate arrived as ships ballast. How clever and practical were our early settlers!!

We enjoyed a superb lunch in the old home that featured produce from the garden.

After lunch we headed to McCrae Homestead where three knowledgeable and experienced volunteers gave us a great tour of the old Homestead and visitors centre.

For members of our Historical group who have not visited these sites recently it is well worth the short trip to enjoy the history that has been so wonderfully preserved for us all.

We plan to have the next bus trip at the end of Feb/early March.

See next newsletter for details.

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## **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.

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*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