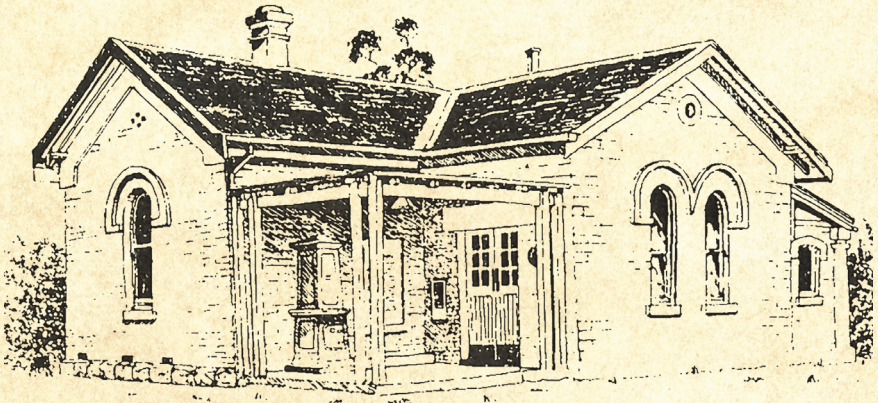


MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

February 2022

Newsletter No. 294



President's Report

Happy New Year everyone - let's hope we can see more of each other this year.

We only managed to have the Museum open for one day in January and had to cancel everything for Australia Day. This was very disappointing but necessary to keep the virus away. So, we are trying again by joining in the Victorian Heritage Festival at the end of April as you will see in "Dates to Remember".

Libby has organised yet another date for the bus trip. Having had to cancel it and the bus company so obliging, we are keeping our fingers crossed that nothing will prevent this trip.

I am sure you are going to enjoy the rest of Edna's story of her childhood near Buckingham Palace. I know you have all been waiting to see how this turns out. I know many of you also enjoyed Libby's story of Beleura Hospital. Please, if anyone else has some story they think would be of interest to our readers, please send it to me by email: redhillsouth@icloud.com

As with all organisations, even school sport groups, some people have drifted off and we are no exception as we have lost some of our members over the past two years, so we need a membership drive. Speak to your friends and see if they would be interested in joining us - no historical knowledge required but a desire to find out would be great.

Following on from that, we will need more people to put their hands up to volunteer to be on duty on a Sunday. It can be a lot of fun and you meet all sorts of people wanting to find out about the area. Please see David to let him know you would be happy to be on a list to help.

Claire has sent me the link for you to have a look at what she wanted to show you at the coffee morning. If you 'google' Treasures from the Shire Archives - Arts and Culture on the Mornington Peninsula (mornpen.vic.gov.au) you can have a look.

Diane White

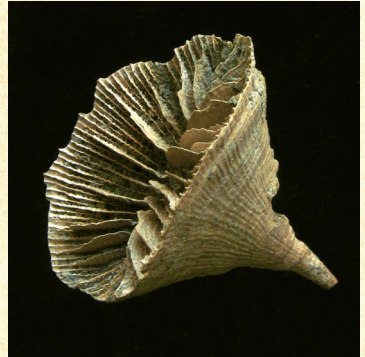
YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

- Diane White (President)
- Val Wilson (Vice President)
- Dawn Fisher (Secretary)
- Vicky Sapkin (Treasurer)
- Edna Lowe
- Janet Groves
- David Price
- Joy Cullen
- Libby Gillingham
- Yaqirah Herut
- Janis Lambert

Shell fossils

These beautiful shell fossils were laid down about 15 million years ago, in the mid-Miocene period.

They are found in the Balcombe Clay layer (Gellibrand Marl is the modern term).



The cliffs at Fossil Beach in the Balcombe Clay layer showing the grey Gellibrand Marl

MORNINGTON & DISTRICT

Dates for You

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

Foll

Visitors warn

March 8th @ 10.30am - \$5

COFFEE MORNING

@ Mornington RSL rooms

Val will give her talk on the Pioneer Graves in Mornington Cemetery.

April 12th @ 10.30 am - \$5

COFFEE MORNING

@ Mornington RSL rooms

Speaker to be advised
(see our Facebook page)

April 16th @ 1.15 for 1.30pm - \$5

CEMETERY WALK

Meet at the Cemetery Office gates.
Wear good walking shoes and appropriate clothing.
Walk approximately 1 1/2 hours

Wednesday April 20th @ 9.30am - \$50

BUS TRIP

With a bit of luck let us hope that we can share an enjoyable day on Wednesday April 20th.

After several bookings/cancellations in 2021 we deserve it!

We will plan to leave from our usual spot in Main St (opposite Ross St) at 9.30am.

Helen Ward Commander R.A.N. Manager of Museum of Cerberus Naval Heritage Collection promises us a fascinating morning in their museum.

It is planned that we then head to Somers General Store where we can choose to have lunch/ coffee or walk on the beach and take a picnic.

The cost of the bus trip will be \$50 for the bus and museum entrance.

Please contact me by phone

0409 149 089

or email libgill@bigpond.com to book your seat.

Libby Gillingham.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

our Diary 2022

Follow us on Facebook Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203

newly welcomed

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

– 18th April - 2nd May –

Some details to be firmly decided so watch our Facebook Page please.

April 20th Bus trip to Cerberus Heritage Museum - \$50

This will be the first of our activities for the Heritage Festival.

See details opposite page to book with Libby.

Museum will be open more days and include a book sale on the weekends - weather permitting.

A talk will be offered at Fossil Beach

April 30th @ 1.15 for 1.30 - \$5

CEMETERY WALK

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Burris and Marg Hunter

Welcome to our group and we hope you have a rewarding experience.

A REMINISCENCE by Edna Lowe **(Life in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace)**

Continued from December 2021 Newsletter.

We children were also roped into helping to accustom the horses to the noise the general public would make on the many ceremonial processions to Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. We jumped up and down, waved flags in the front of the horses, played loud music, bashed pots and pans, screamed and did everything we were asked to do to prepare the horses for the unexpected. We really enjoyed this.

Every year we were given an outing to the seaside by the Royal Household and at Christmas time we were given a present and an outing to the Theatre or the Circus. As well as a Christmas Party with Green ice cream, which was a real treat as it was not usual for us to eat any ice cream!

Occasionally the Queen and family came to the mews to see the horses and she was always very friendly and said hello to us. Prince Phillip used to ride his old black bike into the Mews to practice Polo in a converted stable. The sides were lines with mesh with a wooden horse in the middle gully. He would sit on the horse and hit at the ball with his mallet and then it would roll back allowing him to swipe at it again!. He nearly ran over my brother one dark night on his way to practice!



Over the years my Father gradually worked his way up till he became Head Coachman, which was as high as an untitled person could get. In charge of the day to day running of the Mews, he then drove only the Queen. The picture is of him on top of the box and the Queen and Queen Mother inside at Princess Margaret's Wedding. He was responsible for the running of the Mews and had served over 40 years in Royal Service.

One of my proudest moments was going with my Mother to the Horse of the Year show at Wembley and watching my Father and his favourite horse Tedder walk around the arena to the music of 'The Valiant Years'.

Just before he retired, the Queen asked him if he would drive Clementine Churchill and family behind the gun carriage, which carried Winston to his funeral. This was a great honour.



Dad and Tedder

Dad and Mum retired to a house in the grounds of Windsor Castle, a little chess piece castle with a bathroom in the Turret! It was a delightful place and it was from there that I left home for my adventure to see the World and Australia!



VALE - Robin Cooper

Our good friend and member Robin Cooper passed away before Christmas. Robin served the community in a huge variety of ways. He was a Mornington Shire councillor representing Mt. Eliza in the 1960/70s.

Robin then went into State Parliament, serving in a number of roles, particularly as Minister for Railways. After he retired from politics, he was much sought after to sit on various local committees, bringing his experience and knowledge with him. If anyone had ever been on duty with him on a Sunday afternoon, it was always a pleasant experience and very much so for our visitors who would have had no inkling that he was a politician - just an ordinary good bloke.

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.

*We offer our respect to the First Peoples. The members of the Boon Warrung/
Bunurong, past, present and future, the custodians of this land and waters.*

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