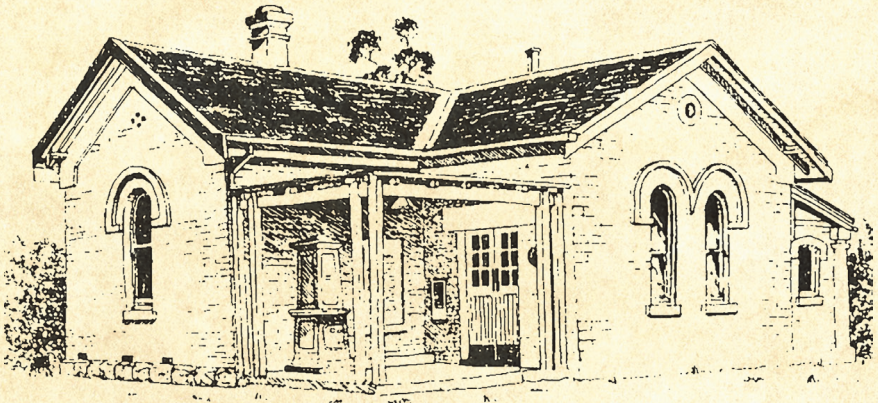


MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

August 2023

Newsletter No. 300



President's Report

Our 59th Annual General Meeting will be held on 12th September (see Calendar for details). Please consider nominating for the committee. It would help you understand the wide variety of workings of the Historical Society and we promise you a lot of fun. We are particularly in need of a Treasurer, so who would be our little treasure and think about assisting us please. Even someone to be a bookkeeper. We don't have a lot of transactions. Please remember if you wish to nominate and vote for someone, you will need to be financial. We are enclosing a reminder if you have not paid your membership fees for the next year.

In my last report, I talked about the Bills' Horse Trough and the need for interpretation and a maintenance program. Also having an interpretive sign for *Darriman* which has now been demolished. The Heritage Planner has left the Council and we will have to wait to contact a new person when they are appointed and start all over again.

We made a bit of a fuss about the maintenance of the building and met with the new Manager of Maintenance who then was on leave and has now been temporarily transferred to another role, so we will need to start again with these issues to be resolved.

Our Leslie Moorhead lecturer, Lorraine Smith has been highly recommended as a speaker for October, so make sure you are around in Mornington for that date (again see the Calendar for details).

Just back to the AGM for a minute - should you wish to see our Constitution, need a nomination form or a proxy voting form for the AGM, please contact Dawn - dawnfisher@live.com.au

Diane White

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to Susan Bell.

We hope you enjoy your time with us.

A gift from the Tallis Foundation Trustees

At our coffee morning at Beleura House and Garden to learn about the Klytie Pate Collection of ceramics we were treated to wonderful surprise from Anthony Knight. Anthony is one of the Directors of the Trustees and found the above photograph in one of his favourite bookshops in Melbourne. It is actually a stereograph of the Opening of Mornington Park in 1865.

There is a cricket match going on as well and women on horseback. You can see the courthouse and the newly opened Post and Telegraph Office. Behind that, the little building with two gables and finials would be the original wooden Telegraph Office. The park is still a little of a rough ground with all of those plants in the foreground.

Thanks to Murray for his use of Photoshop to bring up the details in greater definition.

A stereograph is a set of two photograph side by side and with the use of a viewer you can get a three dimensional image by moving the photographs back and forward.



MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Dates for Your Diary 2023

Website: www.morningtondistricthistory.org.au

Follow us on Facebook Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203

Visitors warmly welcomed

Tuesday 12th September 10.30am AGM no cost

St. Mark's Community Room, cnr Waterloo Place and Barkly St.

Our official reporting of the years activities and presentation of audited accounts.
Election of office bearers and a cuppa afterwards.

Seniors Month and Victorian History Week

Tues 10th October 10.30am \$10

St. Mark's Community Room, cnr. Waterloo Place and Barkly St.

LESLIE MOORHEAD LECTURE

Lorraine Smith *Journey of a lost Manuscript.*

Lorraine and her husband ran a bookshop in Warrnambool and this is the story of an unpublished manuscript found. The research took her overseas

When an old parchment was found inside a copy of 'Alice in Wonderland' in a second-hand bookshop, everything about it was a mystery. Discovered to be an Elizabethan manuscript on vellum, this is the enthralling story of its travels from a hamlet in Yorkshire in 1583 to Warrnambool in 2013.

It is a journey with so many twists and lucky escapes it should be a novel – but this is a true story.

**Sun 22nd October
10.30am from the
Museum \$10**

A Township Walk with Janis

**Sun 29th October
1.15pm for 1.30pm
departure \$10**

Val's Cemetery Walk.

This takes about 1 and half hours. Recommend good walking shoes and appropriate clothing.

Museum open free for seniors on Sunday 22nd and 29th October.

NOVEMBER- Date to be confirmed

We are planning a bus trip to *Harewood* at Tooradin in November. The history of this home and property is fascinating. The present owner, Pat Macwhirter has written a book which encompasses the rich indigenous history of the area, settling of the land by a Scottish family in the 1850's, and the reason why the property is called *Harewood*.

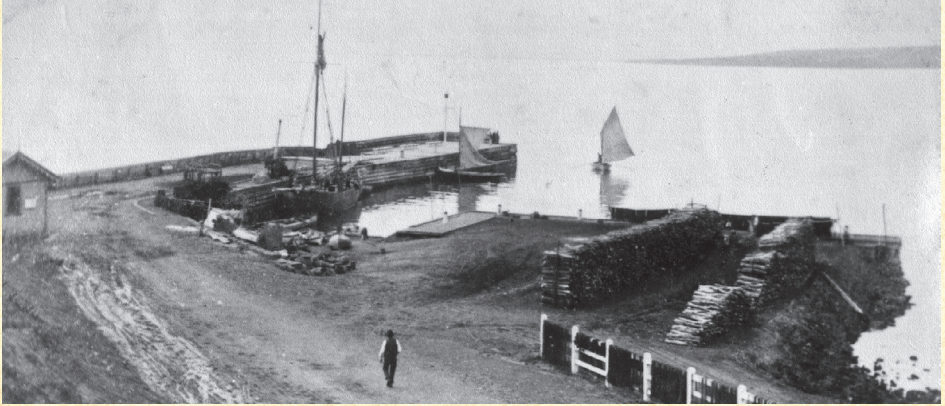
We will have a tour by Pat Macwhirter and plan to have lunch at Tooradin Sportsman's Club and also a visit to Tooradin Fisherman's Cottage Museum. It will be a lovely day.

No coffee morning in November, but December is members luncheon.

Port Phillip Bay Shipping

Shipping on Port Phillip initially started with the transportation of cargo or for taking those populating the area, to and from the little growing settlements. Fish and building materials, trees and lime for mortar in particular.

Little jetties such as Mills Jetty (below) serviced these vessels with row boats or lighters used to negotiate the shallows.



The first part of the Mornington Pier was built after a petition was sent to the Colonial Government by the residents and business people. Building of the pier started in 1857. The mail was carried by boat in the early days of the township.

An early photograph of the original pier with wood stacked for transport and fishing nets drying along the fence.



Thomas Cogger Allchin owned *Governor La Trobe* and the *Maggie*. He built *Sutton Grange* with the tower so he could watch to meet them arriving at the pier. Allchin had won a contract to supply sleepers for the Geelong Railway and firewood for the barracks of a military regiment located in Melbourne. He also brought goods for the general store he and his wife Sarah owned in Main Street.

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Schnapper Point (Mornington) and the Mornington Peninsula was becoming more populated by the new settlers particularly following the discovery of gold. The Government had land surveyed for sale as these newly arrived needed places to establish themselves.

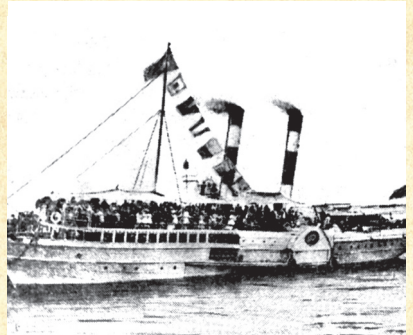
As the access to the Peninsula was still faster by water than the rudimentary roads and tracks, travel by boat was still needed and growing. Many early entrepreneurs like George Coppin seized on the potential tourist travel. He purchased land in the 1870s and took Sorrento from a small fishing and lime burning village to a larger township. Hotels were built to accommodate the burgeoning tourist trade and Coppin's tramway from the front beach to the back beach was a highlight. This was all dependent on the paddle steamer transport. The steamers left Melbourne stopping at Mornington, occasionally Dromana, Sorrento and then across to Queenscliff and return.

Many of the vessels were built in Scotland and took the journey to Melbourne before plying their trade on Port Phillip Bay and beyond.

PS.Williams

The *Williams* was put onto the Port Phillip Bay tourist route in 1872. She was a iron built vessel powered by both sail and paddle steam with two funnels and two masts. Her other duties were as a tugboat.

The competition for the tourist trade grew and an Auckland built *Golden Crown* was put into service in 1874 by a newly formed shipping company, The Sorrento & Queenscliff Steam Navigation Co.



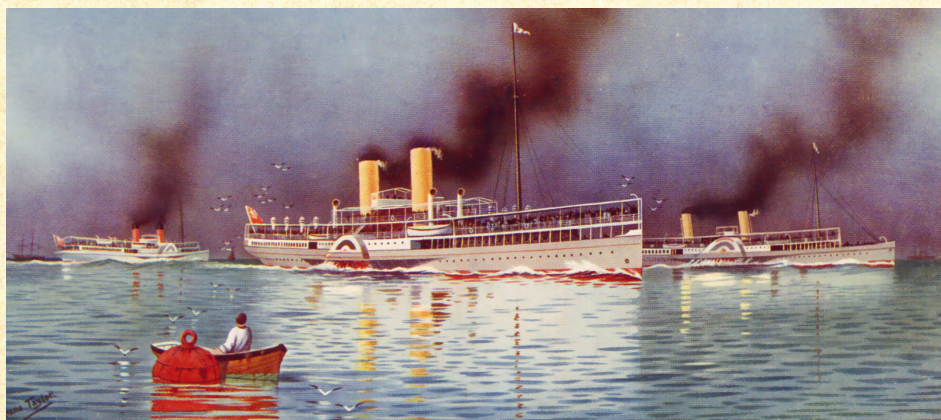
The *Edina* pictured here had many years of service on the Bay and beyond. She had been chosen to meet the Duke of Edinburgh when he arrived in 1866. She took a boatload of distinguished guests to the Heads in a flotilla to meet his ship the HMAS *Galatea*. She was eventually purchased by the Howard Smith company and when she finished in 1938, she had served for sixty-five years, having carried over 2 million passengers.

In 1890 when the *Ozone* commenced its service, there were seven other steamers vying for the tourist trade. Melbourne had been named Smelbourne and the lure of the clean salt air and the various Baths built around the bay made an opportunity for travellers to leave an increasingly dirty city. At one time two steamers had tied up at Mornington disgorging two thousand people.

Many of the big businesses gave their staff a picnic holiday at Mornington, Sorrento or Queenscliff. Businesses like the Railways, the Post Office and butchers' picnics.

With the larger steamers such as *Weeroona*, the building of the north arm of the Mornington Pier was needed.

Storms were frequent and damaging to the pier and the north arm was finally left only as posts under the water after a storm in the late 1930s.



Ozone 1886, *Hygeia* 1890 and *Weeroona* commenced service in 1911.

The Second World War, rail, buses and road travel put an end to a 'Trip Down the Bay' by paddle steamer. The old steamers which couldn't be sold off for other purposes ended their days blown up and sunk in the ship's graveyard outside the Heads. The *Ozone* ended as a breakwater at Indented Head and at low tide, some of it can still be seen.

Source: T.K. Fitchett *Down the Bay*
Leslie Moorhead Mornington in the Wake of Flinders.

All photographs from the Mornington & District Historical Society collection.

FOR SALE - *Please contact the Museum:*

FIFTEEN YOUNG MEN

by Paul Kennedy - Published by
Penguin Random House \$25

THE WOLFDENE STORY -

**The Families and Functions of a
Mornington Historic House**

by Joy Cullen \$10

**A JOURNEY ALONG BALCOMBE
CREEK** *by Winty Calder \$30*

**READY AND WILLING,
WE STRIVE TO SAVE -**

**The story of the Mornington Fire
Brigade 1917-2017**

by Colin Fisher \$5

**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 \$25

**THE NAMES ON THE MORNINGTON
HONOUR ROLL**

Who were they? *By Val Wilson \$15*

*Special Offer - Both Boys at the Front
and Honour Roll \$30 together*

WORLD WAR 1 POEMS

*Selected from *The Peninsula Post* \$10*

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

\$10 per copy plus postage.



MEMBERSHIP FEES

Always at this time of year, membership fees were due on 30th June. Last year, after looking at our finances, we reluctantly decided to increase our fees. We do hope you understand. Fees are due by the end of June as you will see by the enclosed reminder.

*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

Banking Details:

Bendigo Bank BSB – 633 000

Mornington & District Historical Society Inc.

Account Number: 162 405 427

Please say what the payment is for.