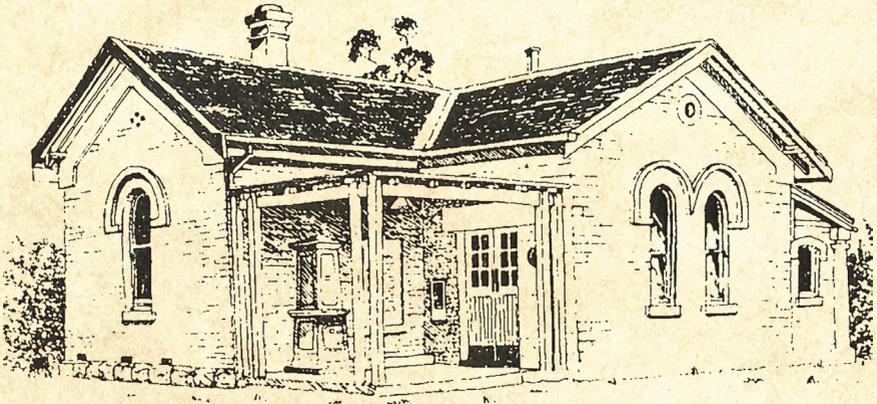


MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

August 2022

Newsletter No. 296



President's Report

Unfortunately, we have again closed the Museum until the end of August at least, because of the latest outbreak of COVID. Let's hope we can open the Museum in spring with a new lease of life (again).

We have been busy behind the scenes as you will see from Vicky's report on what she has been organising for the Museum walls. Many thanks to her for doing this. It has been no small task and we are hoping to showcase this with a 'reopening' event late in October to try to refocus on our lovely little Museum. See the *Dates for your Diary* page to see the details.

We have organised a half-day trip to Beleura House and Garden in November. You would have a choice of a guided tour of the house or garden after a slap-up morning tea. You need to be at the Mornington Golf Club by 10.00 am to meet the bus. We can arrange a lift to the Golf Club if you do not drive.

You will have met Julia Young if you were at our August coffee morning. Julia is trying to get the Shire's historical groups greater publicity through a regular Facebook post on the Shire's social media, promoting interest in history and historical events. She is also organising a dedicated Local History website that would have its own Newsletter. It would be worth having a look at Shire's website to see if you could find these in the future.

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up too. Please consider joining the committee. It is a great privilege to serve on this and we do have a lot of fun and friendship. Also, Vicky is standing down from the Treasurer's position so if you think you could assist us with this, we would be so grateful.

Diane White

Shire's Arts and Culture Advisory Panel

I'm so pleased to let you know I've been recently appointed to the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Arts and Culture Advisory Panel. The Panel works with Council to help shape priorities, direction and identify opportunities to grow and promote arts and culture across the Mornington Peninsula.

Members of the Panel have a variety of backgrounds including visual arts, performing arts and history. I will communicate feedback and suggestions from the Mornington Peninsula Local History Network and Mornington Peninsula branch of the National Trust.

I won't be standing for the position of Treasurer at the next Annual General Meeting. I have enjoyed being Treasurer for the last 10 years and intend to remain a committee member.

Vicky Sapkin

Interpretive Panels for the Museum

We are thrilled to announce we were successful in our application for a grant through the Local History Grants Program administered by the Public Record Office Victoria on behalf of the State Government of Victoria.

We sought funds to produce three large interpretive panels for the museum interior to communicate important aspects of the history of the area. The funding also included lettering placed above the picture rails acknowledging the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung people and naming the four areas we represent – Mornington, Mount Martha, Mount Eliza and Moorooduc, noting several features of each area to inform and encourage visitor interest.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Victorian Government and the Public Record Office Victoria for making this project possible. We would also like to thank Georgia Rouette and Dimity Mapstone for their expertise and guidance in working with us to produce this excellent result.

The panels and lettering have been installed and we will be having the official opening on 28th October, to which all our members are invited. We would love to see you at the opening, if you can't make it, please drop into the museum sometime and have a look.

Vicky Sapkin



Some of the new lettering and the Panel about tourism in the Mornington area.

Membership Fees

Thank you to those of you who have paid your fees for this financial year. May we remind you if you have forgotten. It is hard after the lockdowns for many organisations, including sporting clubs to keep their memberships, but the volunteers who run these need to know their time is appreciated so your support is very important to us.

MORNINGTON & DISTRICT

Dates for You

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

Foll

Visitors warn

September 13th 2022 @ 10.30am

NOTICE TO CONDUCT OUR 58th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mornington RSL Rooms - 4/27 Virginia Street, Mornington

This is to report on the activities of the Society, to formally accept the audited statements and to elect a new committee. All positions will be vacant.

Please contact Dawn if you need transport or a form if you wish to nominate for the committee. Dawn's telephone number is 5977 0027 or email: dawnfisher@live.com.au

Tuesday 15th November @ 9:45am - \$40pp

Trip to Beleura House and Garden

Gather for their bus at Mornington Golf Club before 10am. If you need transport to meet the bus, Libby and Val can pick you up.

This is a half-day trip at a cost of \$40 per person. It covers a lovely elegant morning tea then a guided tour of the house or the garden. You will need to nominate which of these tours you would like to have.

We will need full payment by 7th November and if you can arrange to pay it direct into our account, we would appreciate it.

Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 A/C No. 162 405 427.

Please include your name on the internet transfer for identification purposes.

Please contact Libby to book on *0409 149 089*

New Members

We welcome Nick Fallaw and Johanna Lyon and hope you enjoy your time with us.

DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

our Diary 2022

Follow us on Facebook Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203

Family welcomed



October 11th @ 10.30am - \$10pp

Our Annual Leslie Moorhead Lecture

Tim Costello AO. The History of Gambling. Tim has been a well-known advocate questioning our addiction to gambling.

Friday 28th October between - 4.30 and 6.30pm

Invitation to attend the 'reopening' of the Museum

@ The Museum between 4.30 and 6.30pm. Refreshments available.

Saturday 29th October @ 1.15pm - \$10

Val's guided tour of the Mornington Cemetery

Meet at the Cemetery office, Craigie Road, Mt. Martha at 1.15 for 1.30 start. Wear comfortable shoes.



A Surprise Donation

Mrs Pat Wallis (née Pelling) recently donated to us a charming collection of items relating to her younger days in Mornington.

Mr Stephen Pelling, Pat's father, was a bicycle mechanic and agent who had a bicycle shop in Mornington and built a family home on the corner of Barkly and Bath Street in 1926. Family were still living in the home in 1996.

Mrs Wallis described her childhood living in Bath Street in the 1930's and 1940's as like living in the countryside. "Across from our house to the Nepean Highway there were only a few houses scattered along the hill. There was a lovely bush track with heath and orchids, my father and I would walk this track to go and buy apples that were sold on the roadside. Halfway up Whitby Street there was a natural pond filled with maidenhair ferns, it was beautiful. Mr Sweetings land and the old homestead were the only property in Whitby Street in the early days.

The vacant lots of land were used for grazing animals and nobody seemed to mind. During the war years when I was nine or ten I did a monthly magazine, I called it the Fun Club Magazine, it had bits of what everyone was doing in the neighbourhood and John Ride delivered it for a penny. It made money for the Comfort Fund."

A book in our library "Saints by the Sea" tells of more memories of the Pelling family, Pat Wallis was a member of a church going family at St Peter's Church of England and a foundation member of the successful CEF Players. Pat regularly attended church with her parents and the Pelling aunts.

They often came to Evensong when she was a child, walking from their home on the Hill. She recalls they were often followed by their cat who would follow them into church and would be nursed on Mrs Pelling's lap during the service.

Lovely Memories.

Val



THE PELLING HOUSE - 1926 - LOTS 12 x 19

Some of the items we received from from the late Pat Wallis collection.

An Accompanying Person *by J.V. Simpson*

Early Learning Experiences ...*Continued from the May 2022 Newsletter*

The day came when it was time to start school again. The Village School was in Church Eaton, about a mile and a half away. Every morning I would rise early, walk down the estate's long driveway past a fascinating gravelly pond and out onto a winding country road which led over a hump-backed bridge across a canal. Boys used to throw pebbles down onto the boats as they passed below and often the boatmen would come running up from the towpath to try and catch them.

The entrances to the Village School were clearly marked. The large incised letters said 'BOYS' over one entrance and "GIRLS" over the other. The small classroom was packed with noisy children of all ages crammed in together. The elderly male teacher hardly seemed able to keep control of the class. I would sit at the back of the room not understanding anything that was going on, completely bewildered by it all. Playtimes were worse because I didn't know anyone and felt so out of place and lonely.

Just occasionally, the estate's pony and trap would pick me up on the way back from school. As the pony trotted along and I sat perched on high on the padded seat, I would savour the luxury, surveying the passing fields and hedgerows as we clip-clopped towards the Hall.

Back at Laundry Cottage, Mother was finding it increasingly difficult to cope on her own. She was isolated and unhappy so the decision was taken to give up the safety of the countryside and return to Stanmore.

St. Paul's Cathedral London

On the 1st September 2009, two thousand former evacuees came together for a Commemorative Service held at St. Paul's Cathedral in London to Mark the 70th Anniversary of the evacuation of three and a half million children during World War II.

Operation Pied Piper as it was called was completed in just four days. Areas of Britain were divided into three classifications, evacuation, neutral and reception. Four thousand specially chartered trains worked day and night to achieve this task. The evacuation was a social revolution. Never before had people from the country and the cities, the rich and the poor been thrown so closely together. The great social divide had been breached and many people were horrified at what they found on the other side.

...Continued on the next page.

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However, the evacuation fostered greater understanding between these different social groups and gave rise to the postwar development of a cradle to grave welfare system. Public health programmes and education for all were now considered to be in the national interest.

It was a bright clear September day and we left home early to make sure of being in good time to reach the Cathedral. The service was to begin at 11 o'clock. Arriving at St. Paul's station we walked around the corner and discovered ahead of us a long winding queue of elderly people. They had obviously set off much earlier with the same idea in mind. The crowd included groups of former evacuees who had travelled not only from all over Britain, but also from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States. There was a hum of excitement in the air and half closing ones eyes one could imagine we were all children again.

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.

*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