

MORNINGTON
& DISTRICT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

August 2016
Newsletter No. 274

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

You will see that our AGM is coming around again. Doesn't time fly? Please consider putting yourself forward as a nomination to help us on our Management Committee. There are nomination forms enclosed with this newsletter. If you would like to know how your Society works, this is an excellent way to find out. Rest assured, we will guide you gently until you find your feet, and offer you a lot of fun at the same time. Ring me if you would like to discuss this 5989 2219.

There will be two new books available after they are launched in September. Details of these on page 2.

We currently have a new display in the Museum. It is called *Threads, Needles and Whalebone*. This has given us a chance to show the public some of the articles of clothing we hold in our collection and provide a new talking point for visitors. We hope that you will find the time to come in and have a look for yourselves. We recently had a group from the Brotherhood of St Lawrence Banksia facility on a visit. It was very rewarding that both men and women found a lot of memories they could share with us. The women recalled how much work there was in making clothes and one particular man, who was a Singer Sewing Machine Company salesman/serviceman, told fascinating stories about his country customers.

The Shire has asked us for some ideas on the naming of a laneway between Beatty Avenue and Haig Street. After long consideration, they have asked us to choose between Young Terrace and Bates Terrace. We will be recommending Bates after Bob Bates who showed such humble caring for his fellow soldiers on the Western Front in the First World War. Val's piece on the Bates family is on page 6. If the council accepts our recommendation, we hope there will be another opportunity in the near future to have something named after Horace Young.

We have entered the Main Street Audio Tour in this year's Community History Awards. These will be announced during History Week which is between 16th and 23rd October. We will be offering free entry to the Museum to Seniors during this week.

Diane White

AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER - 2 NEW BOOKS

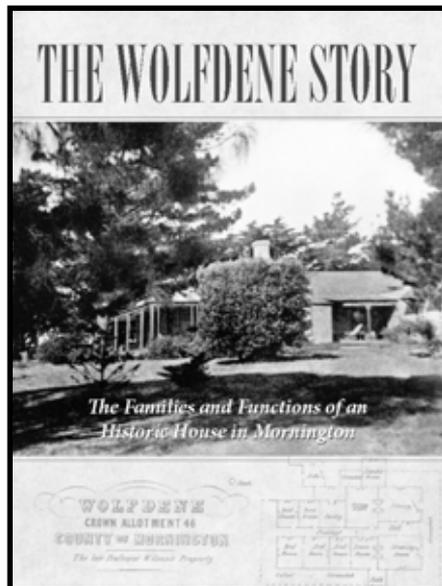
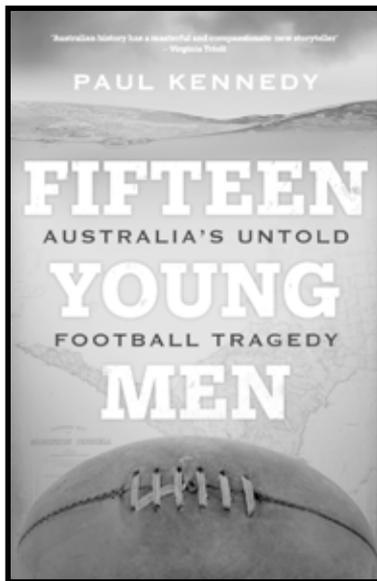
Fifteen Young Men by Paul Kennedy Published by Penguin Random House \$35.00

Paul lives locally and is an ABC News 24 sports presenter. He has been fascinated with the story of the Mornington Football Disaster for many years. He presented a television documentary for the 120th anniversary in 2012 and has found more details while researching for this book.

The Wolfdene Story - The Families and Functions of a Mornington Historic House \$15.00

Written by Joy Cullen in close collaboration with Margaret Fallaw.

Wolfdene, built in 1858 is one of Mornington's earliest buildings and has witnessed the growth of the township for 158 years.



Dates for Your Diary 2016

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

TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 10.30 a.m.
MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE MEETING ROOM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 9.00 a.m.
BUS TRIP TO GOVERNMENT HOUSES \$55

Lunch at your own cost

For bookings ring JANET 03 9787 8685

PAYMENT DUE NOW

PLEASE NOTE: No Coffee Morning in October

SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2.00 p.m. \$10
MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE MEETING ROOM
LESLIE MOORHEAD MEMORIAL LECTURE
THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Researching and finding (or not) the French side of the family
and what it has revealed.

Val and Diane

SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER 1.15 (MAIN GATE) \$5
MORNINGTON CEMETERY WALK

Val will conduct the tour of the pioneer graves.

Comfortable shoes advisable.

Enquiries to Val 5975 2958

Dates for Your Diary 2016

Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203 ABN 7515 1057 105

TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 10.30 \$5

MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE MEETING ROOM

COFFEE MORNING Jane Alexander

A Narrative: The Mornington Peninsula

As the Shire's Manager of Arts and Culture, Jane will give us her perspective of history on our Peninsula. Local Historical Societies come under her job description.

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 12.00

OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Bring along a plate to share

FACEBOOK

Have you found our Facebook page?

You can follow our posts for news about our events.

If you are not on Facebook you can still view our page on www.facebook.com/morningtonhistoricalsociety OR click on the Facebook icon on our website. Don't forget the Mornington Cemetery Pioneers website too.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr D and Mrs J Watts, Ms Rene White and
Ms Estelle Fyffe

We hope you enjoy your membership with us



NEEDLES, THREADS AND WHALEBONES

One of the interesting aspects of putting together this exhibition is that it became apparent that Cornelli braiding was very much the fashion statement over the years. On doing some research on the internet, we found there is much to know about this.

Fancy cotton braid is a technique sometimes known as Cornelli or Soutache. It was used in the 1800s and many a French doll's elaborate clothing had Cornelli wear stitched on for decoration. In China, it was also used - think toggles on a silk pyjama-type jacket. We also found that a type of *passementerie* was popular in the West in the 1940s, particularly in France. Researching *passementerie* we found that this is the art of making elaborate trimming using braid, cord or beads.

Our display shows these techniques, including the lace on the wedding dress.

Source: Wikipedia

THE BATES FAMILY

Alfred E. Bates was born in Manchester England, son of Mr. Robert Jackson Bates, a leading cotton manufacturer in the North of England in 1850. He arrived in Australia in 1875, becoming a commercial traveller for wholesale drug houses for a number of years.

After buying a farm at Moorooduc where he lived for some years the family eventually settled in Mornington. Alfred Bates became a Councillor on the Shire of Mornington and was treasurer of the Mornington Progress Association and also treasurer of the Fire Brigade Committee.

The whole family was heavily involved in the Red Cross, supporting their only son and brother Sgt Robert B. Bates who served with distinction at Gallipoli and in France. Sgt Bates was awarded the Military Medal for bravery at Lone Pine and again in France at Pozières he was awarded a bar to his Military Medal for bravery. Sgt Bates was a Quaker and a pacifist and worked during the war as a stretcher bearer.

The town was shocked when in April 1917 while attempting to cross Main Street, Alfred Bates was knocked down by a motor car and later died. This may have been Mornington's first fatal motor car accident.

The townspeople held Mr. Bates in such high regard a public appeal was held to raise money for a memorial to him. In three weeks 102 subscribers pledged 40 Pounds. A clock was placed on the front of the Mechanics Institute with the inscription

“This clock was erected by public inscription to commemorate the many services rendered to the town by Alfred E. Bates, Esq. J.P. August 1917.”

The Mornington & District Historical Society held an appeal in 2004 to raise funds for the restoration of the clock. The clock can be seen on the left wall of the entrance to the Shire offices to this day.

Val Wilson

NEW ITEMS FOR SALE Available from the Museum

Fridge Magnets Mornington Bathing Box; Girl Posting a letter \$3.00

Postcards:

Old Mornington Seaside \$2.00

Weeroona, Hygeia & Ozone Steamboats \$2.00

Books:

Coastal Guide To Nature & History Port Phillip Bay \$30.00 by
Graham Patterson

*Coastal Guide to Nature & History 2. Mornington Peninsula Ocean
Shore, Westernport, Phillip Island & French Island* by Graham
Patterson

Children's books:

Koala Lee Lee's Mornington By The Bay \$19.95 by Amanda Keast

The Train At Balnarring \$15.00 by Nani

Bert The Blacksmith \$15.00 by Nani



Main St as it was at the time of the 1892 Football Disaster

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