

MORNINGTON  
& DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

November 2015

Newsletter No. 271

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Work has commenced on restoring the external timber work on the Museum building. Hopefully our Christmas visitors will see a building which is well cared for and spruced up with a lick of paint.

You will see on page 4 the list of your new committee. We welcome Joy and Peter Last and hope they enjoy their time with us.

In the last few months we have been host to a number of school visits both Primary and Secondary. The new History Curriculum recommends that students should study a famous person or some major event in their local area by using the resources available in their neighbourhood. We are very pleased to offer our services to this end.

We will be having three more cruise ship visits at the start of next year. Watch the local papers for the dates.

So far we have presented three Helen Broad History Prizes. You can see the photo of Dawn with the Toorak College recipient, Sienna Scott on the facing page.

Our annual History Week Mornington Cemetery Tour was well attended. We counted about 55 people and even had some children this time. Many thanks to Val yet again for guiding us and keeping the audience spellbound. Many stayed on to chat over a cuppa.

Our Leslie Moorhead Lecture was given by Felicity Teague speaking about her great aunt, the artist Violet Teague and her mural in St. James the Less Church. This was part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the church. I also gave a lecture at the church on the history of Mt. Eliza.

If you are in Mornington Park have a look at the newly opened Rotunda and interpretive centre with information to complement our Avenue of Honour. The band will use it for concerts and it will be available for other groups. You may see we have contributed to some of the bricks in the new paving.

Wishing you all compliments of the season and a happy and healthy 2016.

*Diane White*



*Dawn with recipient Sienna Scott of Toorak College*



*Felicity Teague with Violet's mural in the background*

# Dates for Your Diary 2015

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

**TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST 10.30 am \$5**

## **COFFEE MORNING**

**Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room**

Graham Patterson author of *Coastal Guide to Nature and History*:  
Port Phillip Bay and another on Western Port Bay.

**TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 10.30 am**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room**

Please note that this is the 3rd Tuesday.

Your committee will report on the activities and financial status  
of the Society

## **VICTORIAN HISTORY WEEK**

**SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 1.30 \$5**

### **MORNINGTON CEMETERY WALK**

We follow award winning Val Wilson OAM as she tells us about  
the people on the headstones

Includes afternoon tea afterwards.

**THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 5.00 pm \$10**

### **LESLIE MOORHEAD LECTURE**

**ST. JAMES THE LESS CHURCH MT ELIZA for its 150TH**

Felicity Teague will speak about the work of her great aunt,  
Violet and her mural in St. James the Less church. Refreshments  
included. Limited tickets. Telephone Dawn 5977 0027

# Dates for Your Diary 2015

Museum Phone ( 03) 5976 3203 ABN 7515 1057 105

## COMMITTEE FOR 2015/16

President: Diane White  
Vice President: Janet Groves  
Secretary: Dawn Fisher  
Treasurer: Vicky Sapkin  
Committee: Val Wilson OAM  
Derek Smith  
Bob and Margaret Race  
David Price OAM  
Joy and Peter Last

## CONGRATULATIONS JANET GROVES!

Janet has been a member of the Historical Society for 50 years. Her father Charles, who was the Society's Treasurer, joined her up in 1965.

### FACEBOOK

Mornington & District Historical Society now has a Facebook Page!

If you are on Facebook please 'like' us so you can follow our posts for news about our events, items in our collection and history of the area.

If you aren't on Facebook you can still view this page on [www.facebook.com/morningtondistricthistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/morningtondistricthistoricalsociety) OR click on the Facebook icon on our website

## LAUNCH OF MAIN STREET AUDIO TOUR

Last Friday week Bruce Billson MP (member for Dunkley) launched the audio tour as the final part of the Main Street Walk plaques/brochure/audio tour project. Because we held it at the Museum, space was limited and we invited the businesses which occupy the historic buildings along Main Street. We are sorry we couldn't invite everyone.

There are a couple of ways you can access this audio tour. Firstly if you are passing the plaques, we have affixed a QR code to them. If you have a mobile device and it is internet active, you can download a QR Code Reader app from your app store. Alternatively, you can go to our website and listen and also have a look at images.



*Bruce Billson and Michael Collins downloading the audio tour from the plaque outside the OPO*



*Our bricks in Mornington  
Park near the new  
bandstand.*

## **RESEARCH**

A short time ago we were contacted by Noelle Jones regarding the architect Leonard Flannagan. She was researching his work for the Melbourne Tramway Museum. We gave her access to the research papers by Maureen Tregonning on Mr. Flannagan's time in Mornington.

Leonard Flannagan moved to Bath Street Mornington and became a valuable member of the community. He served on the Mornington Council for a number of years and was Shire President in 1918. He was also on the Foreshore Committee and the Mornington Progress Association. All of this while maintaining his architectural practice in Melbourne. He designed the Mornington Fire Brigade building which the Country Fire Brigade used as the prototype for brigade buildings throughout Victoria. He designed the Railway Store for J. Hall on the corner of Bath and Main Streets, and also designed a number of Mornington's houses.

Noelle found that although Leonard only spent ten years designing for the Tramways Board, he left a large legacy of buildings, particularly the tram shelters which can still be seen. If you go to <http://hawthorntramdepot.org.au/papers/flannagan.htm> you can see the paper Noelle has produced about our Leonard Flannagan.

When Joy and Peter Last visited the Somme earlier this year, they were moved by this poem. You may have heard *In Flanders Fields* read in Mornington on Remembrance Day, but since this year is the 100th Anniversary of the Great War, we publish it here for you to read:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*John McCrae, May 1915*

**FOR SALE** Contact the Museum:

**The Names on the MORNINGTON HONOUR ROLL  
Who were they?** By Val Wilson \$20

**A Journey Along Balcombe Creek** by Winty Calder  
\$45.00

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