

MAIN STREET MORNINGTON

Heritage Walk



Grand Hotel, Mornington (Two minutes walk from station.) Phone No. 1.

(Under New Management.)

Garage and Billiard Room.

E. HARRIS, Proprietress.

The above conveniently situated and popular Hostelry leaves nothing wanting to please local patrons and visitors from other parts.

Bathing Box at Fisherman's Bend.

Special Attention given to Country Orders the Bottle Department being up-to-date and supplied with only the best brands of Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors at Market Rates.

Commodious Diningroom, and the Cuisine is under Expert Direction

PLAZA MORNINGTON



THE GAYEST and JAZZ MELODY
RESERVATIONS AT PLAZA CAFE

MAIN STREET MORNINGTON

HERITAGE WALK



**Mornington & District
Historical Society Inc**



**MORNINGTON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**This brochure has been printed by the
Chamber of Commerce, Mornington
to commemorate (150 years) of the
declaration of the township of
Mornington 1861-2011.**

Text and photographs from the
Mornington & District Historical Society Inc.
Collection.

Records and photos may be viewed in
Old Post Office Museum
Cnr. Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington

Open: Sundays and Public Holidays
1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Wednesdays (during school holidays)
11 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

Other times by appointment

MAIN STREET MORNINGTON

HERITAGE WALK



Main Street, Mornington c1910

MORNINGTON

The area was frequented by the Boonwurrung/Bunurong people and visited by Matthew Flinders in 1802. The first European settlers entered the area in the 1840s seeking timber and fish and taking up pastoral leases.

A Government survey in 1854 of the area called Schnapper Point, after the headland, allowed for land sales. The township declared Mornington in 1861, was named after the 2nd Earl of Mornington who had been British Foreign Secretary. Mornington quickly became the major commercial and legal centre for townships and rural communities across the Peninsula.

By the time this photo looking down Main Street was taken c1910, Mornington had become a popular Bayside destination for holiday makers. Steamers called at the jetty and the train had been running daily since 1889. The road to Frankston was soon to bring the first motorists and buses, replacing the Cobb and Co. coaches.

Today's Main Street reflects the changing times over its history. This leaflet takes you on a walk of sites of historical interest as shown by the plaques placed on significant buildings.

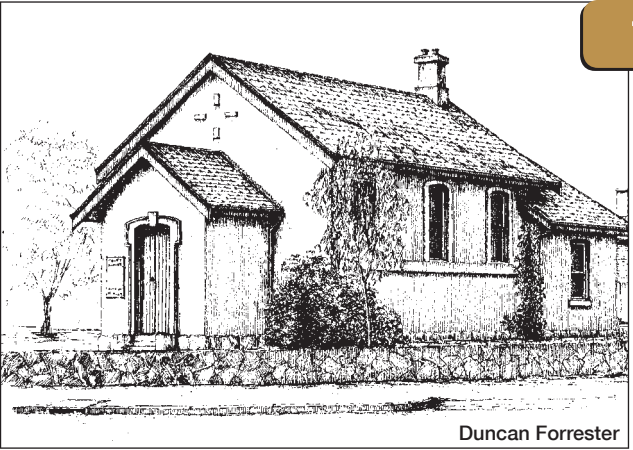


Paddle Steamer at Mornington Pier c1930s



GUIDE TO PLAQUE SITES

- 1** Court House & Lock Up
- 2** Mornington Coffee Palace
- 3** Commercial Bank
- 4** Blake St & Corner
- 5** Railway Store
- 6** The Grand Hotel
- 7** Main St South
- 8** Old Fire Station
- 9** Plaza Cafe
- 10** Bradford Dairy
- 11** Livery & Coaching Stables
- 12** Oriental Bank & Allchin's Store
- 13** Males Butchery and the Hairdressers
- 14** Cottage/Billiard Room/Shop
- 15** Mechanic's Institute & RSL Club
- 16** Federal House
- 17** Old Post Office
- 18** State Savings Bank



Duncan Forrester

COURT HOUSE & LOCK UP

Corner of Main Street and Esplanade

Built by William Vaughan & Co in 1860 and extended in 1862, this is the oldest public building in Mornington and initially served the entire Peninsula. It remained the Mornington Court of Petty Sessions until 1988.

From the earliest years, cases typically involved drunkenness, larceny and by-laws and later motoring offences.

The Lock-Up served as a jail from 1862 until 1882. Subsequently it was used principally for holding people in custody overnight or during court sessions.

SNAPPER POINT.
NOTICE is hereby given that a Court of Petty Sessions will
be held at the Court House, Snapper Point, every Satur-
day, at the hour of Twelve o'clock at noon, commencing on the
19th instant.
(By Order) **WILLIAM ARMSTRONG,**
Clerk of Petty Sessions.
Court House,
Snapper Point, 16th January, 1861.
No. 10.—JANUARY 22, 1861.—3.

Gazette notice

Main St Mornington

2

Main St with Coffee Palace in 1930s



MORNINGTON COFFEE PALACE

28 – 30 Main Street

Built in the late 1800s, it was owned by Mr and Mrs Robertson and run as a cafe and small boarding house. At one stage, it was called *Clifton House*. By the start of the First World War it had been converted into the town's newsagency, carrying stationery, books, fancy goods, toys, cottons & silks. It also became an agency for gramophone records in the 1920s.

The Wood family ran it together with a subscription library until the Penders took over in 1924. After the newsagency moved further up Main Street in the early 1950s the building continued to house various retail businesses.

The upper storey windows and parapet are original but the ground floor façade has been altered over time.

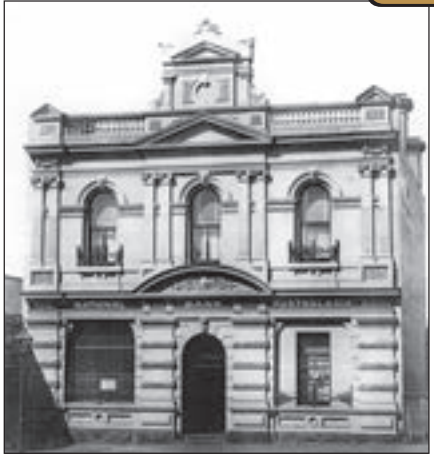


COMMERCIAL BANK

3

62 Main Street

Designed in the Italian Renaissance style by Melbourne architect George Jobbins, it was built c1890, for the Commercial Bank of Australasia, as revealed by the signage above the entrance.



Colonial Bank c1919

For some years it served as a boarding house before being taken over by the Colonial Bank of Australia around 1910 when they moved from their inadequate premises opposite.

The building has been modified over the years and no longer has its original parapet or lower windows. The upper floor was the Manager's residence until 1970. The high-ceilinged ground floor was the banking chamber.

It remained a branch of the Colonial Bank of Australia until a merger with the National Bank of Australasia in 1918. It was the Mornington branch of the National Bank until 1986 when this was moved to 107 Main Street.

**THE
Colonial Bank of Australasia
LIMITED,
MORNINGTON.**

IN connection with this branch DROMANA will be visited on

TUESDAY & THURSDAY
in each week for the transaction of
Banking Business of every description.

J. L. FAIRBAIRN,
Manager.

Main St Mornington

4

Mornington Railway Station



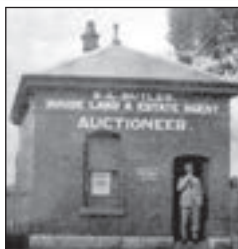
BLAKE STREET & CORNER

Blake Street connected the Railway Station to Main Street when the railway came to Mornington in 1889. From the early 1900s there was a store on the corner of Railway Grove offering real estate and cab services. Later the Misses Beattie offered refreshments and a library. A Railway waiting room for ladies was also in Blake

Street. On the opposite side was a solicitor's office, a jeweler and a bakehouse which supplied the cake shop on Main Street. There was a bulk goods and loading area for the grocery store on the corner of Main Street.

If You Are Thinking of Buying
A Watch
and would like Expert Advice, go to
W. T. SACH
BLAKE STREET, MORNINGTON
(Near Railway Station)
He will advise you to buy one from him,
and maintain that you cannot do
better anywhere.

—TERMINUS—
Lending Library
BLAKE STREET MORNINGTON
Misses Beattie
WISH to notify the Public that they
have opened a LENDING
LIBRARY, stocked with—
All The Latest Books
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, 10/-
Try It This Winter



Butler Real Estate No. 66

On the north side intersecting Main Street the present group of shops was built in 1931/2; Wilson & Livock grocers occupied both corners when they relocated their drapery, haberdashery and apparel departments, operating there until the 1950s. Originally, No. 66 was a stand-alone building dating back to c1900 as an estate agency. The entrance and interior survive intact.

The corner shop still has the original pressed metal ceiling under the verandah and a leadlight glass frieze.



RAILWAY STORE

70 Main Street

Built in 1916 by local architect Leonard Flannagan, *The Peninsula Post* described this new general store as “one of the most noteworthy buildings erected in Mornington for some years”. It was called The Railway Store - the station was at the end of Blake Street. Wilson took over the business from J. Hall in 1922.

In the late 1930s Wilson and Livock's drapery department was transferred into the store on the opposite corner of Blake Street to allow the grocery section to be enlarged. This was Mornington's main department store in the 1900s. It was sold to Crofts grocery chain in the early 1950s. The drapery business lapsed at the end of its lease.

Wilson Co. & Livock

Railway Stores, Mornington.

PHONE 18

Drapery Section

A Few Special Lines:

Damask 50in. Wide, pretty check Pattern, 2/3 yd.
Cream Damask, 54in. wide, 1-11 yd. Extra Special.

Strong Knitted Working Sox (Wool and Cotton Mixture), 1/2 pair.
Working Trousers, C. Tweed, hard wearing, sizes 5, 6, 7 7-11
Zephyrs, pretty check designs, 27in. wide, suitable for Children's
Dresses, Rompers, etc., -9d. yd.

White Towels, 1 yd. long, 10 3/4d. each; 42in. long, good quality, 1/6
Colored Towels, 1 yd. long, 11 3/4d. each.

Ladies' Vests (wool and cotton), full size, 2/7 1/2d. each.

Special Line of Corsets, strongly made, sizes 22 to 25, easily worth 5/6.

Special price 3/11.

It will be worth your while to watch this Space for our SPECIAL LINES each month.

Grocery, Crockery & Ironmongery.

In these Departments we are Carrying Large Stocks of All Seasonable Lines.

Produce Department

Get Our Quote for Bran, Pollard and Chaff before purchasing elsewhere.

Cash Buyers of Eggs, Butter and all Produce Lines.

Main St Mornington

6



THE GRAND HOTEL *124 Main Street*

Built in 1889, this building began as the Grand Coffee Palace, one of many such establishments encouraged by the Temperance Movement. The architect was William Pitt who had designed the Windsor Hotel in Melbourne. The original building had three bays beneath a central tower and steeple with an arched carriageway to Swift's stables behind.

Cornelius Crowley was the first owner. He also owned the Cricketer's Arms Hotel next door. This was built in 1868 with a decorative parapet of finials and urns. The liquor licence was transferred in the early 1890s from the Arms to the Coffee Palace which was then renamed the Grand Hotel. The Cricketer's Arms building then became a car hire and coach depot before being replaced by a furniture store in the late 1940s and then various businesses over the years.

The Grand was expanded to its current size in 1919. The tower has always been a landmark feature in the town. The current design, constructed in 1987, is the third. The building retains its original distinctive French Renaissance revival style roof and some internal features.

Grand Hotel, Mornington
(TWO MINUTES WALK FROM STATION.)
(Under New Management.)
Garage and Billiard Room.
E. HARRIS, Proprietress.
The above conveniently situated and popular Hostelry
leaves nothing wanting to please local patrons and
visitors from other parts.
Bathing Box at Fisherman's Bend.
Special Attention given to Country Orders the Bottle Department being
up-to-date and supplied with only the best brands of Wines, Spirits,
and Malt Liquors at Market Rates.
Commodious Diningroom, and the Cuisine is under Expert Direction



MAIN STREET SOUTH

The southern end of Main Street beyond Barkly Street was sparsely populated until the 1970s. There was one substantial general business selling groceries and drapery on Vale Street corner in the 1920s (Fosters then Gaults). Little's grocery operated on the western side near Barkly Street corner from 1928 -40.

On the eastern corner of Barkly Street was the major timber and hardware business established by builder and early resident William Grover. His son Joseph, builder and undertaker, occupied an adjacent property in Barkly Street. These businesses were purchased by John Summerland prior to the First World War but were demolished in the late 1970s.

Gault's Stores

FARMERS
TO SAVE DELAY
ORDER YOUR
FERTILIZER
FOR THE COMING SEASON
NOW
GAULT'S STORES
139-196 MAIN STREET, MORNINGTON
PHONE 228, 281

MARCH 1928

E. A. Little
GROCER

Main Street, Mornington Near Barkly Street Phone 33

Orders Called For and Delivered

PROMPT ATTENTION OUR MOTTO: QUALITY FIRST

Note: Not Sale Prices, but genuine reductions

MORNINGTON TIMBER YARD.

John R. Summerland
Builder, Contractor & Timber Merchant
And Ironmonger.

Large Stocks of all Building Materials, Baltic Hardwood, Red Gum, Palings
Paints, Oils, Colors, Window Glass, Fencing Materials.

LIME, CEMENT, etc.

FUNERALS promptly conducted on shortest notice.



OLD FIRE STATION

137 Main Street

The Mornington Urban Fire Brigade was formed at a meeting in the Mechanics Hall in 1917 and the fire station was erected in 1919 by public subscription. The building was designed by local architect L.J. Flanagan and built by local builder Thomas Green.

Volunteers were summoned by a bell erected on a tower on the left hand side of the building. The design of this two-bay building was so well thought of by the Country Fire Brigade Board that they adopted it as the standard for all country fire stations.

It remained the premises of the Mornington Fire Brigade until 1969 when a new station was built near Elizabeth Street.



Plaza cafe



PLAZA CAFE

115 Main Street (plaque is inside 115 Cafe Bar)

This cafe was established in the early 1930s next door to the Plaza Theatre (now demolished), which had relocated from the Mechanics Hall to the new cinema building. An advertisement in *The Peninsula Post* invited customers: "When you are at the Pictures these cold nights, dash into Waller's for a hot malted milk or a hot Beefine (beef tea). Price 6d. Our pies are known all over the Peninsula".

The cafe took bookings for the Theatre which was also used for dances and other entertainments.

At one time an estate agent occupied this shop.

The original moulded metal ceiling has been retained.



Main St Mornington

10

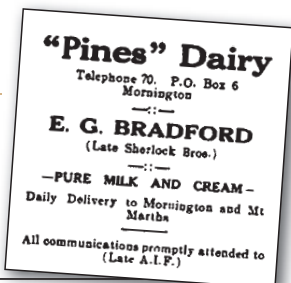
BRADFORD DAIRY

79/81 Main Street

A dairy occupied this site in the early 1900s. In 1928, E.G. 'Barney' Bradford, a First World War veteran, bought the business from the Sherlock brothers, calling it "Pines" Dairy, delivering milk in Mornington and Mt Martha.

In 1936 he renovated the building which still retains some of the original art deco details in the tiling, the metal window frames and the decoration on the parapet. He continued his business until 1950.

As you continue down the street, you will also notice a water fountain in Empire Mall. This was relocated to Empire Mall from the entrance to Mornington Park at the end of Main Street. This was given to the township as a gift in 1924 by Jane Balcombe Murphy in memory of her father, Alexander Balcombe of the Briars.



Balcombe Fountain originally at the entrance to Mornington Park

G. Daw & Son 1913

11

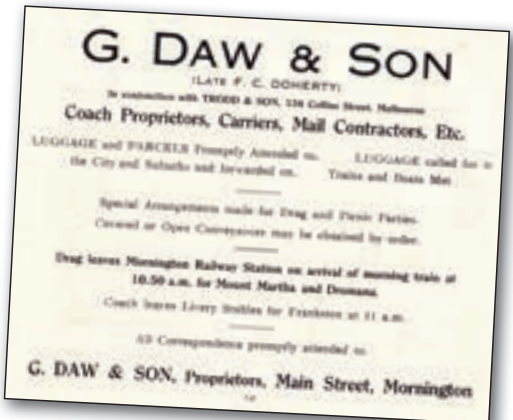


LIVERY & COACHING STABLES

65 Main Street

These stables offered a coach and carrying service to the rest of the Peninsula. The business evolved during the 1920s into a motor garage as cars began to replace the horse and cart. From the rear the original roof and back wall of this galvanised iron building are still to be seen.

A grocery store was later built on part of the site which Bill Pratt subsequently converted to Mornington's first self-service grocery store in the 1950s after a visit to the United States. Pratts stores later became the Safeway supermarket chain in Australia.



Main St Mornington

12

ORIENTAL BANK & ALLCHIN'S STORE

Pioneer resident Thomas Allchin constructed this building with bricks made from his clay pit on the lower corner of his Sutton Grange Estate. He leased the building to The Oriental Bank which traded there from 1875 to 1880.

The building was later converted into retail premises becoming Herb Dickinson's The Point Furnishing store in 1923 and then The Point Hardware store for many years. The



Oriental Bank – 51 Main Street

building now reveals little of its former appearance except for the characteristic splayed corner and rectangular upper level double-hung windows.

On the opposite corner is the site of Allchin's store which Thomas Allchin began in 1859, adding a second storey in 1872. It grew to become a major general store run by his wife Sarah. Goods were brought from Melbourne by Allchin's ketches *Maggie* and *Governor Latrobe*.

Following the Allchins, it was run in succession by Nunn, Higgs, Doult and then Fyffe before finally becoming Croagh's delicatessen.

The building was demolished to make way for the Commonwealth Bank in the early 1960s.



Allchin's store c1900 – 45 to 47 Main St



Duncan Forrester

MALES BUTCHERY AND THE HAIRDRESSERS

39 Main Street

Built in the late 1800s, this was one of several butchers shops in the town. First occupied by James Smith Adams, it was purchased by Tom Male in 1918. The Male family owned the business for over 30 years. They had a slaughter-yard in Bentons Rd, Moorooduc.

Behind the shop were stables as deliveries were made by horse and cart. The shop front of plate glass windows was surrounded by tiles on which 'Male' was moulded. The sign 'Butcher' painted originally on the external brick wall can still be seen in the adjacent shop (No. 41).

The adjoining building (No 43) was added in 1934 by Tom Male to enable his friend Alf Sexton to continue his hairdressing business. It has continued to operate for more than 70 years, making it the oldest continuing retail business in Mornington.

PREMIER BUTCHERY.
Mornington Meat Supply.
T. MALE, Junr. 
BUTCHER, Main Street, Mornington.

HAVING PURCHASED the above old-established business and goodwill from Mr. F. C. DOHERTY begs to notify that he has secured the services of a competent staff, and hopes to meet the requirements of the trade satisfactorily in every detail. SUPPLY CARTS TO MOOROODUC and SOMERVILLE, on the usual regular service.

Prime Beef and Best Mutton at Moderate Rates

Prices Reduced To Suit the Times.
 Families Waited On Regularly For Orders.

Main St Mornington

14

COTTAGE/BILLIARD ROOM/ SHOPS

37 Main Street

This cottage is the last remnant of its type and was used as both a business and a residence. For many years Alf Sexton ran his hairdressers here before moving next door to Males Butcher shop. The building at the rear was a billiard room.

The shops (Nos. 27-35) in this section of Main Street were built in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Some still have period fixtures such as ornate ceilings, remains of pressed metal ceilings, stained glass features, and wooden floors.

If you turn left into Queen Street, you will reach St. Peters Church which was built in 1861. Inside there are some lovely stained glass windows dedicated to Mornington people and families. Returning to Main Street...



**Premier Hairdressing Saloon
and Tobacconist's Shop.**
Main Street, Mornington.

J. E. Lomax

(Late of Malvern)

HAS pleasure in announcing that he has purchased the business so long and successfully carried on by Mr. J. N. Groves.

**A First-class Stock of Toilet
Requisites to select from.**

**THE HAIRDRESSING SALOON is
under the supervision of MR. A.
SEXTON (late A.I.F.) formerly of
Lewin's, City.**

Pipes, Tobaccos and Cigars.

**A New Shipment of Barling Pipes just
to hand at City prices.**



Former Billiard room



St. Peter's
Church
3 Queen Street



MECHANIC'S INSTITUTE & RSL CLUB

Corner of Queen and Main Streets

Designed by Thomas Watts & Sons, The Mechanics Institute building was funded from public subscriptions and opened New Year's Eve 1885. It comprised a large hall for up to 300 people, a reading room and a library.

For over 70 years the Mechanics Hall, as it was popularly called, was the cultural and entertainment centre for the Mornington community, where public meetings, concerts, theatricals and dances took place. It was also the town's picture theatre for many years until The Plaza was opened in the 1930s. In 1962 it was turned into the Shire Offices and only the façade remains.

The adjacent Mornington Memorial building was built in 1922 for the local branch of the Returned Soldiers League with money raised from the public in memory of those who had fallen in the First World War.



You will notice the Westminster Bollard. The bollard was originally located at the top of the steps which led down to the River Thames from Millbank Prison, from where convicts would start their transportation to Australia. This was presented to the Mornington Shire to commemorate its centenary in 1993 by the City of Westminster, London.

It should be noted that Victoria and Mornington were settled by free citizens.



13 Main Street

Built in the late 1880s, the Federal Cash Store was run for many years by Robert Nunn, selling groceries, wines and spirits. The building also included a bakery. There was a residence above with a fine wrought iron verandah. Robert Nunn was a highly-regarded businessman who became Shire President. Subsequently the store was converted into a guest house to meet the burgeoning holiday trade.

In the early 1940s, it was advertised as a boarding house but also catered for weddings and offered meals. Bungalows were added in the back garden and the lounge on the first floor was also used as a meeting room. In 1949 as New Federal House it

still maintained its original facade. In the 1950s it became The Federal Cafe.





Post Office Mornington, 1910

OLD POST OFFICE

Corner of Main Street and Esplanade

Designed by William Wardell in Palladian Italian Renaissance style in polychrome brick and now covered with a cement render, it was built in 1863/4. Originally this fine building had a gabled entry porch and small verandah on its west-facing wall. Inside is the original expansive wooden counter and fireplace and other fittings.

The building replaced the original telegraph office which had been opened in 1861. The mail arrived from Melbourne by boat and was brought up from the pier by horse and cart to be sorted. Mornington's first telephone exchange opened in this building in 1905.

The Post Office was transferred to new premises in 1963/64. This building was reopened in 1968

as a museum, exhibiting many objects tracing the history of the Mornington district as well as postal and communications memorabilia.



Posted in 1857 from Schnapper Point (Mornington), Victoria



Duncan Forrester

STATE SAVINGS BANK

787 Esplanade

The bank and residence was built by J.C. Caldwell in Swiss chalet style and completed in 1912. Electric lighting was installed in 1923 .

The State Savings Bank was known as “The Farmers Bank” as it became a key source of farm finance, which was important for the largely rural community of the Peninsula. In 1954 the Bank moved to new premises in Main Street. It has been occupied by a variety of businesses including the first offices of the Mornington Crime Investigation Unit in 1977.

Much of the original interior is preserved, including the pressed metal ceilings and the old fireplaces.

State Savings Bank of Victoria

THE FARMERS' BANK !

Credit Foncier Loans on
Farm Properties.

Two-Thirds of Valuation up
to £2,000 at 6 per cent.

Repayable over 27½ years,
£3 15s. half-yearly for each
£100.

Special Terms for **Returned
Soldiers, Dependents, Red
Cross and Transport Workers.**

Three-Fourths of Valuation
up to £2,000 at 5¼ per cent.

Repayable over 30¼ years,
£1 15s. quarterly for each
£100.

**Application Forms at any 'State' Savings Bank
or by writing to Inspector-General.**

Head Office, State Savings Bank,
Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

GEO. E. EMERY,
Inspector-General.

Other Notable Sights

Close to Main Street are the following buildings and monuments of historical significance which you might also like to visit:



Former St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (1867)

Now a restaurant
cnr. Barkly St.
and Waterloo Place



Memorial Park

Commemorating those
who served in all wars,
cnr Barkly St. and Empire St.



The Toy Library

An old cottage,
Albert St.



The Vicarage (1863)

Now private property Cnr.
Ross St. and Drake St.



The Monument to the Football Disaster (1892)

Cnr. Esplanade and
Schnapper Point Drive



Mornington Park

With Avenue of Honour,
Matthew Flinders statue
and Band Pavilion

PLAN

of the Subdivision of

SECTIONS 19, 23, 24, and part of 27 & 28.

Township of **MORNINGTON**, *Schnapper Point.*

having frontages to the

GRAND ESPLANADE

and

PORT PHILLIP BAY.



Mornington & District
Historical Society Inc



MORNINGTON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE