

# MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

## NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Newsletter No. 306



## President's Report

We are now into our 61st Year. So, Happy New Year. Keep well everyone and do come and join us at our coffee mornings - the more the better.

Can I ask you to spruik the benefits of belonging to the Historical Society. If you can try this on anyone who has recently retired. It is a great way to find purpose and meet new people when the colleagues from the workplace are no longer there every day. We can fill the gap and offer great activities and guest speakers to keep the mind in good condition.

I hope you had a look at the back page of the newsletter and saw the different businesses who have offered their support to us. We are extremely grateful and ask that if you are looking at using their services, please support them and tell them that you are members of the Historical Society.

I do hope you will be interested in the guest speakers we have secured so far. You may recall Mary Rudd's talk on the Yolgnu people of Arnhem Land, N.T. Mary is back to show us some of the crafts they make and use. Our very own Joan Simpson has agreed to speak to us to expand the story we published in an earlier newsletter on the evacuation of children in London during World War 11. Joan gave this talk to Probus and there was not a dry eye left in the house. A box of tissues will be provided! Our speaker for April is to be confirmed. Please, if you have any ideas for other people we could ask to share their passion or knowledge on historical events or items, speak to me or call me on 0403 077 053.

It was in the last newsletter - our next day trip is to Libby's new place in Outtrim, Gippsland. The township has a rich history in mining which she is keen to tell us all about. See the Dates to Remember in our centrefold for more details.

We are hoping to have the Museum roof and any leaks fixed this year. Can you all keep your fingers crossed that this will come to realisation?

We hope you enjoy the photos and the piece Val has written on the Fire Brigade Demonstrations/Competition which was held at Mornington. Your question as to what was the tower in the park or the bitumenized 'runway' was used for can now be answered so you can share your knowledge with others who ask.

Do you have a story about your family or an historical event (not necessarily of Mornington) you would be happy to see published, again, contact me. 0403 077 053

*Diane White*

## Mornington Fire Brigade in the 1950's & 60's

Victorian Fire Brigade Volunteers State Championships are one of Victoria's proudest and longest traditions, running for many years.

The State Championships have been held annually since 1874, when the first State Championship was held in Melbourne, The only cancellations have been due to World War 1, World War 11 and the Covid pandemic.

In the 1950's the rural State Championships were developed to reflect the unique skills of rural brigades.

The Competitions started out as 'Demonstrations' with the introduction of hose reels into the fire service in the mid 1800's. This was to assist in getting hose and other equipment to the scene of the fire faster. Brigades soon found that competing with other brigades improved their firefighting training and efficiency.

When it was Mornington's turn it was time to gather down at Mornington Park with the training track and the water tower standing ready for the competitions to start.

Finishing the day with a spectacular torchlight procession through the town.

Great memories in the photos and of some of our locals of the time.



Waiting their turn. In the distance, the courthouse, the old post office, the petrol station behind the tree.



A fire truck with a bell and reel.



Now for their turn to pull the hose reel cart.



The competition track with the tower in full glory. That is Holcomb House on the Esplanade in the background.

## Christmas Luncheon and Other Activities

If you were not able to be at our Members Christmas Luncheon, I can inform you that our door prize of an overflowing hamper was won by Frank Green - I can confirm that it wasn't rigged when Frank pulled his own ticket out. We all had jolly good laugh at the circumstance.

Here are some pics of the day plus some of the trip to Sorrento Museum and Watt's Cottage with a side trip to the 1803 First Settlement site. Thank you Barbara for your documentation.



MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

## Dates for Your Diary 2025

Website: [www.morningtondistricthistory.org.au](http://www.morningtondistricthistory.org.au)

Follow us on Facebook Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203

*Visitors warmly welcomed. Why not bring along a friend and introduce them to the Historical Society? The more the merrier. Come and join us.*

**Tues February 11th, 10.30am - \$10**

### COFFEE MORNING

St. Mark's Church Friendship Room  
- Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place  
Mary Rudd is joining us again, this time to show us some of the crafts and artefacts the Yolgnu people of Arnhem Land make and use.

**Tuesday March 11th, 10.30am - \$10**

### COFFEE MORNING

St. Mark's Church Friendship Room  
- Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place  
Our own Joan Simpson will take us back to London in war times during Operation Pied Piper. You may have read some of this story in an earlier newsletter but Joan has more to tell and some things to show.

Tissues will be at hand.

**March 8th**

### International Womens' Day

We, along with the other Historical Societies on the Mornington Peninsula have contributed stories about women who did extraordinary things.

A big mural will be installed outside the front of the Council Chambers in Mornington.

Make sure you have a look and look out for any other activities around this. It will be on display until June. We will give you details either in the newsletter or have a look in the local paper or the Shire's Local History webpage.

**Thursday March 27**

### BUS TRIP TO OUTTRIM, SOUTH GIPPSLAND

My apologies, I got this wrong last newsletter, from the date to the cost. Can we start again please? The above date is the correct one. It will cost \$50, which includes the cost of the bus and Libby's Luscious Lunch. The only extra cost will be morning tea at Korumburra on the way. We will need to leave at 9am sharp as it is an hour and half trip. The bus leaves the Waterloo Place car park behind the Aldi shopping centre.

Returning to Mornington by 4pm

Please contact Edna to book  
0409 795 119  
or email: [kaedlowe@gmail.com](mailto:kaedlowe@gmail.com)

**Tuesday April 8th, 10.30am - \$10**

### COFFEE MORNING

Speaker to be confirmed.

## Recipes From The Past

Do you have a glut of cucumbers or zucchini? You can use either. Here is an old recipe to give you a pickle for cheese or cold meats.

### Bread and Butter Pickle

- 2 Kg cucumbers or zucchini
- 3 medium onions
- 1 green or red pepper
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 1/2 tsb. salt
- 1/2 ltr. cold water
- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 cups cider vinegar
- 1 tsp. mustard seeds
- 1 tsp turmeric

Slice the unsealed cucumbers/ zucchini finely. Slice the onions and pepper. Tie the garlic

in muslin. Make a brine with the salt and cold water and soak all veg. in basin for at least 3 hours. Drain well and put in preserving pan with the remaining ingredients. Heat to boiling stirring occasionally to dissolve sugar. Remove the garlic and pour into warmed dried jars and seal immediately.

Next newsletter a recipe from the CWA Cookbook and Household Hints



### 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.

### DIGITAL NEWSLETTER



We are wondering whether you have given any thought to receiving the Newsletter in digital form via email? The one advantage is that it will be in glorious colour. If you would like to partake of this, could you please email Dawn to let her know dawnfisher@live.com.au

*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.*

*Thank you to Chris Crewther MP for printing this newsletter.*

*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 12.30 - 3.00pm Sundays or by appointment

Donations to the Historical Society of \$2 or more are tax deductible

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