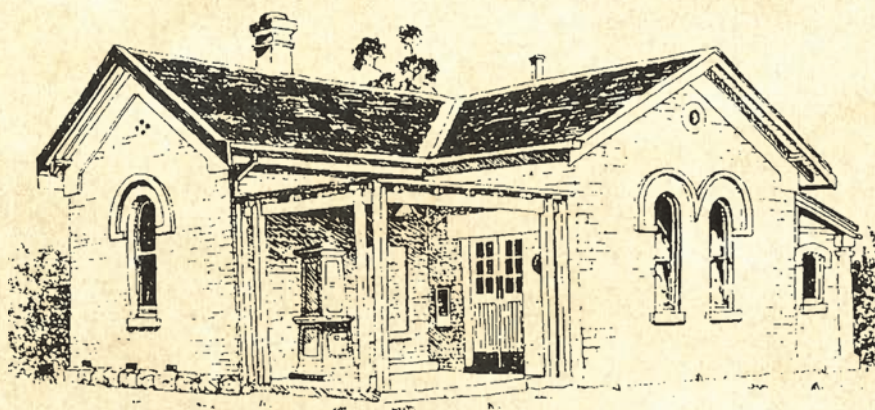


MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Newsletter No. 312



President's Report

While we have had the Museum closed, some of us have been busy trying to tidy up the Museum so that we can find things in the collection and determine whether we need to keep everything. With all the works done on the building and having to move out and back again, some items have been put in places of convenience - just not organised.

Going along with this, the Shire has funded a report on our collection, how it is housed, how better to make use of the limited space we have and looking at the significance of it.

We have only just received this so we will need time to have a look and consider it.

We are experimenting with opening the Museum on Saturdays not Sundays. The Museum will again be open to the public from Saturday 5th September. Nepean Historical Society has changed their day to a Saturday and have found it successful. We will be giving this until the end of October and then assess how it has been.

Our Annual General Meeting is in September. As usual, please consider if you would like to be on the committee. The committee does have a lot of camaraderie and fun. If you are interested, you do have to be financial and the nomination forms and any proxy voting forms are available from Dawn 0429 868 844 or dawnfisher@ilive.com.au

And, reminding you that if you haven't paid your membership for this year, could you do so please. Family \$40 single \$30. Colin can accept your membership payment at coffee mornings, or you can pay directly into our account - Bendigo Bank 633 000 • Acct# 162405427

Diane White

MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE

We hope you appreciate that we have been able to keep the fees at this level for a number of years, thanks mainly to all of us volunteering.

Cost per person \$30.00 • Family \$40.00

Direct deposit to bank account preferred • BSB 633 000 • A/c No 162 405 427

Your name as reference please

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to Stuart Moore. We hope you will enjoy your time with us.

Members, please tell your friends about us. Why not bring a friend or two to our next coffee morning?

Development On Beleura Hill

from Maureen Tregonning's research.

This time we are now looking at the area above Tanti Creek, focusing on Bath Street and Marchington Avenue.

Alexander Beatson Balcombe of the *Briars* bought forty two acres of land bounded by Tanti Creek, Esplanade, Barkly Street and Beleura Hill Road in 1873. He sold off parcels of land surrounding Bath Street from 1875.



- 1875 land on east side of Bath Street between Morell (formerly High Street) and Whitby Streets to Joseph Wilmoth.
- 1875 land on the corner of Herbert and Whitby Streets to Cunningham McFarlane.
- 1876 land on east side of Bath Street bordering Barkly Street to a John Sanders Ross.
- 1876 land on west side of Bath Street bounded by the Tanti Creek, Barkly Street and the bottom end of Morell Street to William Miller Irvine.

According to Maureen, the first house to be built was *Mossgiel* named after a farm in Ayrshire and at some time later, *Woorak* (an aboriginal name) at 28 Bath Street.

This Italianate villa was built for the Shire secretary, Henry Erskine Moors in 1889.

We then see Dr. Louis Edgeworth Somers purchasing 8 acres in 1897.



He sold them as building blocks in *Marchington Park Estate* from 1912.

Architect Leonard John Flannagan had established his highly regarded practice in Melbourne but then came to live in Mornington c1914 having purchased

...Continued on Page 5

MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Dates for Your Diary 2026

Website: 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. August 11th 10.30am - \$10

Coffee Morning

St. Mark's Church Friendship Room
Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place

John Karslake and Annie Monichon will talk to us on the history of the BoonWarrung people when the first settlers arrived here.

Tues. October 13th 10.30 - \$10

The Leslie Moorhead Lecture

St. Mark's Church Friendship Room
Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place
Introducing our new member, Stuart Moore. Stuart will share his passion with us about cartographer extraordinaire, sea captain and polymath, Matthew Flinders RN.

Tues. September 8th - 10.30am

62ND AGM OF THE MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

St. Mark's Church Friendship Room
Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place

- To receive the Annual Report for 2025/2026
- To receive the Financial Report for the Financial year
- To Elect of Office Bearers
- To Transact any special business of which notice has been given.
- Reports and Financial Statement for the year 2025/6
- Election of office bearers followed by Morning Tea.

Nomination forms for the committee are available. Proxy forms also from our Secretary - 0429 868 844 email: dawnfisher@live.com.au

OCTOBER - SENIORS AND HISTORY MONTH

The Museum will be open free to Seniors for the month. We will also be participating in the Shire's *Our Stories - Open Weekend* 16th and 17th October



We thank Mornington Mazda for agreeing to be our sponsor.

... *Beleura Hill* story continued from page 3

blocks in 1912. He started to design houses in Bath Street and in Marchington Avenue. At 11 Bath Street, he designed, built and lived in *The Cottage* before moving to *Bona Vista* in View Street in 1925. He designed *Athlone* for builder William Anderson in Marchington Avenue c1916. He designed *Dunmoven* (as shown in our February newsletter) at 737 Esplanade for Melbourne developer Mary Williams, overlooking Fisherman's Beach. Flannagan also designed the first Fire Station on the corner of Main Street and Barkly Street in 1919. He became Shire President in 1918 and was greatly involved in local affairs on the Foreshore Committee, the Progress Association and was instrumental in getting sewerage and electricity to Mornington.

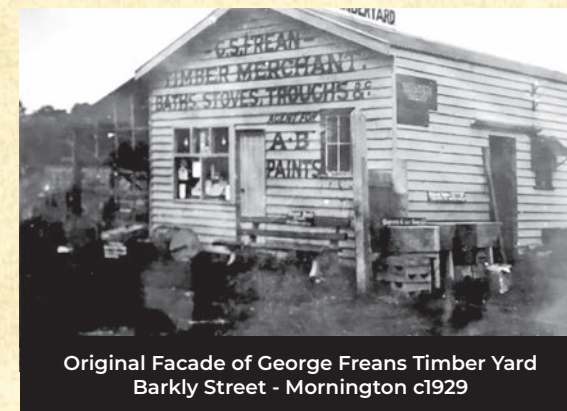
Many of the houses in this area also came with a beach box. *Athlone* was one of these.

Maureen and Colin Tregonning purchased *Athlone* in 1991 and enthusiastically went about restoring it and planting a beautiful English garden.

George Frean opened a timber yard in Barkly Street near the railway gates. His house Glen Alvie was at 36 Bath Street. He too was a good community person, serving on the Foreshore Committee with Flannagan. Later he was joined in the business by John Ride who lived in *The Cottage* at 11 Bath Street.

Thomas Silling was a builder who built houses at 20 and 22 Bath Street. The house and garden at No. 22 is recognised in the Mornington Heritage Study 1994. He used a picture of this house on his business letterhead to advertise his building work.

The Pelling family had a house built on lots 18 and 19 Bath Street in 1926. They had a bicycle business in Main Street. Mrs. Pat Wallis, Stephen Pelling's daughter was still living in the family home up to 1996. *More about this family in our August 2022 newsletter - if you still have a copy, if not, it is on the website.*



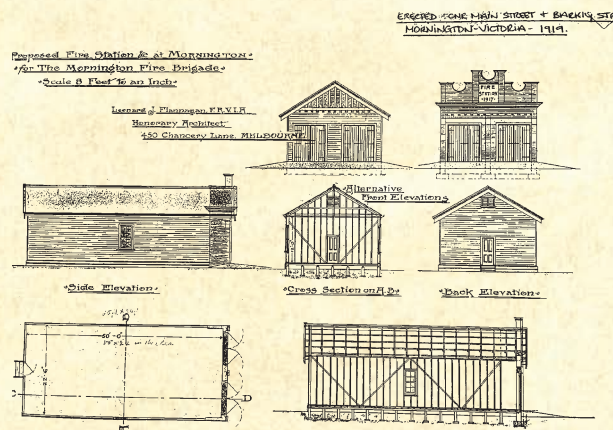
Original Facade of George Frean's Timber Yard
Barkly Street - Mornington c1929

...Continued on Page 6

Maureen interviewed Pat Wallis who described her childhood in the 1930s and 40s as like living in the countryside.

"Across from our house to Nepean Highway there were only a few houses here and there along the hill. There was a lovely bush track with heath and orchids. My father and I used to walk this track to go and buy apples sold on the roadside. Looking down Bath Street it was nearly all vacant land beyond Freans. My father took a photograph in the 1930s from our garden and you could see the sea. In front of our house on the corner of Barkly and Bath Streets it was called the Oak paddock because it was full of English Oak trees. There was a gateway to keep the animals from straying off Beleura Hill. We kept a goat to keep the blackberries down and a house cow called Molly for all our own butter and milk. In those days everybody was friendly, there were very few people around except during the summer holidays. The vacant lots of land were used for grazing animals and nobody seemed to mind. Half way up Whitby Street there was a natural pond filled with Maidenhair ferns, it was beautiful. Mr Sweetings land and the old homestead was the only property on Whitby Street in the early days.

During the War I was only nine or ten. I did a monthly magazine, it was a real riot. I called it the 'Fun Club Magazine'. Everything was done by hand, it had little bits of what everyone was doing in the neighbourhood. John Ride delivered it for a penny. It made money for the war Comfort Fund. The names I remember from Bath Street in my childhood were Freddie Smith at *Mossiel* the old house, Hunter Rogers next to Tom Silling, the Brennans, Goldbergs, Freans and Rides. Ernestine Hill the author rented a house on Bath Street during the war to write her books, she gave me her autograph."



Mornington Foreshore Committee c1929
From Left: 1. L. J. Flannagan 2. G. S. Frean

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.

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 1.00 - 3.30pm Saturdays or by appointment.

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

Banking Details:

Bendigo Bank BSB - 633 000

Mornington & District Historical Society Inc.

Account Number: 162 405 427

Please say what the payment is for.

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