

MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Newsletter No. 310



President's Report

Welcome back to a new year. We hope you will enjoy the line up of speakers and events we are planning for 2026. We are also planning for some outings to places of historic interest. Watch out for these. They will either be announced at a coffee morning or in the next Newsletter.

If any of you attend other groups and hear a good speaker, please ask them if they would be interested in giving us a talk as well. Take their contact details and I will follow it up.

The Council's Arts and Culture team are planning to instal another temporary panel outside the Council Chambers, this time the theme will be Music. Mornington and the surrounding area has always been well served by music. We have been asked to contribute.

There will be another Heritage Day, May 16th to be held at Mt. Martha House again.

Included in this edition are a series of photographs taken at the reopening of the Museum in October. It was a lovely evening and everyone commented on how nice it was. It was a chance to launch the display we currently have on Law and Order. We were lucky enough to be able to show part of the collection of police material collected by former Senior Leading Constable Greg Kraus. Greg has now retired so it is fitting that his collection now be on display to the public. Another part of our collection which does not see daylight very often is our various iterations of judicial regalia. The fantastic red silk gown and the black silks always look good when they are given an airing. The red silk belonged to Judge Webb who had a holiday home on Beleura Hill. He opened the Mechanics Institute building and his name appears on the plaque.

Our Christmas luncheon was well attended and I am sure everyone enjoyed just having a conversation with fellow members. Our members are the backbone of this organisation. Brenda Rowlands won the hamper prize this year.

Diane White

VALE

Meg Briedahl. Meg was an active member for many years and as a resident of Ranelagh, she was very interested in the history of the estate. She helped with the research of Victoria Grounds book on Ranelagh. Meg was in her nineties when she passed away at the Andrew Kerr Nursing Home recently.

Pics from the Reopening of the Museum



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Mary Hendrey and hope that your membership will be long and fruitful for you, Mary.

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.

Tuesday 10th February 10.30am - \$10

Coffee Morning

St.Marks Community Hall
Cnr. Barkly St and Waterloo Place
Joan Simpson An Accompanying Person.
Joan will share another story from her life experiences.

Tuesday 10th March 10.30am - \$10

COFFEE MORNING

St. Marks Community Hall
Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place
Speaker: DAVID RATHGEN will talk about his book on the artist Walter Withers. Walter was a member of the Heidelberg School with McCubbin and Roberts. His portrait of his wife Fanny is held in the National Gallery, Canberra.

Our Helen Broad History Prize last year was awarded to Madison Hole of Padua College.

Tuesday 14th April 10.30am - \$10

COFFEE MORNING

St. Marks Community Hall
Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place
Speaker to be advised.

BUS TRIPS

Edna is working on several outings for us.

- February or March visit to Ballam Park, House and Museum
- May 1st Friday Visit to Coal Creek replica coal mining village.
- June Visit to the State Library of Victoria



Sub Divisions in Mornington

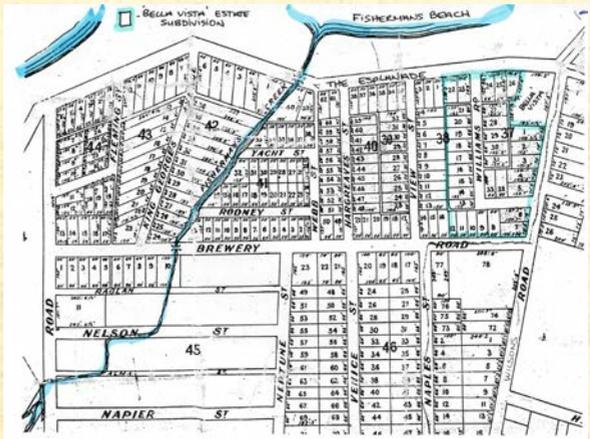
In the 1920's following the end of World War 1, optimism about the future created interest in subdividing available land for housing.

We are fortunate to have records of Mornington's streets and houses collected by one Maureen Tregonning. Maureen was a member for a number of years before she returned to England with her Australian husband, but her investigative work on the streets and the people who lived there, left volumes of information we would like to share with you.

The Bella Vista Estate

Two such subdivisions were on the Esplanade, from the Wilson's Road corner to Webb Street, one was the "Bella Vista Estate" bounded by Brewery Road (now Wilson's Road) and incorporating both sides of Williams Road. The House Bella Vista on the corner of the Estate was built by John Kerr in the 1890's. David and John Lewis were the owners when the subdivision of this land occurred.

Two of the allotments in the Bella Vista Estate are now still occupied by "Dunoon/Dunmoven" built by Mary Williams on Lot 24 and "Wyseworth" built by Audrey Wyse and family on Lot 26. Many of the houses on Williams Road are substantial homes built in the early 1920's.



The Bendigo On Sea Subdivision

In the Mornington Standard 1907 an article was written about the sale of 80 acres by Joseph Harris to a syndicate from Bendigo who intended to cut up the land into building allotments. These to be sold to residents of Bendigo, although one gentleman applied to the Shire for permission to bring his own house from Bendigo to be erected on the land in Mornington. This was referred to the Building Inspector.

...Continued on Page 7.

... *Subdivision story*
continued from page 6.

The Estate adjoined the Bella Vista Estate and included View Street and Hargreaves Street. Again the initial sales took place in the 1920's. These houses were mostly modest cottages of timber and cement sheet, some were Fishermen's cottages. The area along the Esplanade became known as Fishermans Beach.

In the 1950's *The Peninsula Post* tells of an effort to have a commercial precinct between the Were Street corner and Hargreaves Street, despite a petition Miss Donovan and 69 other ratepayers signed requesting Bendigo on Sea be declared a residential area only.

Eventually there was a small shopping strip, a store, sub Post Office. The two storey building on the corner is still there and once held a dance floor "Palais de Dance" There was a big effort to utilize the Fishermans Beach shops with prime advertising in *The Peninsula Post* during the late 1940s into the 50s.

Known to the locals as Fishies Beach, there would have been no doubt in the early days that this would become a loved part of Mornington.

Val Wilson and Diane White



Bendigo on Sea Subdivision



Dunoon/Dunmoven



Fishermans Beach - Palais de Dance



The Esplanade - Fishermans Beach

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

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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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