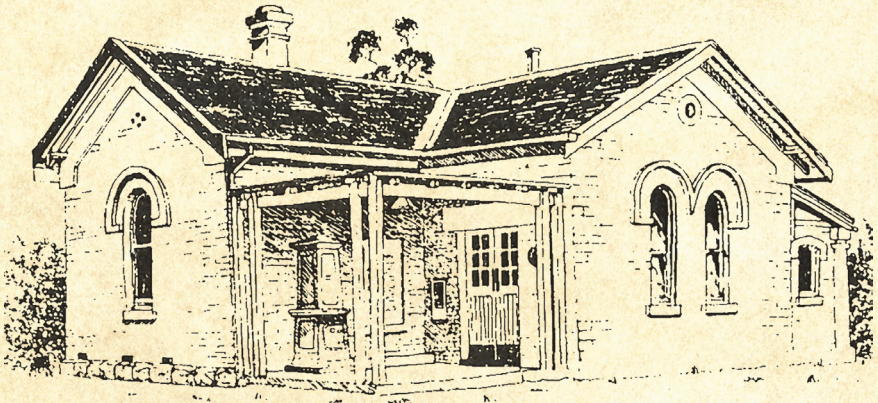


# MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

## NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Newsletter No. 311



# President's Report

Best to get this over with - enclosed with this newsletter is your membership renewal.

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. If you are out there recruiting for us, you can tell your potential joiner that membership to our organisation is value for money.

The Heritage Day at Mt. Martha House has been postponed. I will let you know when it will be rescheduled.

We have been a little concerned at a drop off in visitor numbers to the Museum. We now have a large very simple 'Museum Now Open' sign on our AFrame which seems to be working. The numbers last weekend were great.

This sounds a little contradictory but we will be closed from after the King's Birthday Weekend to the beginning of September. We are going to take that time to reorganise our storage inside the building as well as doing other things. Hope the new AFrame comes up trumps again in spring.

Our speaker for April cancelled but we are hoping to get him again after the world settles down. You can see that we have some coffee mornings without speakers as yet. If any of you know of someone who would be a good speaker on historical events please contact me. 0403 077 053.

*Diane White*

## VALE

### Dr. David Price OAM

An overflowing congregation of people attended the Memorial Service for David at St. Marks Church. This number of people showed how much David was regarded in the community. He was a valued member of many voluntary organisations, right down to the men's group tying up newspaper bundles to make money for a good cause. David just loved Mornington from the time he and his family came down from the city for holidays when he was a boy. David was a kind gentle man. His contribution and friendship to the Historical Society will long be remembered.

## A Medieval Clock & an English Hindu Temple.

Our member Joan Simpson told us of her amazing day in the square in Prague, and the famous clock they had come from England to see. It was a cross cultural and religious experience when a van of Indian Hindu monks arrived to see the workings too.

Joan took a photograph and when she was back in England one of the biggest Hindu temples was to be opened near where she lived. She contacted the powers that be at the temple and told the story of her photograph. They duly invited her and Ron to attend a service and lo and behold one of the monks in her photograph was now the head of the English temple! What a coincidence - was it divine intervention you may wonder. The Temple was very glad to accept her copy.



Joan showing us her photograph.



The Prague Astronomical Clock.

### 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

MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

# Dates for Your Diary 2026

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.*

**Tuesday 12th May 10.30am - \$10**

## Coffee Morning

St. Mark's Community Room  
Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place  
**Guest Speaker:** Janet Werkmeister  
Melbourne in the Roaring 20s

**Tuesday 9th June 10.30am - \$10**

## Coffee Morning

St. Mark's Community Room  
Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place  
**Treasures:** Bring along a treasure to share its story with us all.

**Saturday 16th May from 10 am**

## Our Stories at Mt. Martha House



**Tuesday 14th July 10.30 - am - \$10**

## Coffee Morning

St. Mark's Community Room  
Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place  
Speaker to be confirmed

**Tuesday 11th August 10.30am - \$10**

## Coffee Morning

St. Mark's Community Room  
Cnr. Barkly Street and Waterloo Place  
Speaker to be confirmed

INSTEAD you may be interested in this:

**Wednesday 27th May, 2026  
from 1pm to 2.30**

## Mornington Library

Authors Marguerita Stephens with Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir

*The Years of Terror: Kulin and Colonists of Port Phillip 1835-1951*

For Reconciliation Week, these authors discuss their research based on the daily journal of Assistant Protector William Thomas who had his base at Tuerong.

Free but must book through library website.

## BUS TRIPS

Edna is working on several outings for us.  
• June Visit to the State Library of Victoria



We thank Mornington Mazda for agreeing to be our sponsor.

# Sutton Grange Estate

Again, continuing on sharing the work undertaken by Maureen Tregonning, this time, the Sutton Grange Estate on Beleura Hill. This was on the corner of Esplanade and Tanti Avenue.

Thomas Cogger Allchin purchased land in the late 1850s on the corner of Gordon and Phillip Streets, purportedly for a bag of gold coins and a keg of rum, from the Swift family. He built a two roomed hut with hessian bags for doors for his new wife Sarah who had to collect drinking water from a spring up Beleura Hill. Life was very hard for women. The team of bullocks ate her household linen! Sarah was very religious and she wrote in her diary. “We spent our first night at the Point full of hopes and better things for the future.” Thomas Cogger Allchin purchased six acres of land in 1872 fronting the Esplanade.

By 1877, plans for the new house *Sutton Grange* were drawn up and the building was completed in the early 1880s. Thomas built the tower so he could view the movement of shipping, particularly his own. *Governor La Trobe* and *Maggie*. He had a brickworks in Gordon Street which supplied bricks for the building of the house and St. Peters Church. He also built a store on the corner of Albert and Main Street which Sarah ran. He supplied firewood and sleepers for Melbourne and the Geelong pier and brought back goods for sale in the store, adding to Sarah’s hand-made items.



Sutton Grange with the new apartments behind.

...Continued on Page 6

... Sutton Grange story continued from page 5

Their son, Charles was one of the victims of the Football Disaster in 1892. Thomas died in 1901 and Sarah died just short of her 90th birthday in 1918.


The Sutton Grange Estate was put up for sale in 1919 and the first houses commenced building in 1922. Local builder Mr. G.S. Frean contracted to build some of the first dwellings. *Ronda* was built in 1923 for the Morell family. The Morell family were hotel owners in Melbourne - *the Bull and Mouth, the Orient Hotel* and the *Beleura Royal Park Hotel*.

The Morells were active participants in the Mornington community and Mr. D.R. Morell was a Mornington councillor for 21 years between 1959 and 1970. Morell Street was named after the family in recognition.

**SATURDAY**  
18th November 2000  
2.30 pm

## AUCTION

**5 GRANGE ROAD, MORNINGTON**




5C

Under instructions from the Sisters of Mercy this classic 75 year old Californian Bungalow in one of our best streets is available for the first time in 45 years. Close to beach, schools and shops with a gate in the rear fence opening onto a Council park this is an opportunity too good to miss.

A chance to combine the charm of the past with a modern extension, and capture a glimpse of the bay! Land size 1004m2 approx.

**Note:**  
SINGLE DWELLING COVENANT APPLIES  
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at 5 pm only

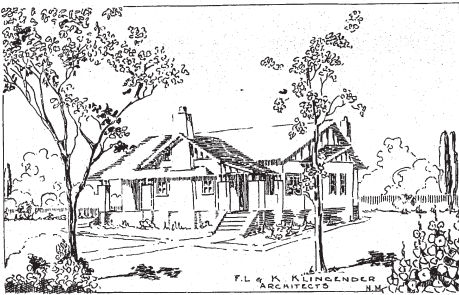
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24 THE AUSTRALIAN HOME BEAUTIFUL December 12, 1925



Designed for a Melbourne business man, this weekend bungalow at Mornington, although inexpensive, contains all the essentials for a week-end home, having a large living room, three small bedrooms, and good verandah space.

### FOR WEEK ENDS BY THE SEA

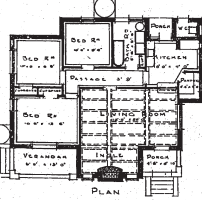
Everyone's thoughts in these days run to a week end home by the sea and in the following article will be found some practical suggestions and designs.

**T**HE open-air habit, which has grown so considerably upon the people of Australia during the past decade, has led in the opening up of many new beach districts, notably upon the eastern shores of Port Phillip.

The way to the settlement of these districts has been made easy of late years by the introduction of electric traction. The possession and maintenance of a seaside cottage or bungalow has thereby come within the grasp of many who in other times would have been deterred by the lack of facilities and the difficulties of access, from gratifying an ambition to live at least some portion of their lives by the sea.

With this growing popularity of the littora, there has been much activity in the construction of suitable dwellings of an inexpensive type, for the convenience and enjoyment of those desiring to dwell more or less temporarily, in the outer suburban areas where land near the sea is inexpensive, yet where all the pleasure of the sea are within reach.

In the designs published with this article, of varying types and costs, there will be found a number of interesting suggestions which will appeal to those who, with the approach of midsummer, have had their thoughts directed to plans for the establishment of a convenient dwelling in a chosen seaside spot.



PLAN

Both these houses designed by the same Melbourne architect, K. Klingender.  
The Sisters of Mercy owned several houses.

The Victorian State Government purchased the grand Sutton Grange house, which was used for Police accommodation and training and then from 1957 to 1977, the building became a childrens home for wards of the state. The children attended Vale Street Primary School.

Sutton Grange then became a wedding and events venue until it was sold as apartments and the grounds were subdivided for town houses.

## 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*

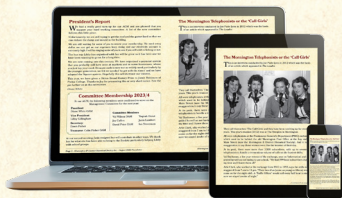
**WORLD WAR 1 POEMS**

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](mailto: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

### **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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