

At the end of the school year, we are attending school assemblies to present our Helen Broad History Prizes. In the next newsletter we will give the full list of students at each of our secondary schools who have been chosen to receive this prize. So far, we have given prizes to Madeline Gill and Josephine Dalstead of Toorak College and Patrick Slater of The Peninsula School.

And finally, special thanks to Kim Crankshaw, Derek Smith, Murray Adams and Janet Groves for the great pictures in this issue.

Diane White



Janet Groves with Patrick Slater, The Peninsula School

VALE DOROTHY TAYLOR.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our former President Neil Taylor's wife Dorothy. Dot always supported Neil for the twenty years he served as president of this organisation.

Mornington & District Historical Society Inc. A00041916W
PO Box 71 Mornington 3931

Museum: Corner Main Street and Esplanade
Open 1.30 - 4.30 Sundays or by appointment

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

MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

November 2013

Newsletter No. 263

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our volunteers day was well attended. I think our members appreciated seeing things which are normally locked away in cupboards, which we are unable to put on show for any length of time. Thanks to those of you who offered to help. We have one display cleaned up and our clothing collection is being checked and reorganised.

We are currently talking to the Shire Council to have four more plaques placed in strategic locations. One in Mornington Park to tell the story of the building of the archways during the 1930s Depression, one at the Toy Library, one at the Courthouse to highlight its involvement after the Football Disaster and one in Mt. Eliza to inform people of this accident on Pelican Reef.

We are again opening all day on Australia Day from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m, with activities similar to last year. Perhaps you can spare a couple of hours to help us as we get a large number of visitors and we spill out onto the grassed area. We need to prepare a duty roster for day on a two-hour rotation.

We have employed a cleaner to clean the inside of the Museum. We are no longer able to climb ladders and the fans and lights needed a good going over, not to mention the cobwebs which had built up over winter. We would like to recommend the work of Ana Smith and her team at First Class Cleaning. Please see the advert on page 4 if you'd like to have your house as sparkling and fresh smelling as the Museum now is!.

The Mornington Peninsula Local History Network (our association of volunteer history groups on the Peninsula) has gained funding for a travelling exhibition centred on a postcard from each society's collection. Our postcard is the centrepiece for a story on the railway and its closure.

The Network has also received funding to have oral histories professionally conducted with some of our older long-time residents. We are limited to two or three sessions at this stage, but we hope this project will be able to receive more funding so that we can have more histories secured for the future.

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VICTORIAN COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARDS

These were announced at the beginning of the week by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in conjunction with the Public Record Office of Victoria. Val's website on the Pioneer Graves in Mornington Cemetery won the Best Multimedia Award for 2013. She adds this accolade to the award for the same work she was given earlier this year.

Vicky's work on organising the research and publication of the brochure on the Heritage Walk along the esplanade received a Commendation at the Awards.

Well done and congratulations.



Janet, Val and Vicky at The History Awards

NEW MEMBER Ms Rosemary Race

We hope you enjoy your membership with us.

HISTORY WEEK

MOORHEAD LECTURE

The Moorhead Lecture, was well attended. The history of the Post Office will be placed in the collection for posterity. Those who heard Murray Adam's presentation of how best to conserve and preserve documents (including film and audio recordings), photographs and any other historical items will now have a much greater understanding.

CEMETERY WALK

The Cemetery Walk, our other contribution to History Week, was also well attended and it culminated in the unveiling of the restored Fenton Grave. We feel very satisfied that this project is a 'job well done'. A surprise was that the man living in James Fenton's Merricks North house found a letter written by the Prime Minister Joe Lyons to Fenton about a possible knighthood, but Lyons died before he could organise this for Fenton. We now have a copy to add to our collection.



Diane, Mary Kearney, Bruce Billson MP and Val

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Because the Post Office Building is 150 years old this year we are reproducing this official history from the Public Relations Section of the Post Master General's Department, Royal Mail House, 255 Bourke Street Melbourne, dated 1973. This is the continuation of an extract from a letter to a Miss Carroll.

Telephone facilities were provided about 1910 and by 1912 there were nine subscribers. These were as follows

- No.1. Grand HotelL.Harrison
- No.2. W.A. Korner.....Real Estate and Stock Agent
- No.3. Royal Hotel.....Mrs. E. O'Gorman
- No.4. David Tait.....Pharmacist
- No.5. Dr. Somers.....Albert Street
- No.6. Mr. J. Doherty.....Butcher Main Street
- No.7. Kirkpatrick's Hotel.....Mrs. Murphy
- No.8. Dr. Zichy- Woinarski.....Wolfdene
- No.9. Mr. G. McArthur.....Holcomb House Esplanade

The exchange was converted from manual to automatic in 1956 and by 30th June that year the new automatic exchange was serving 809 subscribers. There were 2498 subscribers as at the 30th June 1972. This represents all the information available at this office. I hope you will find it of interest.

Yours Sincerely
Derek. N. Baker
Post Office Historical Officer Public Relations Sector.

P.S. I omitted to mention that a new Post Office was provided at Mornington on 2/3/1964. It cost \$57,814 to build. It was erected on land acquired by the department on 13/9/1951 with a frontage of approx. 68 feet to Main Street, a depth of 229 feet and rear frontage boundary to Railway Parade of approx 66 feet. A small portion of this land was later sold.

(This is where our current Post Office stands today. Although telephone numbers have become larger, the last digit on the Grand Hotel's number is still Number 1.)

MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Dates for Your Diary 2013-14

Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~mornhsoc

Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203

ABN 7515 1057 105

Visitors warmly welcomed

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 10.30 a.m. \$5
ST. MARK'S FRIENDSHIP ROOM COFFEE MORNING
The Man Who Mapped the Shaking Earth

This fascinating documentary about John Milne, the father of modern seismology is now the centrepiece of an exhibition showing at Carisbrook Castle, Isle of Wight, England. Come and find out the connection with the Mornington Peninsula and the Emperor of Japan.

FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER 12.00 NOON
OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Please bring a plate to share. We have lots to celebrate this year.

SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 10.00 - 4.00 p.m.
AUSTRALIA DAY - MUSEUM OPEN NEW DISPLAY,
WALKING TOURS 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. SALE TABLE

MONDAY 24TH MARCH BUS TRIP - WERRIBEE PARK

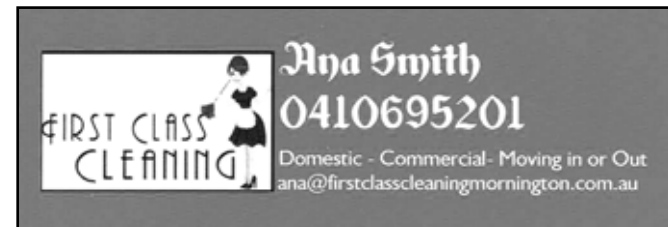
We are offering the trip to Werribee Homestead and garden again next year. It will cost \$40 plus lunch. Book now to ensure a seat, please ring **Janet 9787 8685 or mob. 0407 500 510**. Full details and booking form in next issue.

TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 10.30 A.M. \$5
ST. MARK'S FRIENDSHIP ROOM COFFEE MORNING

This has still to be arranged, but we will have an interesting guest speaker. Watch the local papers for more information.



Val sharing her knowledge on the cemetery walk



Thanks Ana for your kind donation of cleaning services for our museum.