

JUNE  
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# NEWSLETTER <sup>2</sup>

MAY 00802

## CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**I**n this month's Newsletter it's great to be able to say that the society has been contacted by two people with items to offer our Museum.

Judy and Alan Clark, have offered some items from their late father's estate. Some of the items include Ration Books, a very early electric Vitamiser, and a few other interesting day-to-day items and clothing from the 1930's and 40's. (At present we are just waiting to ensure Judy's siblings approve of the donation)

The next person to contact us was Mrs Nancy Magg. Nancy has lived in her grandfather's house, (situated at North Road, Ormond), for many years. Nancy will be "down-sizing" very soon, and so offered us some fascinating old medicine boxes, very unusual clothing from the late 1800's and "cute" underwear from her father dating back to the very early 1900's.

Nancy has also very kindly offered to let me visit her and tape her early memories, and take some photos of the home she is selling. (The home may be pulled down when sold)

Some food for thought is that with the influx of these interesting items, *and, already having some lovely vintage clothing*, perhaps our Society could consider making up a special display in Box Cottage. *Your thoughts on the subject would be appreciated.*

Some issues to be addressed would be:

- ◆ We would need to borrow more dummies/models. From where?
- ◆ We'd need to open the display 2-3 mornings, or afternoons of one week
- ◆ Small Entry Charge?
- ◆ How would the Society advertise it, and to who?

### Attention !!

*Don't miss Valma's "Show and Tell" segment at our next Meeting on 30th June '07. These "ad hoc" Member's Talks are always so enjoyable.*

### OUR PIONEERS: 150 YEARS SINCE THE ALLNUTTS OF CHELTENHAM ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA.

In 1857 Joseph, and Matilda Allnutt, with Annie, their 3 year old daughter, arrived in the Colony of Victoria, Australia, on board the Grand Trianon. (Joseph was 27 yrs of age). During the hard journey Matilda gave birth to a babe that sadly died before they reached Australia. Undaunted, the couple settled at Cheltenham — which was sandy and swampy at that time. Joseph and Matilda grew vegetables and herbs to sell. Joseph regularly pushed a handcart of vegetables through the sandy scrub to Caulfield Station, travelling on to sell these at the Melbourne market. Matilda eked out a living as a seamstress and lace-maker, but very importantly was also an experienced herbalist. In the mid 1800's ailments were commonly treated

with herbal remedies. Doctors were expensive and "few and far between", whilst chemists were rare. Matilda not only treated the other settlers, but also the last vestige of the local aboriginal tribe camped nearby, who were too old and unwell to go on "walk-about".

The Allnutt's two roomed cottage, had a dirt floor, wattle and daub walls, and the windows were covered with butter-muslin cloth. Joseph's health was very poor, he suffered from "flour on the lung", having been a baker previously in England. Despite their hardships and poverty, the couple had a further four children — who became well-respected pioneers of the surrounding area in their own right. In later life a frail Joseph, and Matilda, managed the "new" railway gates at Brady Road.

Matilda was born in 1829, and died in 1903. Joseph, also born in 1829, died at his son, George's home, in 1910.



*Original Allnutt home in Centre Dandenong Rd, Cheltenham.*  
LEFT: Joseph Allnutt, CENTRE: George Allnutt, (son), and other person unknown.

Thankyou to Mr Len Allnutt for the preceding information about the Allnutt Pioneers, and historical photograph.

Editor: Helen Stanley  
Phone: 9560 6148