

April  
2008

# NEWSLETTER

PLEASE NOTE: Annual Subscriptions are now due, \$3.00, Thank you

MAV 00806

The next meeting of the City of Moorabbin Historical Society is next Sunday 27th April 2008. Members Meeting 1-2pm, then Dr Graham Whitehead will give a talk titled "Murder" from 2pm-3pm. All welcome.

The following historical excerpt is taken from 'The City of Moorabbin Historical Newsletter', August 1963, Produced by TOM SHEEHY  
TITLED: "THIS IS THE 'NEWS' OF THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY – AND HERE AGAIN ARE THE HEADLINES".

The twentieth century had begun well for Moorabbin. The "Moorabbin News", which was first published in specimen form on the 7th April 1900, became more popular as the year progressed towards 1901. Below the editorial in the specimen issue, the following curt explanation appeared.

*"Owing to an unfortunate blunder in the Registrar-General's Office, in the registration of this journal, we were unable to publish our first issue on the 7th inst. as arranged, but this is now fully completed and the paper will come out in due course."*

At this time Thomas Bent, the Valuer, had won back his seat from W H MOULE, the barrister, in the first State election of the century. Bent's return to politics, despite the "Argus" criticisms, was regarded as another good omen for the district. The "Moorabbin News" gave prominence to

Bent's return, but not at the expense of news of a more general nature. There was more to life than a political contest. The readers wanted sporting news, race results from Epsom and a host of other topical items, which they received. They also looked for advertisements which told of the business life of the district.

Cheltenham was at that time near enough to being the geographic center of the shire. It was also the business centre, and in the "Moorabbin News" of 1900, between 20 and 30 businesses were regular advertisers. *"Opposite the Cheltenham Station"* was a popular direction. It was used by at least six Charman Road stores. Each advertisement seemed to carry a friendly slogan with it.

There were announcements on behalf of Mrs Fiander, *opposite the Station*, "the leading draper and outfitter in the District"; W Thompson's Post Office

CITY OF MOORABBIN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

on the Highway, (previously owned by N Fletcher), *"the family grocer, provision and general produce merchant"*; George Puttick, painter, paper-hanger and decorator, of Charman Road; Moorabbin Co-operative Society Ltd. *"everyone should be a member"*; H Hay, Nepean Highway, Coachbuilder, *"Horseshoer and general smith"*; J W Freeman, hairdresser and tobacconist, opposite station, *"two chairs kept, no waiting, haircutting 6d., shaving 3d., children's haircutting 3d., razors set and ground at Melbourne prices"*; M. Montanjees, (better known as "Monty"), *"begs to remind friends, new and old, that he has taken over the Royal Oak Hotel"*.

Then, there was also—M A Rose, *"family baker and pastrycook, opposite the station"*; J T Matthews, *"boot palace"* (boots called for and delivered), opposite the station; H Hewett, *"family butcher"* on the Highway; Cope and Dow (also at Carrum), builder and contractors, *"all work faithfully executed"*; the new Association - Market Gardeners and Fruitgrowers — *"offers one Guinea prize for the soundest working scheme"*, entries to "Moorabbin News", Cheltenham; E W Proudman, pharmaceutical chemist, *"Scott's Eye Lotion, and horse and cattle medicines"*; M E Benjamin, Chancery Lane, Melbourne, and TA Edwards (opposite Dr Scantlebury), solicitors, *"attend Cheltenham on court days" and so on.*

The following event was also reported on. The *Mechanics' Institute and Temperance Hall*, and the *Exchange Hotel*, faced one another in defiance. A heavy billiards table was being unloaded from a horse-drawn trolley for the Mechanics' Institute. The committee had told of such a need to Tommy Bent just before the election, and Bent had replied, "and you shall have one". Well, *there it was*, even if rumour did say that it was purchased from the taxpayers' money!"

---