

# BOX COTTAGE MUSEUM

## HOME OF CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CMHS was established by a group of local residents to preserve the history and heritage of the (now former) City of Moorabbin in 1960. At the time the municipality began at North Rd & Thomas St and stretched south along Nepean Hwy to include Cheltenham with Clarinda & Heatherton to the east. The City of Moorabbin was dissolved in 1994 and integrated into the new cities of Bayside, Glen Eira, Kingston and Monash.

When Sir Stanley Argyle, 32<sup>nd</sup> Premier of Victoria, proclaimed Moorabbin a City on 10 October 1934, he noted that Moorabbin [*Mooroobin* in Bunurrung, various spelling] indicated "a resting place". He then went on to say:- "it must not be thought that Moorabbin is by any means quiet". Visit CMHS at the Box Cottage Museum on Open Days or our website and find out why he made that comment.

Open Days: 2–4pm last Sunday of each month Feb–Nov  
Address Box Cottage Museum, Joyce Park, Ormond, 3204  
Website <http://home.vicnet.net.gov.au/~cmhsbcm>  
Email [moorabbinhs@gmail.com](mailto:moorabbinhs@gmail.com)

If undelivered please return to CMHS Box Cottage Museum, Joyce Park, Ormond 3204

postage

Name

Address

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# Moorabbin Mirror

Newsletter City of Moorabbin Historical Society (CMHS)

ISSUE ONE NOVEMBER 2014



## BOX COTTAGE MUSEUM

Home of CMHS

Joyce Park, Jasper Rd, Ormond, VIC

OPEN DAYS 2015, 2-4PM

Last Sun ea month Feb–Nov

22 February

29 March

26 April

31 May

28 June

26 July

30 August

27 September

25 October

29 November

## MOORABBIN MIRROR

The *Moorabbin Mirror* reflects the history and heritage of the former City of Moorabbin — derived from *Mooroobin*, 'a resting place' in the Bunurrung spoken language. In 1994, the City of Moorabbin was integrated into the Cities of Bayside, Glen Eira, Kingston and Monash.

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first issue of The *Moorabbin Mirror* published on an occasional basis. The editors aim to make it as relevant as possible to CMHS members. So it's up to each one of us to let the editors know what we would like to see in future issues as well as contribute articles and items.  
E:[moorabbinhs@gmail.com](mailto:moorabbinhs@gmail.com)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Moorabbin Mirror* congratulates our local government representatives who were recently elected as Mayors. Cr Jim Magee was elected unopposed as Mayor of Glen Eira for 2014–2015. Cr Geoff Gledhill was elected as Mayor of Kingston. Cr Felicity Frederico was appointed Bayside City Council's new Mayor.

<http://home.vicnet.net.gov.au/mhsbcm>: email [moorabbinhs@gmail.com](mailto:moorabbinhs@gmail.com)

## CMHS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2014–2015

E: moorabbinhs@gmail.com

Chair

Frank Thatcher

Deputy Chair

Valma Sharp

Interim Secretary

Bill Richardson

Minutes Secretary

Daniella Rodrigues

Treasurer

Bill Richardson

Committee

Frances Bader, James Dale

Joan Moore, Carol Poole

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During 2014-2015 the Committee of Management will hold dedicated meetings to:-

- deal with the day to day administration and legalities of our society
- make decisions regarding the society's operations
- set strategic directions that advance the aims and objectives of CMHS

## CMHS MEETING TIMES

—Committee of Management meetings as arranged

—General Members' Meetings  
1–2pm last Sundays Feb–Nov

—Cottage Openings 2–4pm last  
Sundays Feb–Nov & by appt

## CMHS OPERATIONS 2014–2015

historical research  
heritage discovery  
promotion/publicity  
flyers, publications  
leaflets, newsletters  
membership  
hospitality  
museum  
displays, open days  
library & files  
collection  
acquisition, catalogue  
digitisation, archive

## CMHS PROJECTS

Members

history & heritage inquiries  
museum management  
garden maintenance  
barn upkeep

Carol, Joan

create a glossy leaflet  
promoting the museum

Dennis, Fran

compile a booklet with an  
updated history of the Box  
Cottage Museum

*CMHS is grateful to GECC for giving us a Community Grant to print the leaflet & booklet.*

Holger

print CMHS network cards

Bill, Fran, CMHS members

produce occasional newsletters

## GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETINGS

The focus of general members' meetings, held 1–2pm on the last Sundays of Feb–Nov, is on the exchange of local heritage information, historical research, and building community links.

## K G PUTT MEMORIAL CENTRE BENTLEIGH SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

City of Moorabbin Historical Society congratulates the KG Putt Bentleigh Senior Citizens' Club in Arthur Street, who recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of their foundation on 27 October 2014. (The club was officially opened by Sir Henry Bolte in 1957.) Club Secretary, Cheryl organised a gala luncheon for the occasion and, with her team of helpers, transformed the club hall into a festive setting for the event.



Cr Putt 1955  
portrait in  
KG Putt Seniors' Club

There was a big turn-up of current members of the many interest and activity groups supported by the club as well as past members, including Mr Keith Duckmanton. Neil Pilling, then Mayor of Glen Eira, said some words. Cr Oscar Lobo spoke briefly, and local Liberal MLA, Ms Elizabeth Miller donated \$200 towards the club. The glittering *Aurora* (of Morning Melodies fame) channelling Shirley Bassey and Liza Minnelli, provided the entertainment. And, everyone commented on how much they enjoyed the occasion thanks to Cheryl and her team.

The club was named after local realtor and Iceberger, Cr KG Putt, J.P., Mayor of the (former) City of Moorabbin from 1954–1955.

During the luncheon, KG's nephew David Jane (also a realtor) spoke of his uncle, and donated a cheque for \$1000 to the club in KG's

memory. David went on to reminisce that back in 1954 hardly anyone had television sets. Robert Menzies was PM. The NZ horse, *Rising Fast* won the Caulfield Cup, the Cox Plate plus the Melbourne Cup, and Footscray won the VFL Grand Final.

A current club member, who was a child in 1954, recalled the excitement over the visit to Melbourne by Queen Elizabeth 11 and Prince Phillip ... how the streets from Essendon Airport to the city were so tightly packed that hundreds fainted. She added, 'back then many women still wore hats, gloves and seamed nylons. Men wore suits, ties, chesty bonds and... could dance.'

## LOCAL AVIATOR

Aviation pioneer Harry George Hawker, 1889-1921, who was born in South Brighton (renamed Moorabbin), was inducted into the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame at Wagga Wagga, on 8 Nov 2014. Sir Reginald Ansett and four others "who have made outstanding contributions to the development of aviation and the fabric of Australian life" were inducted along with Harry Hawker.



From 1913 onwards Hawker worked as a designer and test pilot with the Sopwith Company (UK) and he later founded the Hawker Siddeley Engineering Company. However, apart from a plaque at Moorabbin (Harry Hawker) Airport and in primary schools he attended — his accomplishments during WW1 and afterwards are not widely known or prominently memorialised here in his place of birth.

## CMHS Wedding Dress Project 2014 (ctd)



**Left**  
*The two tiered wedding cake, was donated by Robina. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Kingsford who iced and decorated the cake.*



**Above:**  
*Daniela setting up the "wedding breakfast".*

**Left:**  
*CMHS thanks Ross, the manager of "Grapevine Liquor Store" Centre Rd for donating the champagne and lending CMHS the glassware.*



**Above L-R**  
*Dennis and David*

## BENTLEIGH GREENS

Some CMHS members got very excited when the *Bentleigh Greens* amateur Soccer Club became the only non professional club left in the inaugural 2014 FFA Cup.

On 11 November 2014, around 3000 fans packed Kingston Heath Soccer Reserve for the *Greens* semi-final clash with A-Leaguers *Perth Glory* who won by 3 goals.

The *Bentleigh Greens*, who have Greek Cypriot Victorian links, adopted their name after they moved from Greensborough to Victory Park in Bentleigh during the 1980s.

## MCKINNON SECONDARY COLLEGE

McKinnon S.C. celebrated their 60th birthday on 31 August 2014. Their milestone was marked with the launch of a pictorial book, *The Tradition of Excellence*, written by Mr Andrew Newton 'a stalwart of the school'.

The book, with over 500 hundred images and documents, traces the college from its beginnings in 1954 through to the present day. The photographs, both black and white and more recent colour shots, reveal much about each decade and the history of the local area.

## CMHS BUSINESS

At the CMHS committee meeting held 1–2pm, Sun 23 November, Jim's proposal (suggested by Dennis) that CMHS consider installing a plaque commemorating aviator Harry Hawker was seconded and unanimously approved by the 2014–2015 committee of management.

A proposal by Valma that CMHS develop a collection of vintage undergarments was seconded and approved by all members of the committee.

## FACADE-LIFT

The Box Cottage Museum has had a recent facade-lift thanks to Glen Eira City Council. Come and see for yourself how the museum's weathered walls have been transformed by their new coat of charcoal paint.



## To Dennis BIG BIRTHDAY WISHES from all at CMHS

So we may scan and return, CMHS Committee asks that you let us know if you have any documented (with dates) photographs or slides depicting past (and present) public events and life in the former city of Moorabbin, e.g. images of the former racecourse in Hodgson Reserve.

**email: moorabbinhs@gmail.com**

## PROMOTE CMHS

Members willing to help with managing a stand/table promoting CMHS at fairs, festivals, fêtes, sporting and community events, sausage sizzles, or other, do contact a committee member or e: moorabbinhs@gmail.com

## MANNEQUIN

On 7 August 2014, CMHS were fortunate that curator, Ms Lindie Ward, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, personally delivered the new mesh mannequin for Mary Louisa Closter's wedding dress.

In addition, Ms Ward, a specialist in textiles, showed us how to best arrange and display the garment. (See pics over page). She also suggested we place the wedding dress on the Australian Dress Register.

The Register is a collaborative online project that documents dresses with Australian provenance pre-1975. The Register has developed a wide range of web resources to assist those working in regional and local galleries and museums, advising how to assess significance, care for, photograph and display garments in collections.

## REFLECTIONS

## WEDDING DRESS PROJECT 2014



**Above & Right**  
Aug 2014 Ms Lindie Ward, Powerhouse Museum textile specialist, inspects the dress material



**Left & Right (below)**  
The hand embroidered silk material for the dress was sent over from China by the groom's sister for Alonzo Box's wedding to Mary Louisa Closter, 12 June 1918



members involved in the project

## UNVEILING OF NEW DISPLAY CABINET

The unveiling of our new display cabinet containing Mary Louisa Closter's wedding dress arranged on its new mesh mannequin was a happy occasion for CMHS members. A Local History Community Grant from PROV (Public Records Office Vic) helped make it all happen, and the unveiling event was organised by Joan for Wednesday, 10 Sept 2014.

Special guests included CMHS members, the Hon Ms Miller MLA and Ms Triarico, GECC Heritage Co-ordinator who formally unveiled the cabinet and cut the ribbon.

The ceremony was followed by wedding cake and a champagne toast (see over page) to the memory of returned ANZAC, Alonzo Box and his bride Mary Louisa Closter. Alonzo was the nephew of pioneers, William and Elizabeth Box, owners of Box Cottage from 1869–1914.



**Above:**  
Valma welcomes the special guests

**Below right:**  
Ms Miller MLA & Ms Triarico



**Above:**  
CMHS member, Holger unfurls the Australian flag



Special Guests

**NEW CABINET**  
Tashco Showcase and Hardware Co, Corio, Victoria, designed, manufactured and delivered our new glass display cabinet. Tashco clients include major Museums, Galleries, Libraries and now, Box Cottage Museum. CMHS thanks PROV for providing the grant for the cabinet and mannequin.