

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS CMHS

It's that time of year when we are reminded that our continuing membership of CMHS is important not only to the society but also to the wider community.

Membership of our local history group provides an opportunity to connect/network with like-minded people, and become involved in community heritage activities. Even more importantly, it keeps our brains active.

In addition to helping research, collect, preserve and share our local history and heritage, CMHS membership helps us promote our area/surroundings and develop a sense of place and pride in our suburb. *May even add to its real estate value.*

CMHS can only grow with our members' encouragement combined with the efforts of our volunteers as well as support from Glen Eira City Council.

Therefore, if you haven't already, your committee asks that you renew your annual subscription as soon as possible (or prepay for more than one year in advance.) Please bring your completed subscription form and payment to the 29 November Open Day or mail cheque to CMHS, PO Box 4028 McKinnon 3204. Do encourage your friends to join CMHS or give them a membership as a gift for Xmas, b'days, etc.

*Moorabbin Mirror wishes
a happy & healthy 2016 to all CMHS
members, their families & friends*

BOX COTTAGE MUSEUM, JOYCE PARK, ORMOND 3204

home of City of Moorabbin Historical Society Inc
PO Box 4028, McKinnon VIC 3204 moorabbinhs@gmail.com

MUSEUM OPEN DAYS

2-4PM last Sunday ea month February to November
Members and Children free

preceded by informal members get-together from **1pm**

CMHS COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2016

11.30am first Wednesday of months as follows

3 Feb, 6 Apr, 8 Jun, 6 Jul, 7 Sept

AGM & Committee Election Sunday 30 Oct 2016

*This newsletter was produced by Frances Bader & Valma Sharp.
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NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE 4

REPATRIATION HOSPITAL

Cameron and Elle, Glen Eira Council Arts and Culture Dept, are currently researching the impact of the Caulfield Repatriation Hospital on the City of Glen Eira [and surrounds] for an exhibition in Glen Eira Town Hall, late 2016.

They are looking for stories, objects, photos and newspaper reports about ways that having the hospital and repatriated soldiers in the area affected local residents as well as businesses, shops, council, [schools, market gardens], etc.

CALL FOR INFORMATION

If you, your friends or neighbours are able to provide any names and details of family members or locals with links to the Caulfield Repatriation Hospital — especially those willing to be interviewed for the oral history component of the 2016 exhibition — or have any stories about:-

- veteran parents, relatives, neighbours, friends who spent time in the hospital
- people who worked in the hospital or supporting industries, or lived nearby

please email:-

**moorabbinhs@gmail.com
or contact 9557 9465**

CMHS MEMBERS

informal

End-year-Gathering
byo beverage(s) & picnic

Sunday 29 Nov 2015
Box Cottage Museum

1pm–2pm

meet our new committee
and help appoint
Mrs Lorna Thatcher
CMHS Life Member

2pm–4pm

Lawson Literary Soc & ANA

- readings & recitals
- museum tour
- view display of
vintage underwear
from CMHS Collection

RSVPs appreciated
Fran 9557 9465

**CITY OF MOORABBIN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(CMHS) operating Box
COTTAGE MUSEUM (BCM)
E: moorabbinhs@gmail.com**

VOTE OF THANKS

The City of Moorabbin Historical Society thanks Frank Thatcher, Valma Sharp, Bill Richardson, Frances Bader, Joan Moore Carol Poole, Jim Dale for the amount of time and effort they each contributed to the society during 2014-2015.

ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2014-2015, with support from GECC, CMHS-BCM launched a new leaflet and booklet. In addition, Joan, Carol, Valma, Fran, Robina organised three on-site heritage displays plus three off-site at:- Stanley's Menswear with Glen Eira Historical Society; at the Bendigo Bank; at the Brighton Cemetery's 160th; as well as a CMHS presence at GECC's Party in Allnutt Park, thanks to GEHS; at GECC's *Communities Working Together*, plus at Bunnings Trade Expo.

RETIREMENTS

CMHS wishes 2014-2015 president Frank Thatcher, and treasurer Bill Richardson an adventure-filled retirement. The society thanks them for the work they both put in as committee members over previous years. Without their input, who knows where CMHS might be today.

NEW LIFE MEMBER

CMHS is delighted to ratify the nomination by Joan Moore to appoint Mrs Lorna Thatcher a CMHS Life Member — in appreciation of her sustained and significant contributions to our society.

2015–2016 TEAM

Following our AGM, Sunday 25 Oct, CMHS is very pleased to announce the composition of our 2015–2016 team:

Chair Valma Sharp
Deputy Chair Joan Moore
Secretary Fran Bader
Treasurer Carol Poole

and welcome on board Holger Bader, David Moore and Darryl Poole.

Should you wish to contact a committee member, email moorabbinhs@gmail.com

AIMS FOR 2015–2016

Our new team comes with a wide range of expertise and backgrounds. They aim to work towards engaging current CMHS members, and will take steps to try and increase our number of volunteers. (Your ideas most welcome.) The Committee will also manage CMHS's business affairs; carry out administrative & operational tasks as necessary, and promote our society.

CMHS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

At the planning meeting, held 11 Nov, all committee members agreed to **trial**:-

- (1) holding five (5) management meetings during the coming year [instead of the previous fifteen (15)] and to continue holding the AGM 1pm last Sunday in Oct.
- (2) hosting informal gatherings, instead of structured members' meetings, from 1pm prior to museum open days 2–4pm last Sundays Feb-Nov.

DATES

Committee meetings are held in the Grace Lewis Room from 11.30am on the first Wednesdays of Nov, Feb, April, June, Sept, & 1pm last Sun Oct. All financial members are welcome to attend these meetings if they wish.

BRYAN KELLEHER

by R. Kelleher

Bryan Kelleher grew up in Lockhart Street South Caulfield. His father was a drover and later a tram driver. Bryan served in the Army in WW1 then raised a family with his wife Mary in Bowen Street East Malvern. He made a career in industrial relations in the Commonwealth Public Service, and was involved with the Australian Natives' Association for the whole of his life.

In retirement Bryan joined the Henry Lawson Memorial and Literary Society. For many years he was their secretary, treasurer and editor of *The Lawsonian*. Bryan enjoyed reciting Australian bush poetry on Golden Days Radio, and under the beautiful spreading elm tree at Box Family Cottage Museum in Joyce Park, Ormond on museum open days. His interest in Australian Poetry and history shared with friends enriched his retirement, right up to the last day of his life. He died 1st July 2003, aged 80.

HENRY LAWSON (1867–1922)

Not only did well known poet and short story writer Henry Lawson have very little formal education but, by age 14, he was totally deaf. In 1887, he travelled to Melbourne for treatment (unsuccessful) at the Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. It's reported that during his stay in Melbourne (until 1889) Lawson worked at various casual jobs. (More info on his Melbourne stay welcome.)

AUSTRALIAN NATIVES ASSOCIATION (ANA)

The Australian (Victorian) Natives' Association (ANA) was established in Melbourne, in 1871, as a fraternal organisation for people born in Australia — at a time when most administrative jobs in the colonies were held by UK nationals.

When ANA was formed it had two aims — to act as a friendly society offering financial support to its locally born members in need, and to promote their moral, social & intellectual improvement.

ANA eschewed other friendly society practices of ritual and regalia and set its sights on influencing public thinking and government policy on a range of issues related to Australian nationalism.

Poetry Readings, Recitals
2PM, 29 NOVEMBER 2015
, Bryan Kelleher Memorial Picnic
everyone welcome, byo picnic



Bryan Kelleher 1923–2003
artwork Joan Tallent courtesy R Kelleher

His interest in Australian Poetry and history shared with friends enriched his retirement, right up to the last day of his life. He died 1st July 2003, aged 80.

These included Federation; Wattle Day (1st September); trade protection, and immigration control.

ANA would become an important presence in many Victorian communities, incl. Bentleigh & other suburbs of Moorabbin through its debates, concerts, social activities and sporting clubs: e.g. the Bentleigh ANA Cricket Club, established in the 1930s, remains active today.

In 1993 ANA and Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows Vic merged to form Australian Unity. Since then there have been further mergers which may be found on the Aust Unity website.

“GARDEN SUBURB” ORMOND

Residential development of Ormond began around the 1890s and by the 1910s, subdividers were marketing Ormond as a “garden suburb with glimpses of the bay”.

However, most housing was constructed between the 1920s and 1940s with the more popular being Californian Bungalow style homes.

Prior to this time the suburb of Ormond, located between Caulfield and Moorabbin, was largely a market gardening area.

Ormond Post Office opened 1 January 1870, closed in 1884, and reopened in 1907. Ormond East P.O. was open from 1951-1981.

The railway station which opened on the Mordialloc (now Frankston) railway line in the 1880s was named North Road South, but changed to Ormond in 1897 — apparently at the request of Caulfield Council who wished to honour Melbourne philanthropist, Francis Ormond. Some reports say local residents wanted it called Warrein¹ Station — as North Rd was then known. (*From sand swamp and heath, A History of Caulfield*, p266).

A real estate advertisement has Dame Nellie Melba² spending some time (not verified or dated) in Malua Street, Ormond. Malua St was named after a champion race-horse “able to carry heavy weights and defeat the best in top sprint and staying races”.

Novelist, Katharine Susannah Prichard, 1883–1969, in her autobiography *Child of the Hurricane* (1963) remembered Ormond as “open paddocks of gorse and wildflowers along the main highway, the Dandenongs in blue haze at one end, the sea at the other”. (*e-Melbourne*). Prichard lived in Brighton for a time in late 1880 and then in Caulfield. Richard, her father rests in Brighton Cemetery.

1. Origin of name Warrein Rd sought.

2 Seeking alleged Malua St & Dame Nellie links

Local History



Image reproduced from ADB

FRANCIS ORMOND

Francis Ormond¹, 1827-1889, (above) was a self-educated man, a wealthy grazier, and philanthropist with an interest in education and religion. He rose from being a stable boy on his father’s pastoral station outside Geelong and used his wealth to benefit many Melbournians.

The Workingman’s College now RMIT was partially funded by him, as was Ormond College and a chair of music at Melbourne University. He also gave grants to various hospitals and churches. (Francis Ormond is buried at Geelong Cemetery.)

¹ Ormond territory is in Alba/Scotland. Ormond or Ormonde is a modernization of Insular Celtic aka Gaidhlig/Gaelic — interpreted as East Munster.

Main Sources:

CMHS Box Cottage Museum Files

ADB online; e-Melbourne

Murray, PR & Wells, J.C. *Sand Swamp & Heath*, 1980

Cribbens, J. *Moorabbin A Pictorial History*, 1995

FAMILY HISTORY QUERY

Please contact us if you have any info on pioneer market gardener William Price and family of Tucker Rd. Email: moorabbins@gmail.com

POP-UP SEEDLINGS 30 AUGUST



L. Carol
R. Valma



The sun shone on our trial seedling project — reflecting our market gardening heritage— which the museum team organised for Open Day 30 August. On sale were:- beetroots, broccolis, cauliflowers, onions, radishes, tomatoes and a wheelbarrow of Heart’s Ease.

Many thanks to all involved — including local resident Elaine Story who kindly donated pots of Maidenhair Ferns, as well as James Lees Nurseries and Bunnings Moorabbin who both donated trays of seedlings.

BUNNINGS TRADE EXPO



Above:- CMHS member Holger manning the Box Cottage Museum’s stand at Bunnings Moorabbin, 9 September.

RECENT DISPLAYS

‘UNMENTIONABLES’ DISPLAY



Box Cottage Museum Collection

Above: Valma

Image J. Sharpe, 2015

BCM’s 25 October display of vintage underwear from CMHS collection — was arranged by Valma assisted by Joan, Fran and Robina with Frank repairing some of the mannequins. The display, coinciding with RHS’s History Week and GECC’s Seniors’ Week was a big success. Among our visitors were local dressmakers interested in viewing the exquisite needlecraft on show.

BRIGHTON GENERAL CEMETERY 160TH ANNIVERSARY, 18 OCTOBER

Along with Brighton Cemeterians, Glen Eira Historical Society, Brighton Historical Society and Gardenvale Primary School, CMHS’s Box Cottage Museum display team participated in the Brighton Cemeterian’s commemoration



L. Fran R. Joan

of the Brighton General Cemetery’s 160th anniversary of its first recorded burial (14 October 1855). Thanks to Lois and Richard, David and Holger for all your assistance.

BOX COTTAGE MUSEUM

OUTREACH DISPLAYS

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER

BENDIGO BANK ORMOND

4 August–31 August

Carol, Fran and Joan arranged a compact display of images from the BCM Collection in the main foyer of the Bendigo Bank, 485 North Road, Ormond.

The display provided a visual overview of the history of our area's development from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century, plus leaflets about the cottage and membership forms. (Image below, C.Poole,2015)



STANLEY'S MENSWEAR EASTLEIGH

27 July– 9 September 2015

Glen Eira Historical Society (GEHS) teamed up with CMHS's Box Cottage Museum (BCM) to present a combined display of men's vintage attire from both our Collections at Stanley Menswear shop at 700 Centre Road, East Bentleigh. (Image below F.Bader,2015)



BOX FAMILY

MARY LOUISA CLOSTER

While Alonzo Box's family history is reasonably well recorded, that of his bride, Mary Louisa Closter is lesser known. At the time of her marriage to returned ANZAC Alonzo Box, on 12 June 1918 at Holy Trinity Church, Oakleigh, she resided in Hanover St, Oakleigh. Like Alonzo, she came from a market gardening background albeit in the Waverley-Oakleigh area.



Alonzo Box
Mary Louisa Closter
Image:
CMHS Collection

Her father, Albert Kloster/Closter Snr, 1836–1890, was born in or near Hanover, Lower Saxony — in pre-federated Germany.

Mary Louisa's mother, Maria Bolch/Balch was the daughter of another pioneer, Josef Bolch/Balch and his wife Rosina Gramling whose family may have links (unverified) with Cheltenham.

Albert and Maria married in 1863 and produced eleven (known) children with Mary Louisa their youngest*.

CLOSTER CHILDREN

1. Elizabeth,
2. Charles John
3. Caroline,
4. Emily Augusta
5. Catherine Augustine,
6. Albert,
7. Frank,
8. George Herbert,
9. Joseph William,
10. Annie Elizabeth,
- *11. Mary Louisa

CLOSTER FAMILY

The Closter family name is engraved on a bronze plaque installed (probably after 1978) at the entrance to the community centre, Miller Crescent, Mt. Waverley, north side between Stephenson's Rd and Wadham Parade, Mt Waverley.



THIS PEDESTAL AND SURROUNDS BUILT WITH BRICKS OF THE CLOSTER HOUSE FORMERLY SITED NEARBY — PROVIDES A TANGIBLE LINK WITH THE HISTORY OF THE AREA AND IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF THE DISTRICT.

Transcribed from Waverley Historical Society website

According to Waverley Historical Society, John Peggie and Charles and Albert Closter [assumed to be Albert Senior's sons, and brothers of 'our' Mary Louisa] owned adjoining farms in Stephenson's and Waverley Roads.

In 1905, both donated an area of two acres for a new school in the area. In 1906, Mount Waverley Primary School No 3432 opened at the intersection of the property boundaries with access provided by a right-of-way from Waverley Road. This right-of-way became known as 'School Lane'.

Sources: Alfred Kruijshoop, Waverley Historical Soc., Valma Sharp, City of Moorabbin Historical Soc., Waverley Primary School website.