

CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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MOORABBIN'S 100th YEAR IN CLOSING.

THIS IS CENTENARY YEAR IN MOORABBIN. EVERY ORGANISATION IN THE CITY IS READY TO CELEBRATE IN ITS OWN WAY THE THREE FIGURE BIRTH-DAY DATE. EVERYONE IS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS YEAR IN WHICH OUR CITY ENTERS ITS SECOND ERA OF SELF-GOVERNMENT, FOR IN THE FIRST CENTURY THE AREA HAS GROWN FROM A BACK-BLOCK SECTION OF BRIGHTON TO BECOME THE SECOND LARGEST POPULATED AREA IN VICTORIA, AND ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE MUNICIPALITIES IN AUSTRALIA.

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in 1862 people were marvelling at the remarkable progress being made in Victoria, most people had not got into the habit of using the Queen's name to give title to the district, and the name Port Philip District, was still very much in use throughout the state.

When the Bunerong tribe went on the walkabout their wives went too. That was unless there were very young children, and in this case the mothers and the very young stayed in the Moorabbin, which was a part set aside for aboriginal mothers and their less active offsprings.

In Moorabbin, the Bunerong tribe of aboriginals was still in existence. There were about 300 of them still to be found in many parts of their old hunting grounds, which extended from the Mornington Peninsula to Mount Macedon. That was their old "Walkabout" territory. It was a territory that the tribe knew better than to venture beyond, just the same as neighboring tribes understood the consequences of entering the Bunerong area.

The area thus came to be known as Moorabbin. It is a name that is older than Australia itself as far as the white man is concerned.

The aborigine knew his territory well. He knew where there was water, and on early trips used the natural springs to serve wells and soaks which he had carved in the rocks.

Cattle men of the 1840's saw the possibilities surrounding the same springs and utilised them to water their animals.

FISH FROM MOORABBIN.

Beaumaris was then wholly within the Moorabbin District, it was also the port from which Melbourne markets obtained the bulk of their fish supplies.

Some of the aboriginal wells had been enlarged to act as water troughs and the head of cattle grew according to the extent that the capacity of the wells could be increased.

Large cattle runs occupied much of the area, although they were in the main, beginning to disappear. One of these was the O'Shannessy Estate which extended from Mordialloc to Point Ormond.

Other cattle runs were Martin's near where Martin St., Elwood is at present situated. It was known as "Moorabbin". McMillan's was at Little Brighton and Ben-ben-jin occupied part of Beaumaris. At the same time market gardening was coming into its own.