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CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

AFFILIATED WITH THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA AND THE CHELTENHAM ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

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DROUGHT REVEALS A SPRING.

For the first seventy years of Moorabbin's history a spring in Cheltenham Park near the end of Glebe Avenue was of great importance to market gardeners who then comprised about seventy per cent of the population. Here was permanent water, and here in dry periods came the gardeners with tanks — often square and painted red — on horse—drawn drays or wagons and filled them at the spring. The water was contained in a hole about twenty—five feet across and eight feet deep. Early settlers bricked it in and installed a pump. The frogs in the pool were of great interest to the boys of nearby Charman Road State School. When Moorabbin was connected with the Melbourne water supply the spring became redundant and in the nineteen twenties it was filled in.

For some time the Society has been interested in finding out where it was but even those who as boys threw stones at the frogs were not sure. And now the drought has revealed it. The City Engineer in looking for water to save the many trees and shrubs in the parks and gardens applied to Mr. Everest Le Page, a member of a pioneer Cheltenham family; he was able to fix its position in relation to four swamp ti-trees still standing in the park. A six-inch bore was put down to a depth of 220 feet and water was found; a bulldozer thrust back the covering earth and the spring was revealed. The water is being pumped out and removed to a Council dam of 750,000 gallon capacity near the airport. It will be a most useful addition to Board of Works water.

Councillor Frank Le Page, son of Mr. Everest Le Page retrieved the old pump of a type known as Douglas pump (it is complete except for its lever handle) and intends to restore it and present it to the Society.

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TWO OLD HOMES IN CHELTENHAM.

Two houses near the centre of Cheltenham have an historical interest. On the corner of Charman Road and Coape Street is a solid house in dark and light brick. It stands

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