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CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Mrs. C. Whitehead Education of the emon terestreamen win bus bus alvelo entit

Secretary Mrs. P. Brodie to one and the second s

NEWSLETTER

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The Society meets at the State School, Charman Road, Cheltenham on the 3rd Thursday in each month. Next meeting Thursday April 16th.

Exhibition at Southland

The South-Eastern Historical Association, a link organisation which combines the activities of nine historical societies - those of Moorabbin, Mordialloc, Chelsea, Frankston, Mornington, Dandenong, Point Nepean, Phillip Island and Wonthaggi - will hold an exhibition of historical material in honour of the bi-centenary of Captain Cook's landing in Australia from Thursday April 2nd to Saturday April 10th. All the societies will contribute objects and documents of historical interest; Mr. T. Sheehy, the secretary of the Association will provide some material from the Latrobe Library; the Shiplovers' Society will send a collection of pictures of old The Exhibition will be opened on the evening of Thursday April 2nd. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

What did they do for a crust?

History has been shaped by economics. Food and shelter are man's first needs; he must through work create some products or give some service to a community which pays him enough to provide these. To trace the story of how people earned their living in Moorabbin is to become aware of the great changes which have taken place in this area since the first farmers and market gardeners came here in the eighteen forties.

What happened in Moorabbin, for so long a rural district, was closely associated with what was going on in Melbourne, then a quite distant town. Melbourne grew fast from its beginning in 1835; after gold was discovered in 1851 it grew even faster. All these people needed food, including vegetables. Surrounding districts must supply them; when land in the Caulfield-Brighton-Moorabbin area was found to produce good vegetables migrants turned from unsuccessful gold-digging to settle here, produced vegetables and sometimes dairy products and conveyed them to the city markets. And after the gardeners came the tradesmen and shop keepers to supply their needs.

The records of one of the earliest schools in Moorabbin, East Bentleigh, give us a good deal of information about this. In 1864, of the occupations of a hundred of the children's fathers, sixty eight were gardeners; there were two carpenters, two labourers, two contractors, a wheelwright, a blacksmith, a butcher, a store keeper, a dealer, a clerk, a pound keeper, a chairmaker, a bricklayer, and a charwoman.