

One of the first names associated with Moorabbin is that of Josiah Holloway who in 1852 bought a large area of land south of Brighton and divided it into two-acre blocks which he offered for sale at £10 each. His Christian name has gone; so have "Emanuel" and "Percival," which are mentioned in the first edition of the "Moorabbin News" in 1900.

In the last century it was for a time almost compulsory to name a first son after his father and a first daughter after her mother. It must often have led to confusion and is a fashion well lost.

A study of the records of the East Bentleigh School in 1864 suggest that in Moorabbin boys' names changed more slowly than girls'; there are plenty of "Johns" "Roberts" and "Williams," but the girls are less like those of today - "Eliza," "Lizzie," "Emily," "Hannah," "Martha," "Louisa," "Minnie," "Susan," "Maria," "Matilda," "Annie." Most of these were out of fashion by the end of the century though some have come back again.

The Royal Family used to have a strong influence on Australian Christian names; it is weaker today. A couple of generations ago it was fashionable in this country to give boys the names of English aristocratic families and "Warwick," "Trevor," "Howard" and "Russell" were much in favour. Later Bible names for boys became popular and "Paul" "Timothy," "James" and "Mark" are still with us.

During a war it became fashionable to name children after places or people associated with it. Thus at the time of the American Civil War a soldier's child was often named after the commander of the regiment in which his father served. The enthusiasm in Australia for the exploits of its troops and those of her allies overseas in the First World War gave many children such names as "Anzac," "Louvain" and "Verdun." One unfortunate little girl was named "Gallipolina Dardanella." There was hardly any of this in the Second World War.

Since the cinema has been with us many children have been named after popular actors or actresses; "Gary," "Gregory," "Shirley" and "Marilyn" have had their day. Television idols are perhaps being honoured in the same way in the seventies.

At present it is fashionable to give some girls hyphenated names and use both. But it must often be an effort to say "Terri-Lynn" or "Laura-Kaye" when one word would do. One cannot but think that the child's parents are trying to be different.

## Exhibition at Latrobe Library

At the Latrobe Library at present there is an exhibition called "Playbills and Players"; it depicts Victorian theatrical history from 1842 to 1910. The material is based on the George S. Coppin and Bland Holt Collections and includes a theatre set of "The Breaking of the Drought" and forty lithographic posters, advertising pantomimes, extravaganzas, Shakespearian plays and such melodramas as "The Fatal Wedding" and "The Old Tollhouse." This will be the place to see how theatrical taste has changed. The exhibition will be open till May 14th. Hours are Monday, 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.