

AGM 2016–2017 & ANNUAL ELECTION 2017–2018

1 PM SUNDAY 23 JULY 2017

Financial members are urged to attend the 2016–2017 AGM as well as nominate for a position on the 2017–2018 Committee of Management.

MUSEUM OPEN DAYS

2–4 PM LAST SUNDAY OF MONTHS FEBRUARY TO NOVEMBER
[not if a public holiday]

Guided tour and displays from CMHS Collection. Bookings not required.
Members free Non-members: Children free Adults donation \$2+

10–4 PM SATURDAY 29 JULY, SUNDAY 30 JULY
OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE WEEKEND

Tour the Cottage Museum, Barn & Local History Room

WEEKDAY TOURS BY APPOINTMENT FOR GROUPS

\$5 per person includes guided tour, pamphlet & light refreshment

Email moorabbinhs@gmail.com Telephone 9579 4467

website: home.vicnet.net.au/~cmhsbcm

collection: <https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/box-cottage-museum>

CMHS MEMBERSHIP 2017

Annual Membership \$15

To join online: visit home.vicnet.net.au/~cmhsbcm click "Join Us" and follow the prompts.
Don't forget to add your name for CMHS reference and fill out the online membership form.

Please click "submit" so CMHS know you have renewed.

If paying by cheque please send your details and cheque to
PO Box 4028 McKinnon 3204 or bring cash/cheque to an open day.

Newsletter Team
Frances Bader, Geoffrey Paterson

Moorabbin

Newsletter City of Moorabbin Historical Society (CMHS) Inc
operating Box Cottage Museum

JULY 2017

ISSUE 11

Grace Lewis Room
Box Cottage Museum

**CMHS AGM
2016–2017**

**1 PM
Sunday
23 JULY 2017
+
committee
election
2017–2018**

*followed by a
working bee*

**OPEN HOUSE
MELBOURNE
@
BOX COTTAGE
MUSEUM**

10–4 PM

**SATURDAY
29 JULY**

**SUNDAY
30 JULY**

*all members
requested to help*

BOX COTTAGE MUSEUM (BCM)

OPERATED BY
CITY OF MOORABBIN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
(CMHS)

2016–2017 CMHS COMMITTEE

F. Bader, D. Poole, D. Moore,
C. Poole, J. Moore, H. Bader,
two vacancies

Email moorabbinhs@gmail.com

Website

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~cmhsbcm>

Victorian Collections Website

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/box-cottage-museum>

Telephone 9579 4467

Mail PO Box 4028, McKinnon 3204

MUSEUM OPEN DAYS

10–4 PM

SATURDAY 29 JULY

SUNDAY 30 JULY

(OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE)

2–4 PM

SUNDAY

25 JUNE

27 AUGUST

24 SEPTEMBER

15 OCTOBER

(RIETMAN EXHIBITION)

29 OCTOBER

26 NOVEMBER

BCM~CMHS MATTERS

AGM 2016–2017 1 PM 23 JULY

Please note change of date due to Open House Melbourne weekend. The Annual General Meeting of all financial members will take place in the Grace Lewis Room from 1pm Sunday 23 July 2017. A notice and agenda will be circulated to all financial members.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2017–2018

The annual election for positions on the 2017–2018 CMHS Committee of Management will take place after the AGM, 1pm Sunday 23 July. Nomination and proxy forms will be circulated prior to the date.

CMHS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee of Management meetings are held in the Grace Lewis Room every 2nd month and/or as necessary. Please contact moorabbinhs@gmail.com for dates and times. All financial members are welcome to attend. However, should you wish a proposal or suggestion included on the agenda, please email moorabbinhs@gmail.com at least 48 hours in advance, otherwise it may be deferred to a future meeting.

INFORMAL MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Prior to opening to the public from 2–4pm on the last Sunday of months February to November, CMHS members meet **informally** from 1pm in the Grace Lewis Room for a cup of tea and an update on committee activities and operational decisions.

LOCAL HERITAGE

PENNYDALE POST OFFICE

CMHS members who live in Cheltenham, may not be aware of the campaign by some residents to apply the name of *Pennydale Post Office* — closed eighteen years ago in 1999 — to a wider area of Cheltenham in the City of Bayside (former City of Moorabbin).

Pennydale Post Office, which opened in Cheltenham during 1956, was named after Edwin Thomas Penny, JP, a City of Moorabbin Councillor, 1903–1908. Apparently, this name was selected to avoid confusion with the existing Highett and Cheltenham Post Offices.

Between 1956 and 1999, even though the name was occasionally attached to the surrounding area, Pennydale was mostly applied to the Post Office itself. (A. May, *Encyclopedia of Melbourne*, 2008, School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne).

CHELTHENHAM

The suburb's name comes from the *Cheltenham Inn*, established by local landowner Charles Whorral, in 1853, at the corner of Centre Dandenong and Schnapper Point Roads (Nepean Highway). He named the inn after his home town in the English Cotswolds and Cheltenham¹ was adopted by the surrounding village. Natural springs in the vicinity, used by Bun Wurrung Kulinians, attracted new British settlers who established vineyards, orchards and market gardens, poultry and dairy farms.

¹Cheltenham interpreted as a settlement or hamlet of ancient British Celts.

SANDBELT STREET NAMES

CMHS has opened a new file to note the origins of our more obscure local street names. Should you have any such information and/or images please let us know.

ROSS STREET & SMITH STREET

Helen Stanley tells us that Ross and Smith Streets, located north of and close to the intersection of Jasper and Centre Roads in Bentleigh (running east), were named for Aviator Ross Smith (later Sir Ross Smith).

There is much more information on the internet about Sir Ross Smith's amazing, winning flight in the race of 1919. The Australian Government awarded a £10,000 prize to the winners.

Sir Keith Smith, who was Ross' brother, was the cameraman for most of the groundbreaking flight between London and Australia.



Above photo: Keith (left) and Ross (right) Smith reproduced from the Herald Sun NT News, 3 December 2014. Information and images kindly provided by Helen Stanley.

TUCKER ROAD

We are now looking for information on origin of the name Tucker Road, as well as Orange Street.

160TH ANNIVERSARY CHURCH OF CHRIST CHELTENHAM

The Church of Christ in Cheltenham, founded by Christian Restorationists¹, had two beginnings, one in the northern end of the district and one in the south. After arriving from Scotland a hundred and sixty years ago in 1857, James Keir commenced a communion service in his home on the Nepean Road. Services alternated between the Keir home and the home of Thomas Walker, who came from the town of Chester in England, and named the area, *Chesterville*.

By 1859, the northern group — which included names such as Allan, Brough, Cameron, Fairlam, Holdsworth, Le Page, Meeres, Monk, Organ, Penny, Perry, Potts, Sears and King — had built a small chapel near the corner of Wickham and Chesterville Roads.

During 1858, a second southern group were meeting in the Charman family home on the corner of Charman and Balcombe Roads. Names associated with this group included Bodley, Charman, Fisher, Hayes, Hilliar, Judd, Moysey and Ruse. In 1860, they built a chapel on the corner of Charman Road and Patty Street.

Sources

D. Brooker, 160 Years of Mission, *The Sentinel*, p.1, Sunday 6 May 2017, p.1. Southern Community Church of Christ, 2–12 Chesterville Road, Cheltenham 3192.
K.G. Hilbig, How Churches of Christ Began, *Our Heritage*, Centenary of the Cheltenham Church of Christ, 1957, p.1.



Cheltenham Church of Christ, ca 1920

Reproduced from David Reynolds, Kingston Collection. Copyright © 1998–2009
City of Kingston Historical Website
Category: People. Reference Number: 464.
Date Created: 4/07/2009.

After the Charman Road chapel was enlarged in 1866, it became the meeting place of the two groups when they congregated around 1870. Five years later, the church was ready to expand. The congregation bought land near the corner of Chesterville and Nepean Roads and a new brick chapel was erected on the site in 1878. The opening was reported as 'the largest religious service ever held in Cheltenham'. Although extensively remodeled, extended and improvements added, the church continues its mission today.

¹ Restorationists are non-denominational or independent Christians observing New Testament practices and tenets.

UNITED KINGDOM RELIGIOUS EMANCIPATION ACTS, 1828–1829

DANIEL O'CONNELL, 1775–1847

2017 is the 170th anniversary of the death of the almost forgotten religious emancipator and anti-slavery advocate, Daniel O'Connell. A leading constitutionalist, a proponent of nonviolence and civil rights campaigner, he was one of the leaders in the successful political struggle to repeal penal laws (enacted from 1607 onwards) that favoured members of the Established [Protestant/Anglican] Church in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. His political campaigns helped emancipate not only Catholics in Ireland but also Dissenting and Secessionist Christian churches, such as the Restorationists who founded the Church of Christ. O'Connell's campaign is also reputed to have served as a model for the later emancipation of British Jewry and Atheists, abolition of the slave trade, and to have influenced Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

CMHS~BCM MATTERS

FUTURE PROJECTS

If interested in helping out with either of the following two proposed projects, please contact a committee member on Open Days or phone 0431 145 231 or email moorabbins@gmail.com

LOCAL HERITAGE WALK

So as to establish a local heritage walk before the end of the decade, CMHS committee are asking for some help with researching the social history of early settlers in Jasper Road between North and McKinnon Roads as well as architectural styles in the area.

SEEDLINGS

The committee is also looking for members and friends willing to pot herbs, vegetable or flower seedlings at home to donate to the society — so we can sell them on Open Days as a revenue raiser for our museum.

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RHSV HISTORY WEEK 2017

Start planning now for History Week Victoria 2017 from Sunday 15 October to Saturday 21 October. Last year there were over 400 events to explore around the state, many of them with complimentary or low cost entry.

To celebrate RHSV History Week Victoria, the Box Cottage Museum will open to the public 2–4pm on Sunday 15 October with a \$2 entry donation to view our exhibition marking the centenary of August Rietman's arrival in the original 'Box Cottage' during 1917. We will also open by appointment during the week for groups (\$5 entry p/p).

RESPONSES TO HERITAGE QUERIES

ELSTER CREEK

According to Alf Moorehead's reminiscences (taken from Notes kindly provided by Jan Rigby) — MMBW finally enclosed the Elster Creek in an underground barrel drain (late 1930s) after the Creek was blamed for a polio epidemic that swept through local schools.

CMHS is still searching for images of the Creek as it flowed overground through Joyce Park. Please let us know if a member has time to contact the Board of Works and find out if they have any related images.

CLEE HILL

CMHS member, Robina Norton provided us with a *Trove* link to a long article in *The Argus*, Monday 4 February 1918, p.7, titled FEROCIOUS STORM. '... At about 4.45pm, Saturday 2 February 1918, 'two tongues of wind' travelling at 200mph swept to the northeast and devastated a narrow strip from Brighton Beach to past Clee Hill and Ormond as well as east to parts of Bentleigh.

Among the headings and sub-headings in *The Argus*: 'Great Havoc Wrought. Two Deaths. Many Injured. Houses Demolished. Trees Uprooted. Market Gardens Destroyed. Train Station Damaged. Railway Line Blocked. Plus a Mrs Mooney cried out "It's the end of the World" as bricks from her chimney fell around her ...' [she emerged unscathed].

Source: *The Argus*, Monday 4 February 1918, p.7.

VALE LEONARD (LEN) ALBERT LE PAGE, 1928–2017

END OF AN ERA

A large crowd attended the memorial service to mark the death of veteran Moorabbin market gardener Len (Leonard) Le Page. The service was held from 11am on Wednesday 10 May 2017 in the historic Church of Christ, Chesterville Road, Cheltenham—the church his great-grandfather, Nicholas Le Page helped establish (refer p.6).

Leonard, known as Len, was born in 1928 the youngest son of a well known market gardener in the then City of Moorabbin. As recently as June 2016, Len took part in the annual GECC *Storytelling Festival Event* at Moorleigh Primary School along with Dr Rachel Carey and another market gardening veteran, Len Kennedy.

A tribute by Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries (*Herald Sun*, 5 May 2017) revealed that Len Le Page was a founding member of their group 'with an enormous depth of knowledge about the Cheltenham area, that he was a true gentleman, and his sage wisdom will be sadly missed'.

Len's parents were Everest 1885–1974 and Lynda Le Page née Anderson. Lynda was the daughter of a well-known breeder of Jersey cattle at Lyndhurst and Murrumbena. Len, b.1928, was the youngest of four boys: Theo, b.1917, Frank, b.1919, Vern, b.1920, and two girls, Dorothy, b.1922 and Jean, b.1923.

LE PAGE DYNASTY

Len Le Page's father, Everest Le Page, 1885–1974, was the second son of Francis Thomas Le Page, ca 1852–1927, the eldest son of Nicholas Le Page, 1826–1885. Nicholas was the first Le Page to settle in the Sandbelt. Nicholas, a tailor, and Elizabeth, a dressmaker, with their less than one year old son, Francis Thomas, emigrated from Guernsey to Victoria on the SS *Calliope* in the early 1850s.

Guernsey is a British Crown Dependency in the Channel Islands off the coast of France. Many islanders are descended from Norman-French settlers — as indicated by some of the names on census records, e.g. Le Page. One interpretation of their surname from the medieval French suggests that the title *le page* was used to indicate the first stage (before *esquire*) of a son's training for knighthood.

Nicholas Le Page and his wife worked in Prahran prior to paying £20 on 30 January 1854 for Lot 95 in land speculator Josiah Morris Holloway's *Two Acre Village* subdivision¹— in what was then an unnamed rural area described as 'heavily timbered with Box, Red Gum and Wattle.' They will go on to build a weatherboard house on the Government, later Chesterville, Road, and establish a successful market gardening enterprise. Some years later they bought Lot 97 on the corner of Chesterville Road and Bernard Street.

¹625 ares 2 rods 36 perches subdivided into 370 allotments.

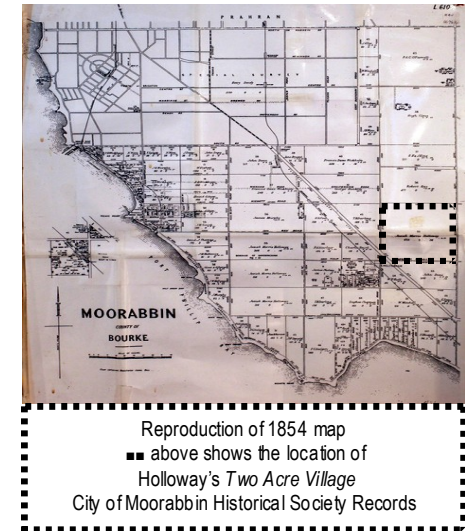
SANDBELT LE PAGES

MARKET GARDENERS

Like most god-fearing early market gardeners, Nicholas and Elizabeth Le Page started off with minimum equipment and after a lot of backbreaking work they cleared the land, tilled the soil and attended church on Sundays. In addition, they experienced personal tragedy as four of their ten children died young.

Their eldest son, Francis Thomas (ca 1852–1927) and his Irish-born wife Mary née Geraghty bought Lots 62, 63 and 64 in Holloway's subdivision and sadly, their first son Leopold, 1877–1878 died in infancy. In 1883, they built *Daphne Cottage* where their second son, Everest, 1885–1974, was brought up. Francis became a Justice of the Peace and sat at the Cheltenham Court. He also served as a Moorabbin Shire Councillor for 25 years and was president for a term. The couple later bought Lots 66, 67, 68 Wilson Street and Lot 79 in Argus Street.

When Francis died in 1927, his son, Everest Le Page took over his father's market gardening enterprise and went on to buy five more lots of land in Chesterville Road. He grazed horses, ponies and cows and grew pumpkins, onions, potatoes, cabbages, carrots, parsnips, and flowers. After Everest's death in 1974, his family decided to sell some of the Chesterville Road land 'as they were only working to pay rates' (Len Le Page). A housing estate developer purchased the land for *Pagewood Park Estate* and the Le Page market gardens moved further out. To give back to their community, the family donated *Daphne Cottage* grounds to the City of Moorabbin who created *Le Page Gardens*.



PAGEWOOD PARK

'Pagewood Park', Melway 77, J10, perpetuates the Le Page family name and two streets in the estate are named after Everest Le Page and his wife, Lynda.

Pagewood Park was one of the first and, some say the best, housing estates built in Victoria under the new Cluster Titles Act, 1974–1975. Then Premier, Mr Hamer, officially opened Pagewood Park on 23 March 1978 and members of the Le Page family attended the reception.

Brian Dixon, Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, played an exhibition tennis match with Ron Clark as an added attraction to the opening ceremony, and to promote the 'Life. Be in it' campaign.

Main sources

Kingston City Council Historical Website, Article Cat. Land and Environment Article Refs. 123, 186, 201, 246.
 Allom Lovell & Associates, *Bayside Heritage Review*, Thematic History, 1999, p.11.
 Friends of Cheltenham Cemetery Newsletters.
 CMHS Records and Newsletters.