

ORIGINS OF LOCAL STREET NAMES

Members with a special interest in the history & heritage of Ormond, McKinnon and Bentleigh suburbs (formerly East Brighton then North Moorabbin) are working on an A-Z file listing the origins of the more obscure local street and park names of our region. If you know **WHO** or **WHAT** your street was named after (or when), would you kindly email the information to moorabbinhs@gmail.com; mail to PO Box 4028, McKinnon 3204, or pop in to the museum on an Open Day.

DIARY

Open to Public Bookings not Required

LAST SUNDAY FEBRUARY TO NOVEMBER, 2-4PM

Members Free Non-members: Adults \$2 +donation Children free

Guided or self-guided tour of Cottage Museum, Barn & Local History Room
Displays from CMHS Collection

WEEKDAY TOURS

Groups by Appointment (\$5p/p includes tour, leaflet & light refreshment)

email moorabbinhs@gmail.com or phone 9579 4467, 9557 9465

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

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

CMHS MEMBERSHIP 1 JULY 2017 – 30 JUNE 2018

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 Mirror

Newsletter City of Moorabbin Historical Society Inc. A0020547E (CMHS)
operating Box Cottage Museum (BCM)

OCTOBER 2017 ISSUE 12

New Compact Exhibition
Box Cottage Museum

August Rietman, Unknown Stone Carver WW1 Memorials

Open to the Public

Sunday 15 October 2-4 pm

Sunday 29 October 2-4 pm

Saturday 28 October 12-4 pm



August Rietman at work
undated 1920s

Group Tours
weekdays by appointment
email moorabbinhs@gmail.com
phone 9579 4467 or 9557 9465

**BOX COTTAGE
MUSEUM (BCM)
OPERATED BY
CITY OF MOORABBIN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
(CMHS)**

2017–2018 CMHS COMMITTEE

**President F. Bader
Vice President D. Poole
Secretary-Treasurer C. Poole
Committee Members
D. Moore, J. Moore, three vacancies**

Website

home.vicnet.net.au/~cmhsbcm
Victorian Collections Website
https://victoriancollections.net.au/
organisations/box-cottage-museum

Email

moorabbinhhs@gmail.com

Phone/message

**Carol 9579 4467
Fran 9557 9465**

MUSEUM OPEN DAYS

SUNDAY 2–4PM

15 OCTOBER, RHSV HISTORY WEEK
29 OCTOBER
26 NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 12–4PM

28 OCTOBER
GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL
GROOVE & GRAZE EVENT
JOYCE PARK

CMHS~BCM MATTERS

AGM AND COMMITTEE ELECTION

The AGM 2016–2017 and Committee Election 2017–2018 took place in the Grace Lewis Room from 1pm Sunday 23 July 2017. Many thanks to all the members who attended.

COMMITTEE ELECTION 2017–2018

As no other nominations were received, the 2016–2017 Committee of Management was elected unopposed for 2017–2018.

CMHS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee of Management meetings are held in the Grace Lewis Room every 2nd month and/or as necessary and convenient. All financial members are welcome to attend Committee meetings. Please email moorabbinhs@gmail.com for dates and times, or phone the secretary on 9579 4467 if you wish a particular item included on the agenda.

INFORMAL MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Prior to Open Days, 2–4pm on the last Sunday of February to November, CMHS members meet informally from 1pm in the Grace Lewis Room — to receive condensed minutes of previous Committee meetings and occasional presentations by members on their subject of particular interest..

MEMBER'S RESEARCH

On Sunday, 28 September, CMHS member, Helen presented her research into the Porter and Patterson families — whose names are perpetuated in our local streets. Helen kindly provided a copy of her research for inclusion in CMHS's local street names file. (File suggested by Robina.)

**RECENT ADDITIONS
CITY OF KINGSTON HISTORICAL WEBSITE
<http://localhistory.kingston.vic.gov.au>**

City of Kingston Historian, Dr Graham Whitehead has kindly let us know that four fascinating new stories/articles about the history of our region have recently been added to the City of Kingston Historical Website. They are as follows:

Nancye Wynne Bolton

Leo Gamble tells of Nancye Wynne Bolton an Australian tennis champion and a one-time resident of Mentone. Nancye showed her talent early as a young girl in tournaments at Mentone in the 1930s. By 1938, she qualified to play in the US Championships and was rated among the top ten female players in the world. She eventually won eleven Australian Championships. Later, in the early 1950s, she made her mark in club competitions in golf.

Snippets about the Mordialloc–Frankston railway line

Frank McGuire and Des Jowett give us some interesting historical snippets about the Mordialloc–Frankston railway line. It was in July 1882 that the line from Mordialloc–Frankston was officially opened. Thomas Bent was there and announced to all the assembled crowd that two trains would be leaving Frankston for Melbourne from Monday to Friday at 7.17 am. and 3.55 pm. He said there would be trains on Saturday but no service on Sundays. How things have changed.

Muddy Creek

Traces the history of the Mordialloc Creek. Its estuary sustained the Bunurong for thousands of years and provided a safe anchorage for fishermen from the 1850s.

Sons of Temperance: A Cheltenham Friendly Society

The non-denominational Church of Christ formed a friendly society to support members in times of crisis and defray funeral expenses...

Source: Dr G. Whitehead, Kingston City Council Historian.

RE-PURPOSED SHINGLES (images C. Poole, 2017)



SHINGLES*

Committee members Daryl and David recently repurposed some external shingle offcuts left over from the 1984 construction of the pioneer cottage museum and installed them over the museum 'wishing well'. According to builder, Mr A. Smith in the *Story of Box Cottage*, (p.3) published 2015, these shingles were split in Tasmania by timber craftsman, Mr Ted Foster, from black peppermint *Eucalyptus amygdalina*.

*Shingle derived from the German word *shindle* (schindel).

PIONEER COTTAGE MUSEUM

As a Victoria's 150th Anniversary project during 1984–1985, what could be salvaged from the original c.1850 settler's cottage — that was enclosed in Lewis Timber Warehouse (at rear of image above) since 1970 — was relocated to nearby Joyce Park and integrated into a new early settler's heritage museum.

FUNDING

Funding from the Victorian Government and timber donated by Laurie Lewis enabled the City of Moorabbin to replicate the original cottage in 1984.

EARLY SETTLER'S DWELLING

It is unknown who built the original cottage in the 1840s or early 1850s. It was located on one of two allotments that were originally part of Henry Dendy's ill-fated 5120 acre Special Survey* that he purchased in London during 1840.

Jasper Hale, an emancipated convict from NSW, was the first recorded buyer. He bought the two allotments from Nicholas Were, who had bailed out his brother, J. B. Were — during the infamous 'Twelve Apostles' land speculations that bankrupted Henry Dendy, guarantor for J.B. Were's Union Bank loan.

Jasper Hale owned the allotments from 1844–1846 and returned to NSW. Yes! Jasper Road bears his name.

The museum doors and window sashes, made of red deal joinery timber, as well as the brass locks and fittings, are from the original cottage, and were imported from England. The fireplace bricks, from the original cottage, are sun-dried, not kiln fired, and handmade.

*Eight or nine other special surveys in Victoria were sold by the colonial government in Sydney around the same time.



CMHS~BCM MATTERS

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE (OHM)

For the second year in a row, Box Cottage volunteers took part in OHM — a worldwide phenomenon held Saturday and Sunday, 30–31 July. The number of visitors to Box Cottage Museum over the two days were 166 (last year, 243). Among them were descendants of the Box and the Le Page* families.



Above: Tania Le Page and daughter Elsbeth in the Box Cottage barn with Elizabeth Le Page's cabin trunk brought out from Guernsey on the SS *Calliope* in 1853.

Image: courtesy Dennis Le Page with kind permission of Tania Le Page, 2017. Cabin trunk in CMHS Collection.

Tania is the great granddaughter of former Moorabbin Mayor and Councillor, the late Everest Le Page, and great, great, great granddaughter of Nicholas Le Page who was Elizabeth (Betsy) Le Page's brother. He also emigrated from Guernsey in 1853.

* More Le Page information on City of Kingston Historical Website: Article Cat. People, Article Ref. 201. See also *Moorabbin Mirror*, Issue 11.

OHM THANKS

Huge thanks to committee members: Joan and Carol for organizing the OHM weekend and making everything run smoothly. Many thanks also go to Andrew, Chris, Damien, David, Daryl, Dennis, Fran, Gareth, Geoff, Helen, Holger, Jamie, Robina, and OHM volunteers for their invaluable help.

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

The 2017–2018 Committee warmly welcome the following new and renewing CMHS members:

K. Anderson
G. Paterson
J. Rigby
H. Stanley

SKETCHING BCM

It was fascinating to watch members of the Hughesdale Art Group (HAG) sketching *en plein air* at the Box Cottage Museum on August 16.

HAG arranges a number of special events for members and the general public — outings, exhibitions, demonstrations, workshops, and social occasions. For more information see www.hughesdaleartgroup.weebly.com

OBSCURE STREET NAMES

If you, your friends or neighbours can help with more information on our obscure street names, kindly email us at moorabbinhs@gmail.com.

CALL-OUT FOR IMAGES

CMHS is looking for more detailed photos of Rietman's Garden Products when it operated in Jasper Road before 1970 — next door to Lewis Timberyard at Jasper Road. Should you happen to have any in your photo albums, please email moorabbinhs@gmail.com or ring Fran on 9557 9465. We are happy to scan the image and reproduce it, with acknowledgement of the source, and return the original to you.



Rietman Garden Products, left-hand corner of Lewis Timberyard
Image reproduced and cropped from *Moorabbin News*, 16 May 1962, p. 22.

EARLY SETTLER'S COTTAGE

In 1917, after leasing* the Box Family property in Jasper Road Ormond from Ada and Violet Box, daughters of deceased William and Elizabeth Box, stone carver, August Rietman and his wife, Frieda moved in. The one acre property contained an early settler's cottage along with various outhouses, and a Victorian "Big House" with two pine trees in front. August set up his studio in a back room of the cottage and a workshop in an outhouse where he carved

stone figures and experimented with casting ornamental garden objects and industrial products in cement. He ran his own business until he passed away in 1951.

When his son, William Rietman took over, he set up new showrooms at Highett and continued using the property in Ormond until it was sold to Lewis Timberyard who enclosed the area in a new warehouse — and preserved the original settler's cottage.

* August Rietman purchased the property in 1935.

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE 1923–1934

Even before WW1 ended, communities across Victoria began fundraising to build memorials to remember their fallen sons and acknowledge those who had served.

The most revered memorial in Victoria is the Shrine of Remembrance whose site was selected after much debate.

Based on the tomb of Mausolus at Halicarnassus and the Parthenon in Athens, plans and design sketches submitted by architects and returned AIF veterans, Phillip Hudson and James Wardrop — in association with newly-arrived English sculptor Paul Raphael Montford — won the competition to design the Shrine from eighty-two other entrants in 1923.

Lack of funds and differences of opinion between local symbolists and practical utilitarians (Monash v Murdoch) slowed its progress. Criticisms of the selected design, *a tomb of gloom*, along with complaints about the lack of Christian motifs or elements, also contributed. In addition, it was stipulated that only returned servicemen or men born in Australia should be employed on the project.

It wasn't until Remembrance Day, 11 November 1927, that the foundation stone was laid and it took seven years for the Shrine to be completed and dedicated on 11 November 1934.

After debate among the Shrine trustees or board, they agreed to commission England-born sculptor, non-serviceman and pacifist, Paul Raphael Montford, 1868–1939, to create the winged figures¹ on the exterior corners of the Shrine as well as the figurative friezes for the tympanium above the portico.

Moorabbin Mirror has not been able to establish how Italian-born West Australian sculptor Pietro Porchelli² (1872–1943) was

Lamp standard by
August Rietman
undated image



CMHS Collection
Courtesy R. Rietman.

selected to create the twelve freestone Inner Frieze relief panels around the top of the sanctuary. It is suggested that he may have undertaken a prior commission for the Melbourne City Council and that may have been a factor. However, even though Italy had been on the Allied side in WW1, Pietro soon found himself *persona non grata* and fired — his figures were deemed "too continental".

Montford, who doubtlessly would have known or may have shared in the negativity towards Porchelli, probably expected to take over the commission. Montford is on record³ as asking Rietman to "rough carve" the inner frieze. But August refused. Most likely he was aware of the controversies surrounding the Shrine project, plus the stipulation about employing only ex-AIF-servicemen or native born.

It turned out that Montford didn't receive the commission in any case. Ostensibly this was because he wasn't Australian-born. To his chagrin, Lyndon Dadswell, (1908–1986), a talented but inexperienced twenty-one year old sculpting student from Sydney, was appointed instead, with Montford as "supervisor".

Ironically, August Rietman got to install light standard(s) in the Shrine grounds (image above) that were cast in his Ormond workshop.

1. The granite figures were rough carved by monumental carvers

V. Wagner, J. Hamilton, W. Hutching of Vaughan & Lodge.

2. Porchelli was known for his figures, busts, reliefs, patriotic plaques and large medallions of prominent WA citizens.

3. Scates, B., *A Place to Remember*, CUP 2009.