

CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.

(Affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Vic.)

PRESIDENT: T. A. Sheehy,
XF 1134

SECRETARY: Mrs. L. Harvey.
XF 1894

NEWSLETTER No. 4 Vol. 2.

JULY, 1962.

A HISTORY CONSCIOUS CITY.

When the curtain fell on the recent celebrations - we are not going to use that "Cent" word again - our members felt that for a few months at least, our people would have read enough about history. How wrong can you be?, because when the last edition of the "Newsletter" went out the "phone began to ring in protest against the lack of historical matter contained within its pages. Then no less than six first class papers were presented to the society inside the space of a week. This was followed by an increase in membership and an invitation to go to Sandringham to tell their scouts about our pioneers, who were also theirs. So in response to your gentle censure of our misjudgement we are again going back over the century and beyond, to cover more of the life of the hardy race who battled against the odds, and won through in the long run.

BACK WITH THE ABORIGINALS.

We read in a book that is just out, that very little is known of our aborigine tribes. This, of course, is wrong. Well known anthropologist Mr. Massola in our opinion has a very comprehensive knowledge of the race. Our members have been invited to join with Oakleigh Historical Society for a talk by Mr. Massola on this subject on Tuesday, 17th July, in the Church of England hall, Cnr. Warrigal and Dandenong Roads, Oakleigh at 8 p.m. If you are not a member, and you are particularly interested, ring our president and he will arrange for you to attend. However, you are urged to get in early, because Mr. Massola is always a popular speaker. At the Oakleigh end - enquiries may be made to Mr. Goldsworthy, 56-6516.

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THANK YOU 3AW for donating to us that historical tape of your "Outlook" programme which features interviews with Mr. A. R. Judd, Cr. E. A. LePage, His Worship, the Mayor, Cr. L. R. Coates, and others. "Outlook" is presented by John Worthy at 7.30 p.m. each Sunday night. It is one of those fast moving shows which neatly depicts the Australian scene. If you haven't heard it yet, we suggest that you try it once. You will enjoy it, we are sure.

THANK YOU TOO, CHANNEL 7 for your contribution to our film library of those important films taken by your cameramen during our celebrations. We are grateful for your thoughtfulness in expressing your appreciation of our work. It is only through the assistance of organisations like your own, however, that has allowed the society to advance as quickly as it has.

TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS: The "Outlook" tape is available to anyone who would like to run it through at a meeting. Our films, although at this stage only running to the length of a newsreel item, are also available for anyone holding a film night. They feature flashes from the procession and the celebrations. We also have a number of colour slides as part of our library.

AN ACCURATE RECORD OF EVENTS.

The life and progress of this city is recorded week by week in the columns of Standard Newspaper publications. If by chance you are a newcomer to the district who has not yet got the "News" habit you are really missing something out of life. We recommend the "News" to introduce you to the district. It is designed as a family paper, and places emphasis on good clean journalism, which is, unfortunately, becoming all too rare. This makes it an ideal paper for encouraging children to look for the better class of literature. There is, by the way, a children's page as well as a sporting page. The "News" is without a doubt the best threepence-a-week investment in the City of Moorabbin.

LAYING A PERMANENT FOUNDATION: The society has appointed as permanent business executives, Messrs Ashley, our display adviser, and T. Sheehy. This was found necessary to meet added interest in the work. It is felt that before long a full permanent committee will have to be elected.

ON THE JOB AGAIN.

Among the latest papers handed to the society is one by a lady well-known to most of us. It is Mrs. G. Shipston. Mrs. Shipston, so we discovered, is a person with a journalistic background. So there was the McKnight family, with a history dating back to 1852 in this area, to be recorded. Logical choice for the job was Mrs. Shipston. The result was just perfect. The story is too long to print in one "Newsletter", so we are saving it with a number of others, because soon we hope to have available the ten best papers of the year. Cost of production will be 2/- each set, and for this price we will pass them on to you. If you would like a set would you please let us know. Here is an outline of the McKnight story:--

It opens in Northern Ireland with James and his wife heading for London en route to Australia. It was to be a long and tedious journey, although not by any means slow for those days. They settled for a short time in Melbourne. James and his brother-in-law made several trips to the gold fields, and on one of their return journeys they were attacked by a particularly bad gang of bushrangers and were lucky to escape with their lives. One was shot, the other badly injured about the head.

George McKnight, a younger brother, followed out to Australia a few months later, was unable to find his brother, then he went on to Geelong. Ten days later James and his wife (Mary) traced him to there. Meanwhile James had bought property in what is now Cheltenham. George went there to live with him and Mary. The men sank a well to 32 feet before they found water, but were rewarded with a never failing supply. At this new home the first Australian-born McKnight was born. James, whose health had been long failing, died within a year of his arrival in this country and was buried in the grounds of St. Andrews at Brighton.

Mrs. Shipston has introduced into her record of the McKnights something of the life of our pioneering women folk, something that is long overdue. Another story which will go with the ten best papers is a letter written by a gold digger to his wife in England. This one is a living account that tells of the hardships and heartbreaks, and the uncertainty wrought by separation during the gold rush.

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Mrs. Shipton, as we discovered, is a person with a
journalistic background. So there was the Mohan family
Students (school children etc.) wishing to join the society
may now do so by filling the application form below and
forwarding it to The Secretary, Mrs. L. Harvey, Cnr. Argus
and Rosewarne Street, Cheltenham. Adult members may use the
same form.

TO THE SECRETARY, CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY. PLEASE
ENROL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY. ENCLOSED IS
TO THE VALUE OF 2/- (Student member). 5/- (Adult member).
Cross out that which does not apply.

NAME Mr. Mrs.
Miss

ADDRESS

DATE: / /

Signature of adult member or
parent or guardian of student.
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Student members will be welcome to attend our ordinary
meetings (monthly). They are also invited to write a story
of up to 400 words for the "Newsletter" and send it to the
president. If the story is used a fee of 5/- will be paid.
The subject: Anything, history or otherwise, that you feel is
a worthwhile aspect of the City of Moorabbin.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE MOORABBIN MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS
AT 8 p.m. ON THURSDAY 19th JULY. VISITORS WELCOME.