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The Newsletter

Moonee Ponds Courthouse Museum

768-770 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds 3039



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Telephone 9370 4607



Modern Moonee Ponds—Moonee Ponds Junction Precinct in 2021

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I would like to extend to each and every one of you all the best for the New Year. I am sure that we are all looking forward to a much better year in 2021 than what we experienced in 2020. Whilst we will still have to observe a number of precautions in relation to the way we meet and share with each other to prevent another outbreak of the dreaded virus, I am sure that as time goes by we will return to some form of normality.

The Essendon Historical Society Committee of Management met on Monday, 18 January to plan for the year ahead and a number of important decisions were made in relation to resuming activities.

We, like all organisations, were issued with a QR Code Registration system to enable people entering the Court House to be traced quickly if this became necessary. The Code enables us to double the number of people in attendance at an event in the Courtroom from 23 to 46. The Code can be scanned using most mobile phones. Members who have not got a mobile phone or who are unable to scan the QR Code will be required to record their name and contact details.

Our first Meeting for the 2020/21 Year will be the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held at the Moonee Ponds Court House Museum on TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021 commencing at 7.30 pm. Members who attend will be required to record a contact telephone number beside their name in the Attendance Book.

The Court House will be open to the Public from the first Sunday afternoon in February (7 February) between 2 pm and 5 pm and will be open each week from that date as it used to be prior to the fire in June 2016 and briefly before the Covid restrictions last year.

We are anxious to recruit a new team of VOLUNTEERS to help us each Sunday afternoon. Volunteers are not required to have a great knowledge of the history of the district. The most important task is to make visitors feel welcome. Those with queries can be directed to one of the team who have undertaken research and will be in attendance for visitors requiring assistance.

Unfortunately, because of the lockdown during the latter half of the 2020 year we were forced to cancel arrangements that we had made for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Essendon Historical Society. We decided at the Planning Meeting that because of the

passage of time that we would not celebrate the event in the way that we had originally intended. I wish to thank Elaine Brogan (OAM), Alison and Malcolm McNab, Emma and Greg Thege, Lyndall Byrne and Eve Park, the members of the 50th Anniversary Sub-Committee, for the work that they undertook in preparing for the occasion.

The Cataloguing Sub-Committee members returned to the Court House on Monday, 11 January to resume their invaluable work in recording and caring for our collections. Any member of the society who would like to assist the Sub-Committee with its work and who is free on a Monday morning, should contact us. We are anticipating holding a work-shop in the near future for teaching those who are interested in how to operate our database.

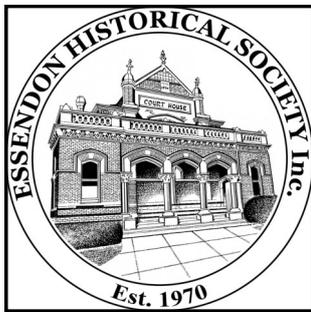
Members of the City of Moonee Valley will be commencing activities in the Court House from the beginning of February. EHS Members are reminded that in line with the signed Agreement with the Moonee Valley Council, we have access to the premises on a Saturday, Sunday and Monday and the fourth Tuesday of the month and the Council will have access from Tuesday to Friday. EHS members wishing to use part of the building in Council time must check first to see that this is convenient.

The “North Park” Development proposal has reached an interesting stage. The planned development was knocked back by both Heritage Victoria (HV) and the City of Moonee Valley. The Columban Mission originally indicated that they wished to discuss the matter further with HV and had also set a date to appeal to VCAT. They have since withdrawn discussions with HV and were due to meet with VCAT in March. The “Save North Park” Group have led the protest and the EHS, through Secretary, Hayden Williams, has sent a “Letter of Objection” to VCAT. The EHS has also made a donation to the Fighting Fund of the Save North Park Group. Late news received from the Save North Park group informs us that the meeting with VCAT has also been withdrawn.

The EHS has agreed to support the Union Road Traders by undertaking research of premises and institutions in Union Road and lead/train leaders in short Heritage Walks in July as part of “Open House Week”. Help from any members who would like to assist in this project in any way will be most welcome. Please contact me.

We are pleased that in spite of the problems faced in 2020, we have still been able to welcome a number of new members to the Society. They are listed on the back page of this Newsletter. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Bob Chalmers



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EHS ACTIVITIES ON
OUR WEBSITE

www.esshissoc.org.au

Email Address esshissoc@mail.com

**SUPPORTERS OF THE EHS
RESTORATION FUND**

We thank the following local Businesses &
Organisations for their generous support

Paul McDonald Real Estate

Brad Teal Real Estate

Rotary Club of Essendon

Strathmore Theatrical Arts Group

Lions Club of Essendon Inc.

Rotary Club of Essendon North

Australia Day Breakfast Committee

REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN ALSO COMMUNICATE WITH US THROUGH FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/EssendonHistoricalSociety

TWITTER: twitter.com/EssHisSoc

Notice of Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 23rd February 2021

In accordance with the Constitution of the Essendon Historical Society (Rule No 29), members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of Essendon Historical Society Inc. will be held at the “Moonee Ponds Court House Museum” on

**TUESDAY, 23 February 2021
commencing at 7.30 pm**

The Agenda shall include

- 1) The confirmation of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM
- 2) The reception of reports covering activities of the Society in 2019/20.
- 3) The reception of the Financial Statement for the Year Ending 30th June, 2020.
- 4) Ratification of Subscriptions for 2020/21.
- 5) The Election of Office Bearers and members of the Committee of Management for the ensuing year.
- 6) Other business of which notice has been given.

Positions for which nominations are invited in accordance with By-Law 43 are:

- President**
- Vice President (1)**
- Secretary**
- Treasurer**
- Ordinary Members (5)**

Nominations for the above positions must be received in writing by the Secretary on the official nomination form by the close of business (4 p.m.) by Tuesday 14 February 2021

Mail to

**The Secretary (EHS)
PO Box 557
Essendon, 3040**

Nomination forms are available on line from the EHS Website (page 39 of By-laws)

Or on request from the
Secretary
Hayden Williams (0417 559 086)

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2020/21

The Annual Subscription Fees for the 1920/21 Financial Year fell due on 30 June 2020. Thank you to those members who have already paid.

The current subscriptions are as follows

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$30—00
DUAL MEMBERSHIP \$50—00

(for two members living at the same address)

STUDENT CONCESSION \$20—00
(to completion of first Degree)

It would greatly assist our Treasurer if those members who have not yet paid their 2020/21 Membership could do so as soon as possible

NOTE: (SHORTENED YEAR)

The Election of Officers and EHS Committee will cover the period from 23 FEBRUARY 2021 until 24 AUGUST 2021 when the Annual General Meeting for the 2021/2022 Year will be held.

**COURT HOUSE
RESTORATION REPORT**
by **Mary Cahill**
(Restoration Manager)

You will be aware that EHS has agreed to share use of the Court House with the Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC). This partnership is described in a licence. In the next few weeks, MVCC will begin to hold some of its programs in the Court House, hence I thought it was timely to once again recount the development of the licence with the MVCC.

Licence

To cover future costs (insurance, cleaning, maintenance, essential services) of the restored Court House, it was apparent that an ongoing source of funding was required. Following consultation meetings with EHS members it was agreed to share use of the Court House with an external body or organisation. It was also agreed that, in the first instance, an approach be made to MVCC.

Extensive consultations and meetings resulted in a partnership between EHS and MVCC. Agreement was formalised with a licence which was listed in the Victorian Government Gazette prior to being approved by the Victorian State Government on 23 December 2019. The licence contains Special Conditions relating to the operations and permissible activities in the Court House. EHS continues to be the Committee of Management of the Court House.

The current licence is for six years and the licence fee paid by MVCC contributes to the Court House operating costs. The MVCC has use of the Court House for four days per week (Tuesday to Friday). Council intends to use the Court House for meetings, library groups and seminars. Through these MVCC programs more of the general public will have the opportunity to appreciate the Court House building.

EHS has sole use of the Court House on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. Research workers can have occasional access at other times. The Ted Smith and Sam Merrifield Rooms are for the exclusive use of EHS only. These rooms will be used to safely store the EHS Collection and local history records. EHS monthly meetings will continue to be held on Tuesday evenings. EHS will continue to open the Court House to the public on Sunday afternoons. There will be no admission charge.

An Operational Handbook for use of the Court House has been prepared and its contents apply to both EHS members and MVCC staff. A subcommittee of the EHS Committee will oversee the implementation of the licence. This Museum sub-committee is to be composed of three representatives from each of EHS and MVCC, with meetings being chaired by EHS.

EHS members are welcome to view a copy of the licence. Do not hesitate to ask if you have any queries.

REPAIR WORK ON NORTH WALL

Mary, in previous reports, has referred to the dampness on the north wall of the Court House under the kitchen window. The dampness caused the new tuck-pointing to drop off noticeably spoiling the appearance of the building. The affected area has been re-rendered and we expect that the brickwork will be re-tuck-pointed later in the year.



Recent investigation revealed that a broken drain-pipe had caused dampness along the east wall. The pipe has been replaced and we now expect the bricks to dry out.



COURT HOUSE VOLUNTEER ROSTER

On 7 February we are planning to re-open the Court House Museum in line with Government restrictions and COVID safe guidelines and we are looking for volunteers to assist with supervision at the Museum.

The Court House will be open every Sunday from this date, between the hours of 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm. Unless you are a key-holder, the main responsibilities would include -

- Greeting guests
- Keeping a tally of visitors
- Recording sales of EHS publications
- Directing queries to EHS researchers

We are collecting the interest and details of volunteers in a Google Form which can be accessed via this link -

Link: <https://forms.gle/NqsijWNbuV7sPLwP9>.

Alternatively you can contact Kelsey Collins by leaving a message on the EHS Voicemail by calling 9370 4607 and she will get back to you.

PLEASE GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO HELPING US OUT IN A VOLUNTARY CAPACITY

We have done extremely well as a Voluntary organization to manage to operate continuously for a period of fifty years, but the future of the Essendon Historical Society relies heavily on members to put up their hands and support the Society.

DON'T LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE

WE NEED YOU

WANT MORE TROVE FOR VIC?

There is a terrific opportunity for us to support a move to have more. Victorian Newspapers digitised on Trove. There are more than 10,000 years worth of out-of-copyright Victorian Newspapers at the State Library of Victoria yet to be digitised including five papers published in Essendon.

Wayne Hodges of “More Trove for Vic” has contacted the EHS to ask our members to support a petition to encourage the Victorian Government to fund increased digitisation of Victorian newspapers. Members wishing to sign may do so by visiting

[MoreTroveForVic.org/petition](https://www.moretroveforvic.org/petition)

THE CITY OF MOONEE VALLEY'S NEW LOOK COUNCIL

Since the publication of the last Newsletter in October 2020 a number of important events have taken place. These may now slip by us, considering that the local papers no longer exist, except on-line (and many people would not take the trouble to search for them, considering the way that local newspapers have fallen away in recent times).

An important event that did take place in October was the local Council Election.

It must have been very difficult for Councillors and potential candidates to satisfactorily communicate with members of the Community and put forward their case during the COVID affected year and the Moonee Valley Council now has a much different make up than it did prior to the Elections.

A number of well known faces are now missing including Jim Cusack, Richard Lawrence, Andrea Surace, Rebecca Gauci Maurici (who all lost at the polls) and Nicole Marshall (who did not stand for re-election).

Thank you to those Councillors who have, in the past, given strong support to the Essendon Historical Society.

There are now four new Councillors spread over the three wards while Rose Iser has been re-elected after missing out in 2016.

The new Moonee Valley Councillors are

BUCKLEY WARD

- Cr Cam Nation (Mayor)
- Cr Ava Adams
- Cr Narelle Sharpe

MYRNONG WARD

- Cr Katrina Hodgson (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Jacob Bettino
- Cr Rose Iser

ROSE HILL WARD

- Cr Samantha Byrne
- Cr John Sipek
- Cr Pierce Tyson

A new Chief Executive Officer, Helen Sui, was appointed prior to the Elections, replacing Bryan Lancaster, who had been the C.E.O. for the past five years.

1939

ESSENDON'S ART DECO YEAR

By Ian Williams

Art Deco, also called style Moderne, was introduced to the world at the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes, Paris 1925. The name, Art Deco comes from the title of that exposition but was not used widely until the 1960s. For purists, style Moderne has varied slightly from Art Deco. Art Deco was called Moderne in its own time and is the usual term used today for these similar styles. They are developments from the cleanly-lined forms of their immediate predecessors Art Nouveau and Jugendstil.

The intention of these new styles was to create a sleek elegance that represented modernity, wealth and sophistication with clean, simple, functional and streamlined architecture. Essential characteristics of both styles are a focus on rational design without ornamentation. Some Art Deco buildings are angular and linear while others have curves and round corners. Features of the styles include use of steel, glass, concrete, smooth brick, flat roofs and glass curtain walls.

Art Deco flourished in Europe and the U.S. from 1925 up to 1940. The trend did not reach Australia until the mid-1930s and was virtually over by 1940. Many Art Deco buildings had their name prominently displayed on a front wall with “New Age Fonts” using streamlined upper-case letters. Examples of this lettering, which was a major feature of Art Deco are in two of the photos. Art Deco was a new option for Victorian architects just prior to World War II. After the war the style lost popularity, except for the many enthusiasts who seek historic Art Deco masterpieces, now 80 years old.

The Astor Cinema (1936) in St Kilda is perhaps the earliest example of a Melbourne building which satisfies most of the expectations from the Art Deco style. Earlier surviving buildings such as the Palais Theatre in St Kilda (1927) and the primarily Neo-Gothic style Manchester Unity Building in Collins Street (1932) incorporated some Art Deco ideas.

Our community is fortunate to have an iconic surviving example with the Essendon Technical School building in Buckley Street. It was designed in 1938 by Public Works Chief Architect, Percy Everett. It is a European-inspired Moderne building which features large areas of metal-framed windows and curved brickwork. The school's origin is from the Working Men's College (now known as

RMIT) established in 1887 and its junior school, the Lower Technical School, formed in 1903. This latter school became the Melbourne Junior Technical School situated in La Trobe Street in 1912.



Former Essendon Technical School (now Kangan TAFE)

In February 1939 this junior tech became Essendon Technical School. The foundation stone for the Buckley Street building had already been laid in October 1938. Essendon Technical School continued to occupy the old buildings in La Trobe Street until students and staff finally moved to the Essendon building in August 1939. The school motto, “Deeds, not Words” was appropriate for training the large number of apprentices for Victoria's aircraft and munition industries during World War II. The school was significant in post-war Victorian schooling when the technical system of education was fostered at specialised schools.

Houses in Peterleigh Grove were built in 1939 and into the early war years. The street has been used for Art Deco walking tours. Nearly all 41 homes which are now 80 year old retain their original appearance. Heritage Council Victoria states “Peterleigh Grove is notable as an almost completely intact late 1930s estate where many houses also retain original or early front fences.” Lost Essendon Art Deco buildings were at Windy Hill and one of Moonee Valley's cinemas. The world-wide boom in the building of cinemas took place simultaneously with the Art Deco years. A new architecture was appropriate for the new art. Many cinemas in US and Europe were built in Art Deco style. All six of the cinemas in the City of Essendon were built before Art Deco came to Australia.

The Moonee Ponds Theatre in Puckle Street opened in 1911 with seating for 1,300. The other five local “picture theatres” were built in a 12-month period in 1924-25 providing capacity for many thousands. If you are trying to recall the names, they are the Regal, originally The Southern Cross Picture Theatre, the Plaza, originally Essendon Picture Theatre, the Circle originally Hoyts New Essendon Picture Theatre, the New Ascot Theatre and the Waratah Theatre. They were called “picture theatres” even though the British had used the word “cinema” for a place showing films from the beginning of cinematography. Until the Australian film industry blossomed in the 1970s, we seemed to have been influenced by America, which still uses “theatre.” The one local theatre that fits into this Art Deco story is the Regal which was on the corner of Buckley Street and Lincoln Road. When 14 years old, the theatre was renovated in an Art Deco style by the architectural firm, Cowper, Murphy & Appleford. It was re-named Regal Theatre on 12th August 1939 opening with the Spencer Tracey film “Boys Town”. It survived a further 20 years, closing in 1959, and was demolished in 2016.

The lost Art Deco building at Windy Hill was the A. F. Showers Stand. Because of the priority of the gentlemen’s game of cricket, Essendon Football Club played its home games at the East Melbourne ground in Jolimont from 1881 until 1921. Essendon Councillor and future club president Arthur Field Showers was the leading figure in Essendon’s move in 1922 to join the cricketers in the ground that became known as “Windy Hill”.

A grandstand was built at the time of the move, later named the R.S Reynolds Stand. In the Art Deco year of 1939, the A.F Showers Stand was added to hold 1,200 spectators. Prominent Moderne architectural features were its curvature, the flat roof and the rows of steel-framed windows which were covered in its later years. This building fulfilled the Art Deco expectations of being clean, simple and streamlined.



A later Photograph of the A. F. Showers Stand

The best surviving Art Deco building in Moonee Valley is Kangan Tafe in the former Essendon Tech building in Buckley Street.

Excellent Art Deco private homes are at 15 Levien Street and 2 Riverview Road. Thank you to the owners of these well-maintained homes for allowing photos to be used



No 2 Riverview Road, Aberfeldie



No 15 Levien Street, Aberfeldie



The A. F. Showers Pavilion (Members Stand) built in 1939

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF ESSENDON AND DISTRICT

By Bob Chalmers

In spite of its very interesting history dating back to the early 1850s, and the many very interesting personalities who lived in the district over those years, very little attempt was made to record the events, organisations and development of Essendon and surrounds until relatively recent years.

We are now fortunate that, through the use of a number of websites such as Trove (digitised Newspapers), Ancestry and the National and State Library sites, we are able to retrace our history back to those very early days and discover the inter-relationship between families and the way that people used to live over one hundred and fifty years ago.

Over the years “old timers” wrote letters and articles to the “Essendon Gazette” reminiscing about “the good old days” and in 1924 the Editor of the local paper, James McJunkin, featured Essendon’s past with a series of articles entitled “Leaves from Old Diaries”. McJunkin interviewed the pioneers of the district who were still able to reflect on people and events of long ago. In the late 1920s he put together a manuscript entitled **“A History of Essendon”** which was never published. However, thanks to the efforts of Essendon High School Head Master, Henry W. Byrne, McJunkin’s work was typed up and bound. The original hand written Manuscript and typed copies can be accessed at the Sam Merrifield Library, Moonee Ponds.

Nothing more, to my knowledge, was produced until the late 1970s when the City of Essendon Council commissioned author, Grant Aldous, who had spent his boyhood in Cooper Street, Essendon, to produce a book outlining the history of the district. His book **“The Stopover that Stayed”**, recorded our history under a number of suitable Chapter Headings and featured many interesting photographs. It was launched in January 1979 and was first available at a cost of \$11-95. EHS Members were quick to jump on this new book and within the first six months 101 copies were sold through the Society. A revised edition was produced in 1988 to coincide with the bi-centenary of Australia. This book proved to be very popular for many years.

Dr Sam Merrifield produced a 58 page spring bound book entitled **“The Annals of Essendon”** in 1980 which recorded a chronology of events in the Essendon District from its early beginnings until 1924. His intention was to

continue the project but unfortunately, he passed away in August 1982 before his work was completed.

Publications appeared to be put on the back-burner until 1995 when Lenore Frost became involved with the EHS. although an oral history, entitled **“The Essence of Essendon”** had been published in 1994. This featured short paragraphs outlining memories of Essendon residents but, because of its very nature, was a little unreliable historically.

In 1995 Judy Maddigan, the EHS President and Newsletter Editor at the time, produced five booklets to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Society. These were entitled **“Queens Park”**, **“The Moonee Ponds Court House”**, **“Essendon in the Depression”**, **“The River League”** and **“A Hospital for Essendon”**.

In October, Lenore, who had already produced two books **“Dating Family Photos 1850-1920”** and **“Searching for Mary Ann—Researching Women Ancestors in Australia”** launched her small but informative booklet **“Murder and Misfortune on the Mount Alexander Road”** which recorded inquests that had been conducted in the local area (usually in the nearest hotel to where the body was discovered and using passersby as witnesses). The names of these witnesses were recorded making the reference valuable for identifying who was living in the area during the 1850s and 1860s.

Just one month later Judy Maddigan and Lenore Frost launched another publication which featured a pictorial record of the Maribyrnong River. It was entitled **“Maribyrnong Record”**

In 1996 more publications were added. Lenore edited work undertaken by Dr Sam Merrifield, producing **“House Names of Essendon and District”** and **“Street Names of Essendon and District”**. Some of the research for the latter had been derived from a list of street names given to the local library by Essendon High School geography teacher, Frank Funston. These at present are out of print.

On 25 February 1997 **“The Annals of Essendon—Volume 1 (1850-1924)”** was launched. I compiled this work using information largely from *“The Essendon Gazette”* and other material that was available to me at the time. It covered the same period of time, but was an expansion of the work produced by Dr Sam Merrifield 17 years earlier. Three other volumes were produced over a period of eight years and eventually covered the history of the district up to the year 2000. In August 2010 Dr Bill Balodis digitised the four volumes and produced a searchable compact disk free of charge to the EHS using technology available to him at his place of work and his kind gesture was greatly

appreciated.

Two small publications, **“The Riverview Tea Gardens”** and **“Always Out For Fun—The Lizards Club”** were produced by Bob Mackay and Lorraine Rogers respectively and launched together in February 1999.

In 2001 the EHS, largely through Judy Maddigan and Bob Mackay, assisted Giconda Di Lorenzo and the Italian Community in publishing **“Solid Brick Walls and Veggie Patches”** (recording the history of Italian migration).

In December 2001 the EHS was proud to launch a pictorial publication of the district of Essendon as it was in 1901. This book— **“Federation Times”** was produced by a group of members and edited by Lenore Frost.

The success of this publication led to two more books following the same format **“The Fine Homes of Essendon and Flemington 1846—1880”** edited again by Lenore and published in 2010 and **“The Grand Mansions of Essendon and District 1880—1892”** edited by Mary Cahill and published in 2013. These three books are by far the most popular works that our society has produced.

Marilyn Kenny, one of our leading researchers, compiled an interesting publication using material from the diaries of Captain John Evans. Her book, titled **“Trooping in the Middle East 1916”** was launched on 11 April 2005.

The following year she produced another book outlining the history of the Essendon River League, an organisation formed in 1906 to develop and beautify the banks of the Salt Water River. **“The Essendon River League”** was launched by President, Judy Maddigan on 17 November 2006.

Many of the Essendon Historical Society publications are currently out of print but can still be accessed through the local libraries or from the Library Collection at the Moonee Ponds Court House Museum.

THE EHS NEWSLETTER (1971 to 2021)

In addition to the above books that have been published over the years through the Essendon Historical Society and its members, many articles about the early history of the City of Moonee Valley can be found in the pages of the Essendon Historical Society Newsletter.

“The Newsletter” first produced in August 1971, has had five Editors. The first two issues were compiled by the inaugural Secretary, Val Barnett.

Ron Lambert took over the editorship in January 1972 and held it until Issue No 120 (October-November 1993).

During much of this period the newsletter usually consisted of eight foolscap pages produced on a gestetner duplicating machine. To help to pay for the cost of production and distribution the EHS sought sponsorship from a number of prominent local businesses. The task of securing sponsorship was left largely to Roc Chote.

In April/May of 1994, during the Presidency of Ian Keeble, Judy Maddigan took over from Ron and edited Issues from 121 to 139 (July/August 1997). Computer technology by now was enabling a much more professional “Newsletter” to be produced and members were receiving five issues each year. The Society purchased its first photocopier in October 1996 which enabled the “Newsletter” to be produced at the Moonee Ponds Court House.

In September 1997 Lenore Frost became the fourth Editor of the “Newsletter”. During the early days of her editorship she changed the format of the publication and began to use more photographs to add interest to the articles. The “Newsletter” was usually printed, collated and prepared for distribution by a team of volunteers on a Sunday afternoon. To save the cost of postage, the newsletters were, where possible, bundled into convenient geographical areas and distributed by hand using Nan Hosie’s residence in Fitzgerald Road as a pick-up point. A new photocopier was purchased in October 2004.

Lenore Frost remained Editor for 13 years and during that time was responsible for putting together 62 issues (Nos 140—202) before resigning in March 2010.

President Bob Chalmers took over the role in March 2010 and has remained Editor since that time. Because of some difficulties being created by the distribution process the costing of production and postage was investigated and it was decided that the Newsletters be printed professionally by Art 57 (a printing establishment in Buckley Street) and that copies be posted to the members.

From Issue 219 the size was increased to twelve A4 pages and in recent years has been printed in colour. When postage was increased it was decided that where possible members would receive their Newsletters by email. This cut back the cost of distribution considerably.

THE E.H.S. JOURNAL

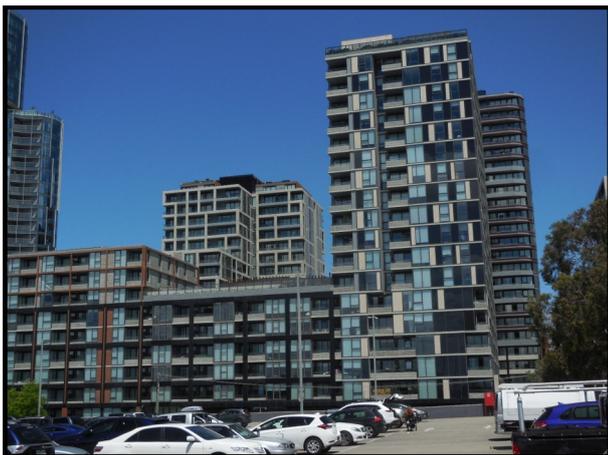
For a number of years, in additions to the Newsletters, members received two Journals each year. These were to enable longer and more in depth articles to be published and were also edited by Bob Chalmers. There were eight Journals produced in the period from April 2010 to July/August 2014.

**THE CHANGING FACE
OF MOONEE PONDS**
by Bob Chalmers

People who grew up in Moonee Ponds and who had left the district and returned after an absence of ten years would hardly recognise the place they left behind. There have been many changes made in recent years, particularly to the Puckle/Hall Street precinct, and so many familiar buildings have been replaced by modern commercial premises and high rise apartments. The old “Moonee Ponds Market” site is now covered with high rise towers and the area is dominated by underground car parks and the bustling Moonee Ponds Central complex which extends from Puckle Street through to Homer Street.



The Aldi Store
(Corner of Mount Alexander Road and Homer Street).



The High Rise Residential Towers
(Taken from the Coles Car Park in Homer Street)

I have watched the high rise development with interest over a period of four or five years and have captured images regularly as it progressed. Many photographs have been published in previous EHS Newsletters showing the changing face of the commercial and business precinct.



Early stages of the Caydon Development taken in 2017
(taken from the Car Park in Everage Street)



When this eight Storey building (below) was erected on the corner of Mount Alexander Road and Hall Street in 1975 it was the tallest building in the north western part of Melbourne. It is now dwarfed by the tall residential towers in Homer Street.



In 1900 the land on the corner of Hall Street was owned by Puckle Street Estate Agent, Albert E Young and leased to Benjamin Dyer, a van proprietor and carrier. By 1912 Charles H Astley had established a cycle and motor works on the site and this later became Astley’s Service Station. It occupied a frontage to Mount Alexander Road of 66 feet.

Former EHS Life Member, Dorothy King, (nee Way) who grew up near the Moonee Ponds Junction, took some interesting colour slides of the area in the 1970s and 1980s. Below is a photograph that she took of the Medical Centre shortly after it was built.



THE MOONEE PONDS MARKET

Aspen Street, originally known as Brinnand Street and later, Brennan Street, was subdivided as early as 1858 by blacksmith, Robert Brinnand and was the earliest residential street in Moonee Ponds. In the early 1970s many old Victorian residences in both Aspen Street and the next street to the north, Homer Street (formerly Williams Road), were demolished to make way for the Moonee Ponds Market.

The Moonee Ponds Market was built along similar lines to the popular Prahran Market by developers Robar Nominees and was officially opened on 17 December 1975 on what was claimed to be the hottest day of the year.

Everage Street was created on 14 March 1979 and named in honour of “Moonee Ponds Housewife” Dame Edna Everage. A \$3 million extension was opened in 1980 to mark the complex’s fifth anniversary



Moonee Ponds Market (Photo: Dorothy King)

Although it had quickly become very popular with local shoppers, the Moonee Ponds Market only operated for twenty-one and a half years.

The partnership operating the market was dissolved in 1991 and it was announced that the complex was to be sold. In July 1991 the market, comprising 250 stalls, 100 tenancies and parking space for 100 cars and occupying 8 acres (3.2 hectares) was sold to the Sussan Corporation for \$9.25 million. By May 1994 it was again on the market and was sold for \$10.5 million. The new developer was Adamco Pty Ltd. Two years later U.S. Cinema Chain, Reading Pty Ltd paid \$13 million and announced plans to bulldoze the existing buildings to make way for a cinema complex. In spite of a petition containing 1300 signatures objecting to its closure, the Moonee Ponds Market ceased to operate from 28 June 1997 and the buildings were demolished. The Readings site lay untouched for many years. The cinema complex was never built and the area became a glorified car park until the developer Caydon was given government approval to build large residential towers which were completed in 2020.



The Market Buildings— later demolished

A PROMINENT WAREHOUSE



In 1871 drover George Eeles purchased land in Margaret Street extending from Brennan to Hall Street. In 1909 house furnisher, Thomas Henry Doughty replaced Eeles five room dwelling, *Oxford Cottage* with a large brick building which he used as a furniture warehouse. Following his death in 1922 the large building was occupied by furniture manufacturer Tye & Co and from May 1963 to December 1985 it became a store for hardware chain James McEwan & Co. Pty Ltd. Today it serves as a depot for charitable organisation, “The Brotherhood of St. Laurence”.

NEW MEMBERS

We have great pleasure in welcoming the following new Members to the Essendon Historical Society

Andrew Cope (Keilor East)

Margaret Brown (Essendon)

Ann Trelfall (Braybrook)

Amanda Watson (Moonee Ponds)

Carmel Behan (Strathmore)

Marian and Mark Chandler (Essendon)

I hope that each of you enjoys your membership with the EHS and that we will get the opportunity of meeting up with you at an EHS Meeting or other activity.

The EHS Committee reserves the right to determine the content and circulation of its Newsletter.

The EHS Committee has agreed that copies of the EHS Newsletter from previous years may eventually be published on the Essendon Historical Society website.

The editor of the EHS Newsletter will at all times ensure that the material which is presented for publication is credited to the author, and that major changes will not be made to the material without the permission of the author.

Contributors who submit articles do so on the understanding of the terms stated above.

*****COMING EVENTS*****

SUNDAY, 7 FEBRUARY, 2021

Opening of the Court House to members of the Public for the first time since March 2020.

Hours: Between 2.00 pm—5.00 pm

TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021

(at the Moonee Ponds Court House Museum)

TIME: 7.30 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (covering the 2019-20 Financial Year)

Members' Night— BRING ALONG AN ITEM OF INTEREST

NOTE: Members are required to record their name and a contact Telephone Number in the Appearance Book on entering

TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2021

(at the Moonee Ponds Court House Museum TIME 7.30 pm

GENERAL MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER: Roger Meyer (Aviation History Museum)

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APPEAL FOR ITEMS

The EHS Newsletter, produced five times each year, is an important vehicle for keeping members up to date with events and activities which are being organised by the Society. However, it is also important that it contains interesting material relating to the district and its rich history, of which each of you is a part. I urge you to seriously consider composing an article for our next publication. It will be gratefully received.

The Editor

EHS Postal Address

Please note that all correspondence should be addressed to:

**The Secretary, (EHS)
P.O. Box 557
Essendon, 3040**

Meetings

The Society meets February to November at the Moonee Ponds Court House Museum (cnr Mt Alexander Road & Kellaway Avenue) on the fourth Tuesday of the month unless otherwise notified.

Court House Museum

The Moonee Ponds Court House Museum is open each Sunday afternoon (2.00—5.00 pm) between January and early December (except Easter Sunday), or by special arrangement.

The Newsletter

The deadline for the next EHS Newsletter is Friday 19 March 2021. Material forwarded before this date would be greatly appreciated. Members are encouraged to provide items of local interest.