

Essendon Historical Society Inc  
Established 1970

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ABN No

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# *The Newsletter*

Moonee Ponds Courthouse Museum

768-770 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds 3039



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The Beauty of Moonee Valley—Street Trees in West Essendon in Autumn Tones

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I hope that you are all keeping well and are starting to get back to some kind of normality after the challenges we experienced in 2020. We must still be mindful of the precautions that we were forced to take last year but hopefully we will not be faced with the health catastrophes that are currently being experienced in other countries.

It was a great relief to finally be able to return to the Court House in February and conduct our Annual General Meeting which was held on 23 February. Thank you to the members who served on the 2019-20 Committee of Management and helped us through difficult times.

Thank you especially to Hayden Williams who took over the position of Acting Secretary in April 2020 following the resignation of our Secretary, Rosalie Coutts, and who is doing an outstanding job for the EHS. Although there have been few meetings over the past year there have been many queries and secretarial duties that have required his attention, including keeping us up to date with the Government's ever changing coronavirus requirements.

I am also greatly appreciative of the fact that all of the other members of the Committee willingly agreed to extend their time of service until the AGM could be held.

I am pleased to report that they have all been re-elected for the shortened 2020-21 Year which terminates in August.

Congratulations to Kelsey Collins who has been elected as a Life Member of the Essendon Historical Society. Life Membership is usually bestowed on individuals at a much later time in their lives but Kelsey will have many years to enjoy the distinction.

Mary Cahill was once again co-opted onto the Committee as the Court House Restoration Manager and continues her excellent work in that capacity. Although we expect that we are nearing the end of the restoration project there are still a number of items that need attention, and very little escapes the attention of Mary.

Our Treasurer, Terry Scott, has once again kept a close eye on our finances and presents the Committee with detailed reports each month as well as undertaking many other tasks. Terry and his wife, Julie, devote a lot of time in attending to EHS matters for which we are very grateful.

The Cataloguing Sub-Committee are now back in action and are meeting each Monday morning. The group has

increased in size in recent months with the addition of Anne Hillier and Antonietta Colasante who have been working well with the old regulars Judy Maddigan, Rod McLennan, Anna Denham and Anna Maree Malmgren. Unfortunately, Antoinette's involvement will be short lived as she is leaving the country shortly to undergo study in Glasgow. We wish you all the best Netta.

Greg Thege has been communicating with DB Textworks to enable us to extend the Inmagic Database Licence that the sub-committee uses so that it can be accessed and operated from two computers. This will help greatly in speeding up the data input and will give Rod McLennan some much needed support.

Elaine Brogan OAM and Lyndall Byrne have been spending time recently in checking our Costume Collection to see that items have been correctly acquisitioned and are suitably stored. Many items in the collection were acquired for use by members "dressing up" to take part in re-enactments and Fireside Readings etc. while other costumes are of historic value.

We have recently invested in a new photo-copier after being informed that our seven year old Samsung was now obsolete. A RICOH Copier/Printer/Scanner has been successfully installed and is working satisfactorily.

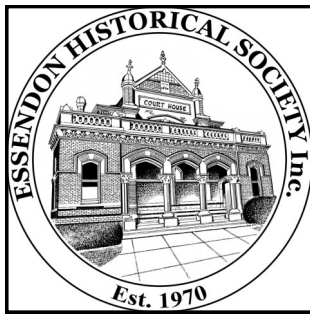
We were very grateful to recently learn that the Essendon Historical Society was named as a beneficiary of a generous gift from the estate of the late John Williams, a former Councillor and Mayor of the City of Essendon. Members will be given the opportunity at a later date to discuss how this bequest can best be used to benefit us in our work now and in the future. Julie Scott, who had many telephone conversations with John in recent years in relation to the Memory Lane Garden has written a lovely article reflecting on John's Mayoral years in this issue (pages 6—7).

Our Secretary, Hayden Williams, will be taking part in a Zoom Program in conjunction with the Royal Historical Society and the Genealogical Society of Victoria on 25 May. He will be using a powerpoint presentation featuring highlights of Essendon's history and resources that we have at our disposal to assist family historians and local historians seeking information about our district.

We are still seeking support from local EHS members who are able to spare time to welcome visitors at the Court House on a Sunday afternoon between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm. Those willing to help should record your name using the link on Page 5.

**BOB CHALMERS**





KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EHS ACTIVITIES ON  
OUR WEBSITE

**[www.esshissoc.org.au](http://www.esshissoc.org.au)**

Email Address [esshissoc@mail.com](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/EssendonHistoricalSociety)

**TWITTER:** [twitter.com/EssHisSoc](https://twitter.com/EssHisSoc)

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Essendon Historical Society was held in the Moonee Ponds Court House Museum on Tuesday, 23 February 2021 under strict Covid conditions which allowed for a maximum attendance of 44 members socially distancing.

This meeting was originally planned for 25 August 2020 but had to be deferred due to the second Covid-19 spike. Special dispensation was granted by Consumer Affairs to conduct the meeting at a later date, but before the end of February 2021. Twenty-four Members attended the Meeting and twelve apologies were received.

A comprehensive Annual Report was presented to those in attendance, covering the President's Report, the Treasurer's Financial Report and reports from the various sub-committees. Special thanks to Terry and Julie Scott for putting this together.

Following the Correspondence and Reports, President, Bob Chalmers, called on Life Member and Past President, Bob Mackay to temporarily take charge of the Meeting.

All positions were declared vacant and the names of the Nominations for the 2020-21 Year were read out.

The following Members were elected (unopposed)

**PRESIDENT:** Bob Chalmers

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Kelsey Collins

**SECRETARY:** Hayden Williams

**TREASURER:** Terry Scott

**COMMITTEE:** Elaine Brogan OAM  
Lyndall Byrne  
Bill Mundy  
Greg Thege

The EHS By-laws allow for five Committee members but only four nominations had been received, resulting in a vacancy.

Bob Mackay congratulated the newly elected Committee and wished them well for their work in the coming year and then vacated the chair in favour of Bob Chalmers.

Bob thanked the members for re-electing him as President but pointed out that this was his seventh consecutive year as President and that for the sake of the EHS he indicated that he would like someone else to fill the position at the next AGM in August.

### NOTE

The elected Committee will only serve a period of six months and its term will conclude on Tuesday, 24 August 2021 when the next Annual General Meeting will be held.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Following the election Mary Cahill and Eve Park presented Vice President, Kelsey Collins with a Life Membership Badge and Certificate. (see Page 4)

## OUR NEW LIFE MEMBER

### KELSEY COLLINS

A highlight of the Annual General Meeting conducted on 23 February was the presentation of a Life Membership Badge and Certificate to our Vice President, Kelsey Collins. Kelsey became involved with the Essendon Historical Society as a Year 10 Student at Lowther Hall, undertaking voluntary Community work as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. She volunteered her services as a volunteer on the Sunday Roster and became a student member in 2009.

Kelsey, due to her interest in local history, remained a member of the EHS and became involved in many of our activities from that time. She was elected as a member of the Committee of Management in July 2012 and became an enthusiastic contributor in many projects.

In 2012 she was the recipient of the City of Moonee Valley's Young Achiever's Award for her work.

In July 2016, Kelsey took up the position of Vice President of the Society and has held that office for the last five years during which time she has been responsible for recording and distributing the Minutes of Committee and General Meetings.

Her enthusiasm and organisational skills have made her an extremely valuable member of the Society. She is most worthy of the honour that has been bestowed on her.

Following the Business of the AGM, Mary Cahill read out the Citation recording the many ways that Kelsey has contributed to the work of the EHS over the past 12 years. She was presented with her Badge and a lovely Certificate (designed by Julie Scott) by our most senior Life Member, Eve Park. Congratulations, Kelsey.



*Photo: Elaine Brogan*

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

In previous newsletters I have given details of the partnership arrangement which has permitted EHS to share the Court House with Moonee Valley City Council on a few days each week. The bookings for the MVCC programs in the Court House are handled through the Sam Merrifield library and strict conditions apply for use of the historic building. The programs which the Council are currently running are a craft group, book club and a "Chair Yoga for Carers" group. The participants in these programs are delighted to be meeting regularly in the courtroom. Despite living locally, most of the participants hadn't previously visited the Court House. The sharing arrangement between EHS and MVCC seems to be working very well. We are so pleased that more community members are now able to appreciate the historic Court House.

### Restoration Works

We are now at the stage of fine tuning the building to meet our needs. "Touching up" of the paintwork and hanging of the honour boards have been completed. The re-focussing of the courtroom spotlights has meant that they do not shine directly into the eyes of the audience. The display board which currently features photos from the fire and restoration works is now placed at the south entrance.

Unfortunately there have been delays in the completion of the tuckpointing of the north face along Kellaway Avenue. We have also been concerned with the dampness in a section of the wall at the back of the Court House behind the toilet. The source of the dampness is still to be identified despite much consultation. Hopefully both of these issues can be resolved in the near future.

In order to keep the Court House in its current excellent condition for both the present and the long term, we are compiling a maintenance schedule for the interior and exterior of the building.

The front garden is thriving but has been inundated with acorns from the tree on the nature strip! Kelsey Collins has organized the purchase of a flag "OPEN" sign for the front of the Court House to encourage potential visitors on Sunday afternoons - you are most welcome to drop in.

## **DESPERATELY NEEDED COURT HOUSE VOLUNTEER ROSTER**

We have been open to the public each Sunday afternoon between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm since 7 February (with the exception of Easter Sunday). Whilst our number of visitors has been small we have had a number of people seeking our assistance.

However, the number of members who have indicated a willingness to give up a little of their time and put their name on our Duty Roster has been disappointing.

**Presently the work has been left to a small band of volunteers and more help is desperately needed.**

It is not an arduous task. The main responsibilities include -

Greeting guests as they arrive

Making sure that they observe the current Covid Rules (eg. Scanning the QR Code or recording their name and using the hand-sanitiser.

Keeping a tally of visitors

Recording sales of EHS publications

Directing queries to EHS researchers

There will always be an experienced member in attendance to support you.

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

**Link:** <https://forms.gle/wCdYCXFDsiSYtFrs8>

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—EVEN IF IT IS ONLY FOR THREE  
HOURS ON ONE SUNDAY EACH MONTH.**

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**

## **OUR ANNUAL DINNER**

Our Annual Dinner will be held on  
**TUESDAY, 22 JUNE** at the  
**GANNAWARRA CENTRE**  
**(KEILOR ROAD, NORTH ESSENDON)**  
(North Essendon Uniting Church)  
**TIME: 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm Start**

Our Treasurer, Terry Scott, will be mailing details to you about this event in the near future. This will include the MENU, COST PER HEAD, and other important details.

Our **GUEST SPEAKER** will be  
**EMERITUS PROFESSOR GRAEME DAVISON, AO**



Graeme Davison grew up in Banchory Street, Essendon, with his two younger sisters, Helen and Janet. He was educated at Aberfeldie State School and Essendon High School and Melbourne and Oxford Universities.

He is Australia's best known urban historian, a leading social historian and a prize winning author.

His father, George, a well known plumber in the Essendon area, and his mother, May, were active members of the Essendon Historical Society between 1977 and 1994. George Davison was President of the EHS (1982-84) and Treasurer (1985-92) and May was a member of the original Cataloguing Committee.

Graeme was to be the Guest Speaker at our 50th Anniversary Dinner last year which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus, but we will be pleased to welcome him in June 2021.

Graeme's Topic will be

"The Value of Local History"

How local history has changed over fifty years  
How growing up in Essendon influenced Graeme's development as an historian.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**



## John Williams

16 August 1938 – 16 August 2020



Essendon Historical Society was recently advised of the passing of John Williams, former Mayor of Essendon (1966 – 1968), who was the son of Eric and Stella Williams – well known Puckle Street shoe retailers. John opened his own shoe business in North Essendon and was an active member of JayCees and Strathmore Lions Club.

When elected to the Essendon Council in 1962 he was the youngest Essendon councillor at that time. When elected as Mayor in 1966 he was the youngest Mayor ever elected and one of the few to serve two terms.

He laid the Foundation Stone for the Essendon Library (Moonee Ponds) and was also the first person to hold a Mayoral Prayer Breakfast – a practice which later became wide-spread. He was also Chair of the Bench as a JP in the Moonee Ponds Court House.



When Lionel Rose won the Bantamweight World Championship (and was the first Aboriginal person to win a world boxing title) John hosted an evening of celebration for Lionel, his family and friends. He even gave his Mayoral Robe to Lionel to wear for the evening.

John was enthusiastic about all he did. One highlight was when American President, LBJ (Lyndon Johnson) came to Melbourne in 1966. Although he was not scheduled to stop at the Moonee Ponds Town Hall he noticed the “Welcome” signs and stopped to meet and greet the many well-wishers gathered there.



Another highlight was when John was instrumental in helping to establish the Royal District Nursing Service’s headquarters on the corner of Grice Crescent and Mt Alexander Road, Essendon, in 1966 and it was operational in 1967.

This was originally the site of the first of ten Shelters built by Caroline Chisholm to provide a safe stop-over for diggers and their families in 1855.

Finding a suitable RDNS site in Essendon was celebrated with much fanfare and pageantry which included John (in Mayoral robes) riding a horse from the Moonee Ponds Town Hall to Grice Crescent.

Although John resigned from the Essendon Council in 1972 and moved to Queensland he had a strong and abiding love of Essendon as evidenced by “Essen” being his house name and email address.

His strong connection to Essendon became very evident when he contacted EHS (January 2018) to enquire about putting some tiles into the Memory Lane Garden (MLG).



As coordinator of the MLG tile project, I spoke to him about his wish to honour about five people. It wasn't long before he wanted more and more tiles. He finished up ordering 46 tiles honouring 36 people and two organisations. over a period of two years. He included a broad cross-section of family and community because he appreciated and valued so many people.

Despite being quite ill, John was determined to drive from Queensland to Moonee Ponds to see the tiles. Sadly, his health and COVID restrictions prevented this happening.

I was privileged to have had a close and long-term working partnership with him through the MLG project and came to know him as an intelligent, caring and determined person who never really left Essendon.

Sadly, John died on his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday but his legacy will live on.

Julie Scott (April 2021)



### PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S VISIT (from a Newspaper Report)



President Lyndon Johnson made an impromptu stop and speech at the Essendon Town Hall during the return to Essendon Airport from Government House on 21 October 1966.

The President's cavalcade slowed down when they noticed the welcoming banner and Mayor John Williams in full regalia, his mother (the Mayoress) and fellow councillors and their wives in a line and a large crowd.

President Johnson's car stopped, he got out and shook hands and reportedly said to John, "Howdy Mr Mayor". Hugh Mitchell in Essendon Football Club uniform presented the President with a football. Mrs Williams presented Lady Bird Johnson with a bouquet of flowers.

### A GENEROUS GIFT

We were very grateful in March to receive notice from a Queensland solicitor informing us that the Essendon Historical Society was to be the recipient of a very generous bequest from the estate of the late John Williams.

John was raised and educated in Essendon and represented the Essendon Ward on the Essendon City Council for ten years from 1961 to 1971, wearing the Mayoral robes in 1966-67 and 1967-68.

In November 1972 John resigned from Council and left Victoria with his wife, Kay, to take up a position in Queensland with the British and Foreign Bible Society. Although living out the remainder of his life in the Sunshine State he always remembered Essendon fondly and kept in touch with many friends here over the years.

John's health began to deteriorate several years ago and it was his desire that part of his estate be bequeathed to benefit a worthy Essendon organisation. Following a discussion with his close friend, Alan Murphy, he decided to make the Essendon Historical Society the recipient.

We will be setting in place a process for members of the EHS to put forward ideas to the EHS Committee of Management as to how this gift might be best utilised for the benefit of the Society now and into the future.

Bob Chalmers (President)



## STREET NAMES OF MOONEE VALLEY VICTORIAN GOVERNORS

By Ian Williams

Several Moonee Ponds streets are named after Victorian colonial governors. Travelling west down Maribyrnong Road from Union Road, the streets on the right (north) side were developed from the 1880s. This was when the colonies of Australia were discussing forming a commonwealth. The end of Victoria as a separate colony was in sight. Either the developers or the council must have considered it appropriate to remember Victoria's passing colonial days with its new street names.

Developments for a federalised Australasia began with Britain leading an inter-colonial convention in 1883 to seek united strategies to counter the activities of the German and French in the region. These discussions led to an increasingly popular desire for a unified country, which was achieved on 1 January 1901. The New Zealand colony withdrew its interest along the way. The parapet of the shop on the corner of Grandview Street and Holmes Road (refer photo) is an indication of the interest in federation as early as 1889.



Writing about the colonial governors today is very different from how this story would have been told soon after federation. All the governors were from the ruling upper-class with a record of prominent service for the colonising work carried out by the British Empire. History is being rewritten. Today, many see these activities as wrong with a future possibility of the 'cancel culture' movement trying to change these street names. The intention of this article is not political, it is to provide information about these 19<sup>th</sup> century men.

**Normanby Street** is the first west of Union Rd. This was named after the man holding the position of governor when this land was being subdivided, London born George Augustus Constantine Phipps.

Early in his career he became Comptroller of the Queen's Household, later treasurer of the Queen's Household. On the death of his father in 1863 he inherited the title 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess of Normanby. In the tradition of the times, he was then known simply as Normanby. His maiden speech in the House of Lords was an address in reply to a message to the House from the throne. Soon he was made captain of Her Majesty's Honourable Corps of Gentlemen of Arms.

Later he was appointed Governor of Queensland, then New Zealand where he remained until 1878, when the British government transferred him to Victoria. In those days, the local electorate did not recommend who should be considered for appointment.

He was remembered for driving his coach at full gallop through the back gate of Government House with inches to spare and rarely missing important horse race meetings. During his term as governor, he signed Ned Kelly's death warrant.

**Canterbury Street** is next moving west. John Henry Thomas Manners-Sutton was governor of Victoria from 1866-73. In 1869 John, when serving as Victorian governor, inherited the title 3<sup>rd</sup> Viscount Canterbury. He met the requirement for all major ceremonial-style appointments in this long-ago era by being an aristocratic male.

Manners-Sutton was elected to parliament as a Tory in 1839 but was soon unseated due to bribery. He won the seat again in 1841 but rarely took part in debates. He was a supporter of Sir Robert Peel who was overthrown in 1846. Manners-Sutton was defeated in the 1847 election then retired from politics until his title in 1869 gave him a seat in the House of Lords.

His diplomatic appointments began in 1854 as lieutenant governor of New Brunswick, Canada. He was very conservative making him unpopular with the elected government which represented the people. Manners-Sutton was then appointed to Trinidad where he was governor during an unsettled time in the West Indies. His last colonial appointment was as governor of Victoria in 1866. He had no serious confrontations during his seven-year term probably due to his passivity, making him one of Victoria's most popular governors.

**Hotham Street:** Sir Charles Hotham was the Queen's representative for our colony in 1854-55. Hotham was a successful naval officer. Initially he was appointed as lieutenant-governor. The call of the sea was his first choice. Just after he was appointed, the Crimean War began and he requested a posting to a ship rather than the diplomatic



role. This was denied.

He showed considerable support for the working class, particularly miners who were agitating for changes. This made him popular with the masses until the Eureka uprising took place when he felt obliged to support the government view regarding this as a rebellion. From that time, his popular support waned. After Eureka, Victoria was peaceful during the few months before his illness and death at age 49.

In May 1855, Britain accepted that responsible government had been reached in the Victorian colony resulting in a change to the appointment from lieutenant-governor with Hotham becoming Victoria's first governor. This is a trick quiz question as the natural answer as to who was first governor is La Trobe.

**Latrobe Street:** Charles Joseph La Trobe, was appointed superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales in 1839. A British Act of Parliament separated the District from NSW in 1851 and renamed it the colony of Victoria. La Trobe continued with his title changed to lieutenant-governor, not governor. The parliament then was not considered responsible with 20 of the 30 members of the Legislative Council elected, or selected by substantial property holders and La Trobe personally selecting the other ten.

La Trobe was the Queen's representative in the District, then Colony from 1839-54. Victoria, with a white population of 77,000 (23,000 in Melbourne) in 1851 had become the centre for Australia's wool export trade and its gold rush was just beginning. La Trobe never became governor. A year after his term ended, governors were appointed to Victoria instead of lieutenant-governors.

**Darling Street** is next when continuing west down Maribyrnong Road. The street naming overlooked Sir Henry Barkly who was governor from 1856-63. Maybe Essendon considered the nearby streets in Footscray and Brunswick were sufficient recognition.

Sir Charles Henry Darling was appointed governor of Victoria in 1863. Charles became an army officer and was posted to NSW where he worked as an assistant to his father who was regarded as an extremely officious, but effective governor of NSW. When aged 22, Charles went to Sandhurst for more military training. He was appointed to various diplomatic posts in South Africa, Canada and West Indies leading to Victoria, which was the most prized colonial posting because of its wealth.

In his first year, Darling supported local cabinet ministers in their aim to cease transportation of convicts. In his eagerness to establish rapport with progressive colonial

opinion he became so involved that he was unable to maintain the balance between Britain and what its colony expected of colonial governors.

From the viewpoint of Britain, Darling's attempts to balance the decisions from parliament with the needs of the people made him unfit for office. In 1866 he was recalled to London. Indignation over Darling's recall was widespread. Petitions, public meetings and torchlight processions preceded the departure of 'the people's Governor', whom many believed had become a martyr in the cause of progress. Maybe he should be remembered as a leader wanting a more democratic society rather than a recalled governor.

**Bowen Street** was named after an academic born in Donegal, Ireland, then part of the Empire, who served as governor from 1873-79. Sir George Ferguson Bowen is perhaps the most interesting of all Victoria's governors. In 1844 he was an outstanding classics student at Oxford. He studied law, did some naval officer training then became rector of the Ionian University near Greece. He began his political career there as secretary to the government of the Ionian Islands. He wrote several books covering history, politics and travel. His active support of Gladstone as Britain's prime minister gained him the position in 1859 as the first governor of Queensland. He was a leader in the development of harbours along the coast of Queensland and of higher education standards.

He was appointed governor of New Zealand in 1868 then Victoria in 1873. All was peaceful until he took a year's leave in 1875. His acting governor showed too little flexibility in the rivalry between the two houses of parliament and between political factions. On Bowen's return, the friction continued. In 1877 Bowen wrote "a sort of political madness has seized on both sides." Maybe that's normal politics!

Bowen linked himself too closely to the premier, Sir Graham Berry, actually giving him written advice on what to tell the Queen and the press on political issues even though he was aware that Victorians resented any interference by the Queen's representative.

Bowen was self-opinionated, obstinate and long-winded but such defects and his errors of judgment did not outweigh his abilities and his contributions as a governor.

Bowen left Victoria in February 1879. He continued his political career as governor of Mauritius then Hong Kong, finally chairing the royal commission on a new constitution for Malta. His academic interests did not wane.

He wrote two books on contemporary colonial history, *The Federation of the British Empire* (1886) and *Thirty Years of Colonial Government* (1889).

**Lennox Street** was developed when all the governors' names to that date had been used. It is named after a prominent colonial engineer, David Lennox who was appointed as the Port Phillip District superintendent of bridges in 1844. He continued with this role into the Victorian colonial era. He was responsible for all roads, bridges, wharves and ferries in Victoria. He built fifty-three bridges, the most notable being the first Prince's Bridge over the Yarra. It was completed in 1850, but eventually replaced some thirty-five years later because of increased traffic. Lennox retired in 1853.

**Hopetoun Street:** The row of streets off Maribyrnong Road had already been named when John Adrian Louis Hope, Earl of Hopetoun was appointed as governor of the colony in 1889. He served as governor of Victoria until 1895 but is best remembered as the first governor-general of Australia from 1 January 1901.

The street named in his honour is near to the other streets with premiers' names. It looks like a dead end but actually it loops back through the lanes which are part of Hopetoun Street. He had the thankless task of trying to coordinate the roles of state governors with the role of governor-general. Initially he tried to get copies of all correspondence between the states and the British government. The strained relationships that followed caused his job to become a dead end. Hopetoun was recalled as he finished his second year..



**Photo of governors:**

Top row from left: Normanby, Canterbury, Hotham

Lower row from left: Latrobe, Darling, Bowen

## OUR GENERAL MEETINGS

After a very quiet 50th Anniversary year when only two meetings could be held, we have started 2021 in a very positive manner.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 23 February and was followed by a Show and Tell, where members brought along interesting items from home.

## OUR MARCH GENERAL MEETING

This was held at the Court House Museum on Tuesday 23 March and was well attended, with 37 members and visitors in attendance.

Our Guest Speaker was Roger Meyer, OAM, the President of the Civil Aviation Historical Society (CAHS) who is based at the Airways Museum at the Essendon Airport. Roger was introduced by Secretary, Hayden Williams and gave us a talk about the early history of the Essendon Aerodrome from its earliest beginnings in 1921 at St Johns Field. The site was one of several first suggested and was chosen because of its unsettled location and its flat terrain. Roger's talk was enhanced by the use of a powerpoint presentation and he was able to show how the airport increased in size and importance over a period of 50 years. The Essendon Airport celebrates its Centenary in August this year (1921-2021) and we hope to arrange a visit to the Airways Museum when the occasion is being celebrated.

Elaine Brogan, OAM thanked Roger for his talk and presented him with a gift on behalf of the members.

## OUR APRIL GENERAL MEETING

We were pleased to welcome 29 members and friends who attended the General Meeting of Tuesday, 27 April in the Moonee Ponds Court House Museum.

Secretary, Hayden Williams, welcomed our Guest Speaker, Dr Madonna Grehan, Immediate Past President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine and President of the Medical Society of Victoria who gave us an interesting talk on her family of chemists, tracing five generations of the Marrison family from George Hoyle Marrison, who was a chemist in Norfolk, England, in the late 1700s to later generations in Melbourne.

Of greatest interest to us was George Oswald Leighton Marrison who operated chemist shops from a number of places in Moonee Ponds including Holmes Road and Margaret Street. He was a very prominent resident of the local district being involved with a number of Friendly Societies and Community groups.

President, Bob Chalmers thanked Dr Grehan for her talk and her perseverance in spite of continual IT glitches.



## DAMAGE TO LOCAL MEMORIALS

We have been concerned in recent times that some of our Memorials have been damaged and are in need of attention from the Moonee Valley Council. We have made enquiries regarding two such cases recently and have received the following responses to our concerns.

### 1. THE TREE PLAQUES (WWI SHIPS) (The Boulevard, “Avenue of Honour”)

Several of our members had noted some time ago that 12 metal plaques on The Boulevard naming ships that had been involved in the Battle of Jutland had been removed by vandals.



In response to a query sent to the Council by our Secretary, Hayden Williams, the following reply was received from MVCC (Marita McLeod)

“Thank you for your enquiry regarding the WW1 War Ship plaques that were stolen from the “Avenue of Honour” along the Boulevard on the Maribyrnong River.

I am happy to report that these plaques are going to be replaced. There has been a delay, however Council expects an order to be placed in the next two weeks. The plaques are proposed as stainless steel to avoid the likelihood of them being stolen again.”

### 2. THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL (Queens Park)

Eve Park alerted me to the fact that some of the basalt steps on the South African War Memorial in Queens Park near the Avenue of Oak Trees were missing.

I was concerned, on following this up, that a number of pieces of masonry had been removed. I contacted the Council and spoke with one of the gardeners at the park and they assured me that parts of the steps had cracks in them and they had been taken away in order

to have them repaired. I was relieved to learn that the state of the Memorial was not due to vandalism as I had first feared.



### THE QUEENS PARK TEA-ROOM

People visiting Queens Park in recent times will have noticed that the Tea House (formerly the Caretaker’s Cottage) has undergone maintenance to the roof and the wooden shingles have been replaced.

The Cottage was built in 1895 and was occupied first by John Oliver, the Curator of Parks and Gardens from 1890 to 1937. Its last occupants were John Eyries and his family.



*Restoration of the Cottage (mid April 2021)*



*Restoration work Completed (Photo—May 2021)*

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members:

**John & Sally Ravenhall**  
(Strathmore)

**Michael & Deanna Zammit**  
(Moonee Ponds)

**Antionietta Colasante** (Essendon)

**Karen Synow** (Golden Point)

**Robert Furston** (Ascot Vale)

I hope that each of you enjoys your Membership with the EHS and am looking forward to meeting you at a General Meeting or other activities

Bob Chalmers  
(President)

**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.

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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 18 June 2021. Material forwarded before this date would be greatly appreciated. Members are encouraged to provide items of local interest.

## \*\*\*COMING EVENTS\*\*\*

**TUESDAY, 25 MAY 2021**

(at the Moonee Ponds Court House Museum)

**TIME: 7.30 pm**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Alice Garner**

**TOPIC: Fanny Finch**

**TUESDAY, 22 JUNE 2021**

**ANNUAL DINNER**

**Gannawarra Function Centre**  
(Keilor Road, North Essendon)

**TIME: 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Graeme Davison AO**

**TOPIC:**

**The Value of Local History**

**TUESDAY, 27 JULY 2021**

(at Moonee Ponds Court House Museum)

**TIME: 7.30 am**

**GEUST SPEAKER**

**T.B.A.**

### EHS Contact Details

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