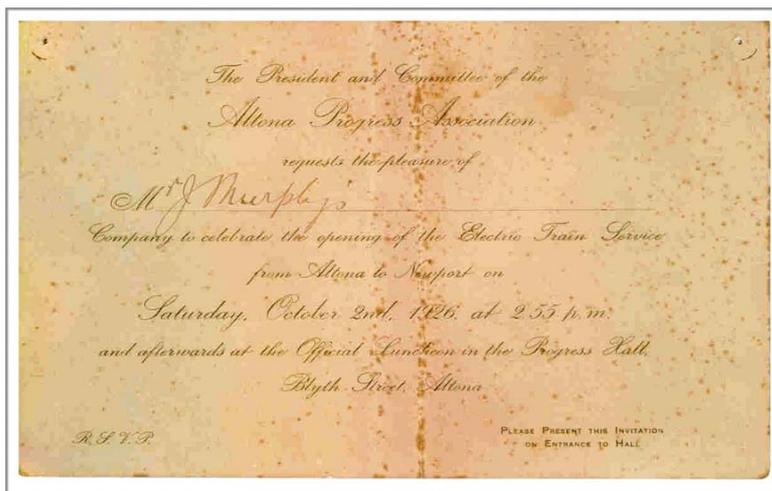




# NEWSLETTER

PO Box 236 Altona Vic 3018

## A Research Project - The Altona Progress Association



Are you looking for an interesting project to make use of, or develop, your research skills that will provide useful information for your community as well?

The Altona Progress Association was formed in 1917 when we were part of the Shire of Werribee, and for at least the next 30 years did much to encourage the establishment of essential infrastructure and maintenance works in the area.

Mr J Murphy was president of the association in 1926 when the railway was electrified and his wife had the privilege of cutting the ribbon in the official ceremony celebrating the achievement.

This is about the extent of our knowledge of this group and we need to know much more about their activities and who was involved.

If you would like to undertake this project that can be expected to take a number of months work, please contact Ann Cassar for more information.

**Electric Train Service  
Altona October 2nd 1926**



# The Caledonian Society



## From the Past

The Argus, Monday 17 Dec 1888

### **CALEDONIAN SOCIETY'S PICNIC**

The Caledonia Society held a picnic on Saturday at Altona Bay, having been invited thither by Mr. John Blyth, who provided a special train and a special steamer for the conveyance of the visitors to the locality.

The special train left the Spencer Street station at 1 p.m. taking about 200 passengers, who on reaching the railway station at Altona Bay, walked down to the pier, and there awaited the arrival of the steamer Williams, which came alongside about a quarter of an hour later. The accommodation of the steamer proved none too extensive for the number of people who availed themselves of Mr Blyth's hospitality. On the sea-borne passengers landing, the whole company headed by two pipers, marched in irregular order to the spot chosen for the picnic.

Two marquees had been there erected, one set out with light refreshments, and the other prepared for dancing and indoor amusements. Luncheon of a less informal character was laid in the dining room of the homestead, in the ornamental grounds surrounding which the picnic was held, and a tea refectory, for the exclusive use of the ladies, was improvised in the quadrangle on the side of the residence, sheltered from the strong but refreshing breeze which prevailed. Altona Bay, with its "choice of sun or shade," impressed the visitors very favourably as a site for outdoor sports or social gatherings. In addition to the pier, which is 1,320ft in length, and to the esplanade, extending about 1,500ft along the foreshore, there is a large plantation of pines, which skirts the beach for upwards of two miles.

Among the visitors on the occasion were Sir Arthur Nicolson (the president of the Caledonian Society) and Messrs. J. S. Butters, M.L.C., W. R. Jaffray, C. S. Patterson, John McDonald (members of the council of the Caledonian Society), and Mr. Robt. F. Gow, the hon. secretary.

The Highland games and sports under the direction of Messrs. Gow, Potter, H. Munro, S McDonald, and J. McDonald, were very successfully carried out, and on the programme being concluded an hour was spent in dancing in the marquee erected for the purpose.

Prior to the reunion breaking up Mr. J. S. Butters, M.L.C., returned thanks on behalf of the society for the treat Mr. Blyth had afforded its members. Mr. Blyth, in responding to the vote, said he had heard that the society contemplated holding a picnic at Mordialloc, each family to take their own refreshments. A Caledonian picnic, according to his ideas, should be arranged on a different principle from that, so it had occurred to him that he should entertain the members of the society at Altona Bay. (Applause.)

And if the society would decide upon holding its next annual sports at Altona Bay he would furnish, at his own expense, the means of conveyance from Melbourne and back. (Applause.) A complimentary vote was also accorded Sir Arthur Nicolson (the president of the society) for his attendance at the picnic.

The passengers by the steamer re-embarked for Port Melbourne pier at a little after 6 p.m., and the special train departed for Melbourne about an hour later.

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# Vale

## Charles (Charlie) Sutton

1924 - 2012



Long time Altona Western Suburbs business man and resident Charlie Sutton passed away on the 5th June 2012 at the age of 88 years.

He was perhaps best known as a Footscray football player, and was Captain and Coach of the Footscray Premier team in 1954.

He first played for Collingwood in the Melbourne Boys League at age 9 before moving to the Western Suburbs with his family.

He joined Spotswood Citizens Football Club as a 13 year old, and later Captained the Spotswood Under 18 team to their first Under 18 premiership in 1941, with the team defeating Braybrook in a game played at the Footscray Oval .

He was recruited from Spotswood by the Footscray Football Club in 1942, and debuted against Essendon in a game played at the Yarraville Oval, as the Footscray Oval had been requisitioned for War Department use.

It is believed that he was one of the last players of his day recruited before the local Zone including Spotswood was transferred to the South Melbourne Football Club as their recruiting area.

Charlie served with the Australian Army between 1943 and 1945 before resuming his football career with Footscray Football Club, now Trading as the Western Bulldogs, and continued to support the club for the rest of his life.

A popular identity around the area and always friendly he will be missed by all.



The young Charlie age 17

### 1941 Premiers - Spotswood Under 18 Team

Back Row: K.Moloney,O.Rohleder,A.Phillips,E.Preswell,E.Bennett

Second Row: R.Cockerell(Time Keeper)

A.Triffitt,,J.Robinson,W.Johnson,W.Carmichael,F.Clutton,W.Mackin,L.Bentley (Goal Umpire)

Third Row: L.Tandy (Com),J.Matthews (Treasurer),S.Cleale,B.Kenny,**C.Sutton (Capt.)**,L.Gardner

(VC),W.Couch (Coach),J.Sutton (Manager)

Front Row: K.Orr,W.Williams,A.Vurlow

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## ALHS News

### NEW EPSON SCANNER

The Historical Society recently purchased a new scanner that has the ability of scanning negative and positive (transparencies/slides) film as well as documents, photographs and books.

This is an important addition to our equipment enabling us to continue with this year's project of cataloguing our collection of photographs and slides. It also provides us with more flexibility in being able to copy film belonging to members of the community as well as their photographs.

Members are welcome to try out the scanner for themselves using their own film when the homestead is open on Tuesdays, and will need to provide a USB memory stick to take their digital images away with them.

### Preservation Hint



Most families have photographs recording significant events in their lives however, if you have used those albums with the sticky pages holding your treasured memories in place, you need to reconsider this. Unfortunately those albums do not preserve your photographs, and has the potential of destroying them.

You need to seriously consider removing all photographs from such albums and replacing them in 'acid free' or 'archival quality' albums now readily available in major department stores, if you don't wish to go to the expense of the archival albums used by the society.

*A transparency in the society's collection of street parades, date unknown, suspect the parade may be Operation Recreation*

ALHS Delegates and others attended the TAA Museum in May 2012 pictured below are Maureen Hawkins, Elaine Brogan and Margaret Rice



## Next Meeting

### Note to Members

*There is no General meeting planned for July*

*The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting 21/8/2012*

The **Annual General meeting** is set for the **Tuesday 21st August 2012 at 7.30 p.m.**, and remember always that positions on the Committee of Management are open to all Financial members, and members are encouraged to nominate for election.

The Society can only continue to grow and prosper if interested persons are willing to assist.

### Photos and Correspondence are important

The aim of all of our newsletters is to encourage Members and any other readers that your photos, school photos, sporting photos, trophies, medals, badges, correspondence and the like form part of local history wherever you lived and should be considered with for their future historical significance.

The Society would welcome such items for either display or cataloguing, especially older photos with individuals named.

If you have an interest in old photographs you are most welcome to join us exploring these wonderful glimpses of the past.

You can learn the basics of cataloguing including the use of a computer, useful skills for looking after a private collection whether it is photographs, coins or aeroplanes.

No experience necessary.

Come to the Altona Homestead Museum and ask for Ann or Owen.

**10 a.m - 12 noon Saturdays**

