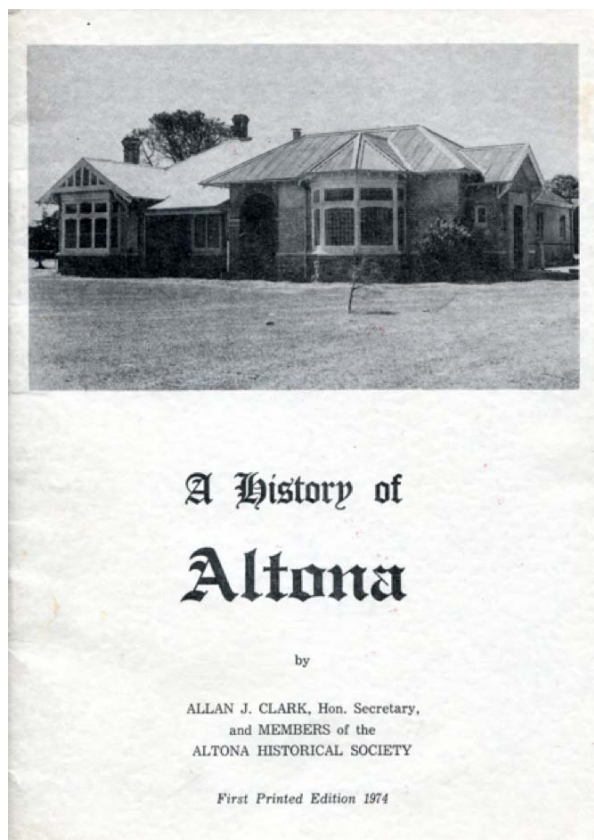




PO Box 236 Altona Vic 3018

[jimhevey@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jimhevey@optusnet.com.au)

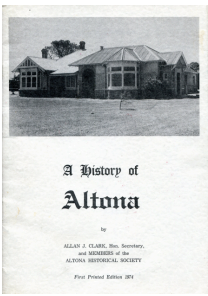
# NEWSLETTER



## Looking Back on Altona History

In 1974 the then Honorary Secretary of the Altona historical Society Allan J. Clarke together with Members produced the first printed edition of "A History of Altona" and the Society retains a copy of this excellent publication for reference purposes.

During February 2013 Allan Clarke together with his wife paid a surprise visit to The Homestead and presented to the Society copies of pages from the Altona Star printed in 1970 which are currently being catalogued and some of the information in the book and the Altona Star is reproduced in this Newsletter for the general interest of Members



## A history of Land development in Altona

*The Altona Star on the 11th November 1970 printed an article in two parts researched by Allan Clark former Secretary of the Altona Historical Society and some of the details are shown below.*

Early settlers in Port Phillip, John Batman and John Wedge formed “The Port Phillip Association”, Wedge a Surveyor apportioned acres among members giving himself the area that is now Altona and Werribee.

Alfred Langhorne took advantage and obtained a Grant of 248 acres at what was then known as Laver-ton from the New South Wales Government in 1836 as Victoria was part of the Colony.

The land today is in the area bounded by Civic parade, Davies Street to the East, The Bay and Grieve Parade in the West.

It is almost certain that he was the first white man to settle in Altona.

By 1849 Langhorne held 1016 acres on a lease of Ten Pounds annually and by 1849 this had extended to 2488 acres (Squatters already holding leases could annex adjacent leases).

By 1852 he held approximately 16 square miles on lease and owned 975 acres of land, on which he raised sheep.

During this period of Langhorne's ownership The Homestead was known as “Altona”.

The article also includes details on

### **The Cherry Family.**

The family are seen to have been associated with Altona since 1844-1845 possibly on (Henry Millers) lease which contained the swamp which is now known as Cherry Lake.

The Cherry lake area came into Cherry's possession as he bought various tracts of land in what is now Brooklyn, Altona and Newport, and by 1866 he owned approximately 3678 acres.

### **Pioneers in the area included:**

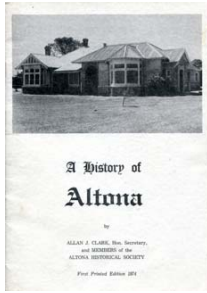
Robert Cherry

William Cherry Junior

James Cherry

David Ross

Edward Blackshaw



## **A history of Altona**

The Booklet “A History of Altona” gives further details of the settlers who followed Langhorne to Altona including :

**William Cherry** upon his death, his land was apportioned to his three sons, James lived in the Brooklyn area known as “Brooklyn Lodge”, William Jnr. took the centre section and resided in “Kororoit Park” the original home and Robert lived at “Seaford” just North of Cherry Lake.

The site of Brooklyn Lodge is unknown, Kororoit Park was near the (1974) BP depot and Seaford has gone.

### **David Ross:**

Is first heard of as owning Land in the Wyndham (Werribee area) in 1844 and in 1850 he purchased 112 acres near the former briquette depot in Altona North.

His Homestead “Hatherley” was situated west of the swamp in the depot grounds.

**Edward Blackshaw** Lived at the west end of the road which now bears his name.

The source of income of all of these early settlers were mainly from dairy cattle, sheep, oats, pigs and fowls.

---

## CHERRY LAKE AS A RACING CAR VENUE

President Peter Weaver has recently received a very interesting article from a publication called

“Closed Circuit” from Jim Testa who had a relative who died during an early motor car racing event on what was a racing circuit around “Cherry Lake”.



The opening race meeting was held on March 8th 1954, opportunities were few to hold motor race meetings around Melbourne and a new purpose built track was established at what is now Cherry Lake.

The Circuit was established on a flat parcel of land at a time in which the area was in part swamp land it is quoted that “it had a hard surface once the water evaporated”.

A company was formed to build a circuit to race around the lake and work started on a 3.6 km circuit with a

projected road width of 7.5 metres.

The article states that some low lying areas were traversed with a rock land fill to build up to road level.

At the opening meeting on the 8th March 1954, entries included Stan Jones in a Cooper 1100, Jack Brabham in his Cooper Bristol and Doug Whiteford in a Lago.

However as time progressed very few people turned up to pay at the turnstile.

The track was considered dangerous and included boulders.

A fatality occurred.

Four meetings were held but other venues such as Phillip Island and Albert Park eventually took over.

So for a brief period in time Altona played a part in motor racing history in Victoria.



Two photos in the Society Archives



## Society News

### Committee 2012/2013

**President:** Peter Weaver

**Vice President:** Carol Winfield

**Secretary:** Kim Walsh

**Treasurer:** Jim Hevey

*Committee Members*

Sharon Walsh

Owen Hyde

## Important information for all Members

### *General Meetings*

The Committee of Management have decided that as a result of the decreasing membership and the increasing work load on those who are active current members, resulting from the increased interest from Tour Groups, School Groups and other persons wishing to visit and tour the Homestead, on open days, Special event days, and other week days - which requires the Homestead to be staffed to accommodate these types of visits, that the **General Meeting nights will be limited** to the minimum number required to satisfy the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act.

The planned General Meetings for early 2013 are:

**Tuesday 16th April 2013**

**Tuesday 18th June 2013**

The 2013 Annual General Meeting will be conducted on a date to be confirmed in July or August 2013

Other special events or activities which require member participation will continue, including, The Beach Festival, Art in Public Places.

---

## The Homestead will be open for the Altona Beach Festival

The Homestead will be open on Saturday 16th March 2013 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
in support of the Altona Beach Festival.

As well as the normal historical exhibits and photographs on display a special exhibition has been arranged

### “All Things Tea”

This is a display of Tea Pots, Tea Cosies, Tea Towels and similar items

Bus Tours will be held during the day

Merchandising material will be available for purchase



## **MINUTES**

Minutes of the ALHS general meeting held 19th February 2013 at the Altona Homestead 128 Queen Street, Altona commencing 7.31 pm, chaired by Peter weaver

	Detail	Action
1.	<b>Present</b> P.Weaver, J Hevey, P.Chamberlain, B.Hawkins,M. Hawkins , A.Cassar, P.Shields ,E.Brogan, J.Kirkman	
2.	<b>Apologies</b> J.Kent, E.Muller,O.Hyde,M.Rice,K.Walsh,S.Walsh	
3	<b>Minutes of previous General meeting</b> The minutes of the December Meeting were unavailable.	
3.	<b>Finance</b> The Treasurer, Jim Hevey reported on the Finances and advised of the amounts currently held in the Bendigo Bank Cheque Account as at the 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2013 were \$7246.96,reconciled to Bank Statement in regard to the trading account and the Investment Account was \$11092.77, Moved Jim Hevey,Seconded Elaine Brogan report be accepted	Carried
4.	<b>Correspondence</b> In: RHSV Newsletter, Bank Statement, Notice of Open Day at Keilor Cottage 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2013 Out – February Newsletter	Noted
5.	<b>Reports:</b> Bob Hawkins reported on the WMGHS meeting of Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> February at the Altona Homestead ,and submitted a written report on the meeting,18 delegates and visitors attended the meeting at which various matters effecting all Historical Societies was discussed and an afternoon tea, followed the meeting which was hosted by the Altona Laverton Historical Society. Elaine Brogan commented about a theft of items from the Melton Historical Society , and matters regarding Maribyrnong Heritage area about which few people seem to care. Peter Weaver reported that the Hobsons bay Council were preparing an Architects report to allow for a Kitchen area to be established in the Homestead with work unlikely to commence until later in 2013. He also advised that he had acted as a Guest Speaker at the Seaholme Probus Club ,representing the ALHS. A Computer system has been obtained from Peter Webb, and it will be evaluated to see if it is of any use, otherwise consideration will be given to passing it onto the Men's Shed Group Anne Cassar advised that new books had been obtained for Historical research purposes including "Breeches and Buckles" and "My Life- My Family" by Christine Allen .	

	<p>It was advised that a plaque indicating the position of the Coal Mine in Altona, previously vandalised, has been replaced.</p> <p>Elaine Brogan requested that the cabinet housing the birds be moved to an area where the contents are less likely to be effected by bright light,to slow potential deterioration ,and similarly the saddle in the Courtyard to be removed to a more secure area and refurbished.</p> <p>Ann Cassar reported that Historian Alan Clarke visited the Homestead today, and scans made of documents that he had brought with him, regarding local history matters.</p> <p>Bob Hawkins sought clarification that artifacts previously in showcases were still on site, and indication was given that they were in storage pending refurbishment of the storage area and proposed kitchen renovations.</p> <p>Meeting Closed at 8.25 pm. and refreshments were taken</p>	