



# NEWSLETTER

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## Altona Hospital History Project Commenced



The Altona Laverton Historical Society in conjunction with representatives and co-operation from the Louis Joel Centre have formed a committee to commence planning for a History Project in regard to the establishment of the Altona Hospital, this will involve research into the Doctors, Nursing staff, Individuals, committees, auxiliaries and other groups involved in the establishment of the Hospital that served community needs until the closure, and re-establishment as the Louis Joel Centre in Sargood Street Altona.

The project will take place over the 2016-2017 period, and at this stage it is planned that a public exhibition during November, will enable memorabilia and photographs to be displayed at the Louis Joel Centre and the Homestead, enabling the public to visit, and hopefully supply further information and photographs about the Hospital, that can be scanned or recorded for future publication in a book to be produced during 2017.

# General Information

## Altona Hospital Timeline in Brief

**1920 circa** Following the end of the First World War attention turned to the mortality rate of infants in particular and the establishment of Baby Health Centres began to expand around the Metropolitan Area.

**1928** Dr. Louis Joel (pictured), who had established a medical practice in Newport was appointed Medical Officer by the Shire of Werribee, which controlled the Altona Riding, and he immediately set about to improve medical services in the area. His report for the end of the year urged establishment of a Baby Health Centre in Altona.



At that time Sylvia Cook (Koch) was advertising her Blyth Street home as Waverly Private Hospital, the hospital was found to be unregistered and that she did not have the claimed nursing qualifications.



**1930-31** Altona Hospital committee, was formed led by C.W. Borrack, John O'Brien, James Duke, Charles Lugg (Secretary), P Payne and Charles S. Walker (Treasurer).

**1932** The committee announced a contributory plan by local residents for a community hospital.

Nurse Ivy Weber, who operated a private hospital in Williamstown, and later Rowan Private Hospital in Pier Street Altona, with co-operation of Dr. Joel, plans were formed to refurbish the Pier Street building to establish an eight bed hospital.



On the December 3 1932 the 'Altona Community Hospital', was officially opened by Sir James Barrett (pictured), founder of the **Bush Nursing Association**.

The Altona Community Hospital was the first established in the metropolitan area, that was **based on the bush nursing principle** for its financial structure, that is by the use of contributory payment by residents to utilise its services.

Dr. Louis Joel was elected president

The Hospital could accommodate up to 10 patients

The first inpatient was James Duke

The first born in the new hospital was Alan Paproth.

**1932-1933** Dr. John Lewin, joined Dr. Joel soon after the hospital opened.

**1937** The foundation stone for a new hospital in Sargood Street was laid by the Shire of Werribee president, Cr. D. Grieve, and a time capsule was laid beneath the foundation stone.

**1938** February 5, a New modern brick hospital was opened in Sargood Street, by John Lemmon MP (pictured)



**1939-1971** Hospital operated successfully with assistance of various auxiliary fund raisers, long serving staff and office bearers

**1972-74** Major upgrade to premises increasing capacity to 25 beds and a new wing added.

**1975-76** X-ray unit added.

**1996** The Altona Hospital closed after 64 years of service to the community

## Bush Nursing Hospitals

The Bush Nursing Hospital movement began in 1910 with the establishment of the Victorian Bush Nursing Association.

At that time the current medical system consisted of big hospitals such as the Royal Melbourne and St Vincent's which had a major role to that poor people who could not afford to pay a Doctors fee.

There were also Private Hospitals that mainly only the wealthy could afford to attend.

In Australia, following on English lines the establishment of **Friendly Societies and Lodges** were established, they would arrange healthcare benefits for providing of sickness and death, including contracting with various Doctors and Chemists to provide cover for medical costs and medicines for members.

Members had access to Friendly Society Doctors and Dispensary's.

Typical Friendly Societies included the United Ancient Order of Druids and the IOOF - Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

The public hospital system still became overcrowded as people sought treatment in public hospitals.



The need for nurses in the bush became more apparent, and local areas began to take on the concept of raising funds to obtain their own 'Bush Nurse'.

The local community had to raise the funds to pay the nurses salary, board, uniform and mode of transport to move around the area when necessary.

In 1920 in Victoria there were 1475 Friendly Societies and Lodges with approximately 140000 members. (The writer followed his father and Grandfather as a member of the United Ancient Order of Druids Friendly Society for medical cost cover, until its amalgamation with the Geelong Mutual Health Benefits Association GMHBA several years ago.)

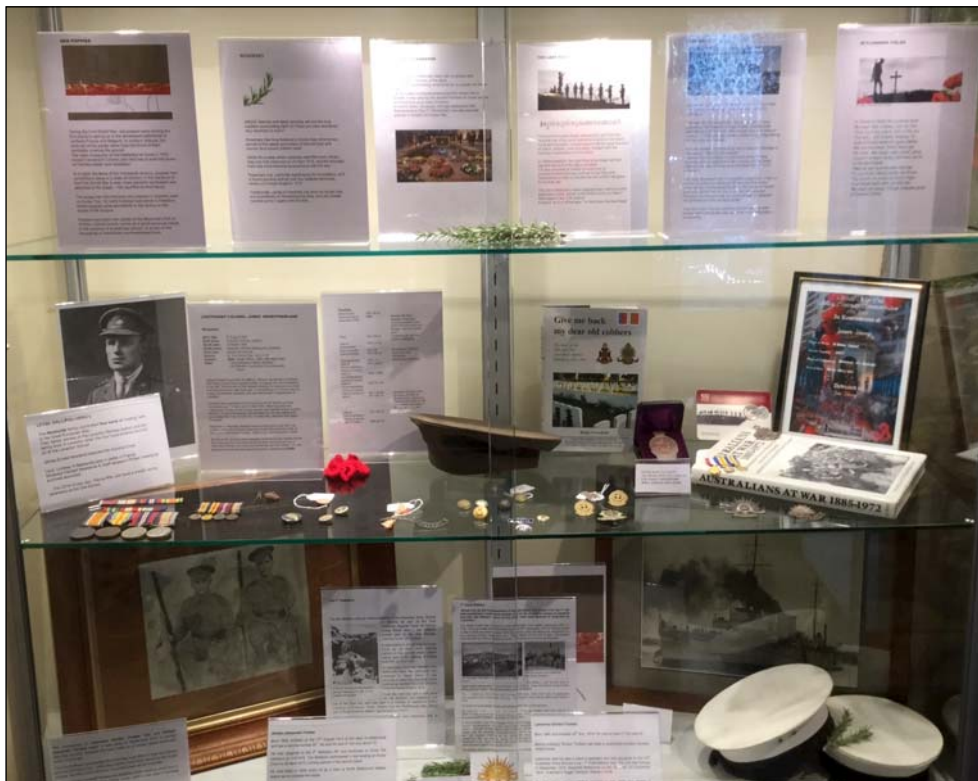


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## Recent Events - Anzac Display

The Society during April 2016 had on display items and memorabilia in memory of and as a tribute to those including local residents have given service during conflicts in which Australian Defence Force members have given service.

The photographs below are courtesy of Committee Member and Vice President Carol Winfield  
Special thanks to Wolf Graf who supplied display objects and assisted with the set up.







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### **The Council has been renovating The Homestead**

All exterior lighting surrounding the homestead and within the courtyard have been upgraded. Several fascias and guttering have been replaced.

The rising damp in the drawing room has been remedied, re-rendered and painted.

Peeling paint on the windows both interior and exterior have been sanded and painted.

The peeling ceiling in the dining room has been sanded and painted.

The display room now has exterior switches on each cabinet and screens can be switched on individually also. There is new ceiling lighting and unsightly cables have been removed.

Much of the same treatment will be given to the original kitchen and the museum room.

There will be picture frame rails in every room for hanging the various art works.

(Information and photo courtesy Carol Winfield)



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**The Imperial Standard Measures which were stolen, from the Homestead have been recovered by the Police and are back and safely locked within a cabinet.**





**SPECIAL EVENT @ ALTONA HOMESTEAD**

**CHRISTMAS DEVONSHIRE TEA  
SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 11AM -3PM**



**EXQUISTE CHRISTMAS DISPLAY THROUGHOUT ALTONA HOMESTEAD**

**A VISIT FROM SANTA**

**AUTHOR CLAIRE SAXBY 11:30AM**

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY "MAKING DECORATIONS" FOR OUR HOMESTEAD TREE**

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS: SING AUSTRALIA CHOIR 1PM & 2PM**

**CHRISTMAS QUILT DISPLAY**

**HOMESTEAD CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

**"LIONS" CHRISTMAS CAKES AND PUDDINGS**

**WILLIAMSTOWN NORTH PRIMARY, GRADE 2K CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

**DELICIOUSLY DELICIOUS DEVONSHIRE TEA  
MOUTH-WATERING CUPCAKES AND TREATS  
WINTER HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MARSHMALLOWS  
CRACKLING HOT ROASTED CHESTNUTS  
STEAMING HOT COMFORTING SOUP**

**FREE ENTRY: NO BOOKINGS  
ONLY REQUIREMENT SCARF 'N GLOVES 'N SMILE**

**PRODUCE AVAILABLE TO BUY**

**ENQUIRIES: CAROL [0414742686](tel:0414742686)**





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## Old Laverton School Honour Board

On Saturday 21 May 2016 ,Hobsons Bay Council operated an Open Day for visitors to view the School and the Honour Board,as part of the Anzac Heritage program.

Unveiled in 1922 the Honour Board bears the names of 26 men who enlisted in World War 1.

Pictured below left is Glen Hyde who's father Albert Victor Hyde served in the AIF.

Visitors and participants in the event included Altona Laverton Historical Society members Bob Hawkins and Owen Hyde.



A V Hyde

### Committee 2015 - 2016

**President:** Peter Weaver

**Vice President:** Carol Winfield

**Secretary:** Kerin Botha

**Treasurer:** Graeme Reilly

#### *Committee Members*

Maureen Lane

Judith Kirkman

Owen Hyde

### Next Meeting

Tuesday 9 August 2016 ( 7 p.m.)

**Annual General Meeting**

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