



# NEWSLETTER

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## The Homestead was a Holiday Venue



The Altona Laverton Historical Society had a recent visit from Mrs. Margaret Hall (formerly Robinson) who supplied a copy of the photo above which shows her as a child in the mid 1920's, together with her mother photographed in the front yard of the Homestead.

As some members will be aware the Homestead was in use for several years by Cuming Smith and Company Limited, a Yarraville based Chemical and Fertiliser company as a Holiday retreat for their employees and families.

*Of interest in the background of this photo is the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board, former operational tram, one of several which were used to house employees during their visits to the Homestead*

Cuming Smith and Company Limited was first established in around 1872, and was one of Australia's first producers of fertilisers. In 1929 they joined with several other fertiliser companies to form Commonwealth Fertilisers. Cuming Smith Company Limited was taken over by Westfarmers Fertilisers Pty. Ltd. in 1980.

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# General Information



The photograph on page 1 has in the background a limited view of a section of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways former horse drawn tram that had been decommissioned and was one of several understood to have been in use to house employees and visitors during holiday visits to the Homestead.

The image on the left is of a 1905 tram of similar vintage, it is number 49 and has eight windows similar to those in the photo of the tram 279 on page 1.

This does give us a good impression in regard to the size and type of vehicles that were in place at that time.



## **Cuming Smith and Company.**

James Cuming born in the USA migrated with his family to Australia in 1862, in 1872 he joined with his Brother in Law George Smith and another in

purchasing a chemical works in Yarraville.

In 1875 Cuming Smith and Company leased adjoining bone-mills and entered the fertiliser trade.



Updates from the Saturday cataloguing team at  
**ALTONA HOMESTEAD MUSEUM**  
Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc

# Waves

**Issue No. 2**  
**October 2015**

## Archives

Bill Fletcher was a past member of the historical society in about the 1990s who undertook the project of sorting through the mounting collection of archive material held by the society. He sorted the material into categories then placed it in manilla folders for keeping in the top drawers of the filing cabinet.

We have continued on with Bill's wonderful work by adding new material as it becomes available and in some instances creating new folders for topics not already covered. Preserving our community's archives is such important work for the society.

We ask members to make themselves familiar with these files so that you may assist with adding more information, or perhaps make use of the information for your own research.

*Come to the homestead on a Saturday morning and take your time looking at the collection.  
The following is a current list of all the folders.*

Air Raid Precautions	District Police Headquarters	Monuments
Altona History	Documents - Various	Names Public Spaces
Altona College	Duke Family	Newport
Altona Country Women's Assoc	Education - Schools	Notable Events & People
Altona District Hospital	Early History & Settlement	Old Laverton School
Altona Ephemera	Early Settlers	Paisley Fuel Depot
Altona Film Society	Economical Aspect of Altona's Severance	Parish Maps & Subdivisions 1930
Altona Gate Shopping Society	Elderly Citizen's Club	Parks & Gardens
Altona Homestead	Electricity Supply (SEC)	People
Altona Homestead Restoration	Environmental Protection	Pier & Foreshore
Altona Laverton Historical Society	Ex Service Men & Women	Pines Scout Camp
Altona Life Saving Club	Fishing	Plantings Logan Reserve
Altona Petrochemical Complex	50th Anniversary Altona Separated from Werribee	Post & Telegraph Services
Altona Primary School	Fire Brigade	Roads, Bridges & Subways
Altona Progress Association	Fleming's Family & Pool	Ross, David
Altona Refinery	Former Residents	St Eanswythes Anglican Church
Altona Sports Club	Grave - Sarah Langhorne	Sculpture Williamstown Racecourse
Altona Sports Park	Greek Orthodox Church	Service Clubs
Altona Star (references only)	Hevey Family	Ships
Altona Tennis Club	Hoppers Crossing	Sporting Clubs
Associations & Societies	Hostels	Soccer Club, Altona
Australian Carbon Black	Houses	State Emergency Service (SES)
Aviation in Altona	Indigenous Australians	Storm & Flood Damage
Back to Altona 1974	Industry - General	Strand Theatre
Blomberg's	Infant Welfare & Kindergartens	Straw Houses
Brown Coal	In Old Altona by Vera Wells	Trade & Commerce
Cataloguing Updates	Invitations - Various	Transport - General
Cherry Family	Kirner, Joan	Transport - Rail Services
Cherry Lake Park	Kororoit Creek	Truganina Explosives Reserve
Church History	Land Development & Sales	Werribee
City of Altona Council	Langhorne, Alfred	Western Suburbs Memorial Park
Civil Ambulance Depot	Laverton	Williamstown
Clark, Allan John	Library	Williamstown Racecourse
Community Chef (meals on wheels)	Lions Club, Altona	Williamstown Pony Club
Correspondence - Langhorne	Luly Family	Wiltona Migrant Hostel
Crofts, Les	Millennium Time Capsule	World Wars
Cultural Activities	Miscellaneous	Youth Clubs
Cut-Paw-Paw Sanatorium		
Dental & Medical Clinics		

# General Information

Updates from the Saturday cataloguing team at  
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## Waves

**Issue No. 4**  
**October 2015**

### **New Additions to the Museum's Collection**

The museum was very grateful to receive the recent gift of two model planes built by Carmine Cozzolino for use in producing the short film "Planes and Recreation" which was entered in the inaugural 2015 Altona Beach Festival. The models were used to illustrate those first flights from this area in the early 1900s.

Carmine is currently working on a model of the Old Laverton School for the museum.



Carmine Cozzolino with  
the model planes he built.

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## Bits and Pieces



## MYSTERY AT KOROROIT CREEK



Does any one have any information about this memorial located on the bank of Kororoit Creek west of Grieve Parade, Altona North?

We would like to respond to an enquiry from a regular commuter on the bus service running along Grieve Parade, as well as enter the details in our records at the museum.

If you would like to take the walk to investigate the memorial more closely, Ann will be very happy to provide directions. The somewhat rusty cyclone fence in the background is the border of Memorial Park.

### *Inscription*

DEBBIE  
I  
LOVE U  
FOREVER  
CHARLIE  
RIP

1967-2014

# Langhorne Family

The Society recently had a visit from Amy Langhorne a descendant of Alfred and Sarah Langhorne now residing in Canada, who was escorted around the Homestead by Owen Hyde and Ann Cassar, and she arranged a connection via her laptop to relatives in Canada who were able to view live the interior of the Homestead, and converse with those on site.

Upon her return to Canada Amy Langhorne will forward to us further information on the family including a photo of Sarah Langhorne for our records.

## Alfred Langhorne

### ALFRED ATTENDS ROYAL BALL

In 1867-8 His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Alfred, visited a number of cities in Australia. While in Melbourne a fancy dress ball was held on 23 December 1867 at the Exhibition Building in the prince's honour with 300 invited guests attending. Alfred Langhorne was one of the elite who received an invitation.

The timing of the ball was a little unfortunate as Sarah Langhorne was still in England, not returning to Australia until the following July. Alfred wasn't about to let that stop him from joining in the magnificent royal soiree.

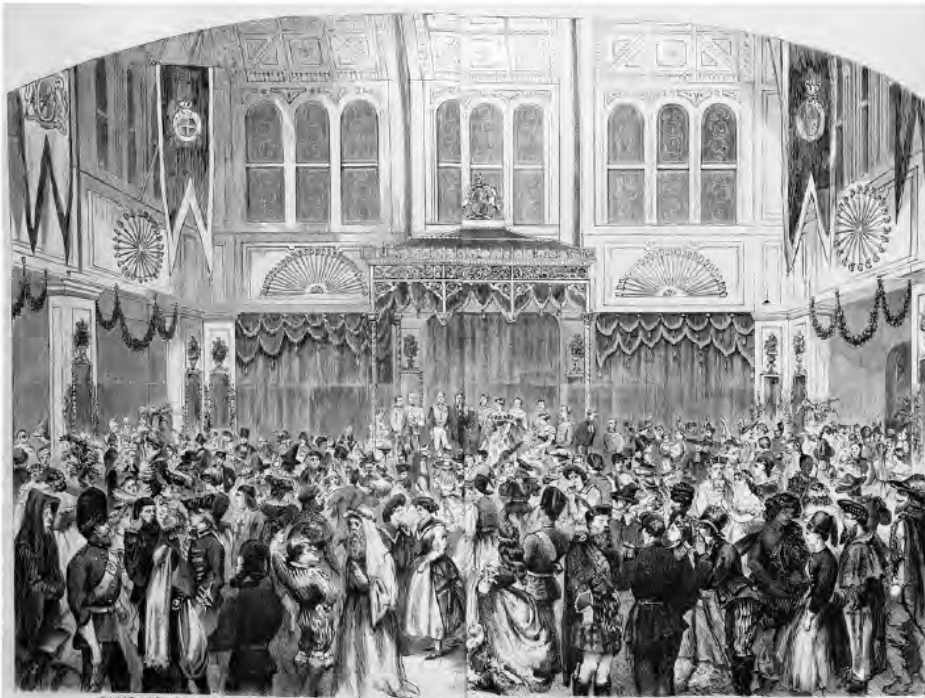


Illustration of the royal ball attended by Alfred Langhorne and the guest of honour, Prince Alfred  
Image courtesy State Library Victoria



His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Alfred

### ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

Prince Albert was a son of Queen Victoria, visiting the colonies to check their progress and to determine what trade opportunities might be available. However the visit was marred by a tragedy when the prince was shot in the back while attending a picnic in Sydney on 12 March 1868. The prince was taken to Government House where he received all medical treatment including removal of the bullet two days later. He made a full recovery.

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*Notice to members and Friends*

**The next General Meeting will be held at the Homestead on  
Tuesday 8th December 2015 starting at 7 p.m**

**This will be preceded at 6 p.m by a Committee Meeting**

**This will be the final meeting for 2015**

**Members are reminded that membership fees for the 2015 - 2016 year can be paid to the  
Treasurer on that evening**

**Committee 2015 - 2016**

**President:** Peter Weaver

**Vice President:** Carol Winfield

**Secretary:** Kerin Botha

**Treasurer:** Graeme Reilly

*Committee Members*

Maureen Lane

Judith Kirkman

Owen Hyde

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**For your Diary**

**Sunday 6th December 2015 from 11.a.m**

**The Homestead will be open and Devonshire Tea's available**

Also on site will be: Tom Ferris who will have for sale copies of his Book  
**Williamstown a Great Metropolitan Racing Club**

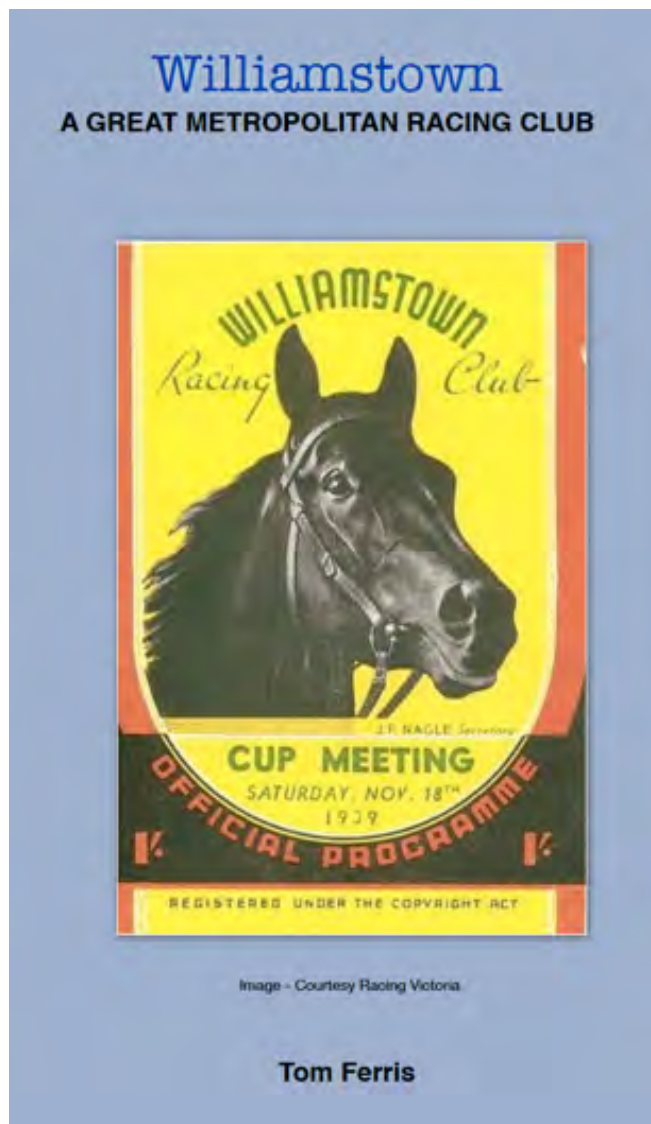


Image - Courtesy Racing Victoria.

**Tom Ferris**

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## **Congratulations to Altona Primary School**

The Altona Primary School celebrated their 100th Anniversary during October 2015, and after more than twelve months of planning the event was completed successfully.



School Principal Kevin Enright commented in their October 29 Newsletter

“I am almost speechless to describe last week’s Centenary celebrations. Day by day for the entire week, including Saturday, we had many events designed to honour and celebrate the Centenary of the school. The week reinforced why we love this school.”

and “ If Ann and Lawrence Fleming could look down on the little school they started in 1915, in the single classroom they built on their farm they would be very proud”.

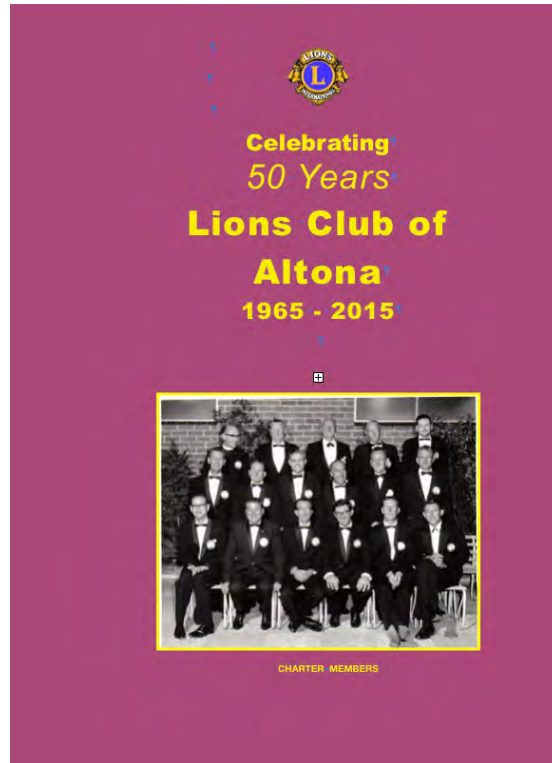
Below is a photo taken during the Official opening of the current school building on the 22nd November 1922



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**Congratulations to the Lions Club of Altona 50 years of Service to the Community**  
14th October 1965 - 14th October 2015

A reference copy of the 50 year book is available in the Society Archives



**2016**

**Australia Day**

Toyota Australia will arrange a display of their History in Australia and their manufacturing operations in Altona.

Full details available soon

**Contributors**

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