



Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 236 Altona 3018

NEWSLETTER

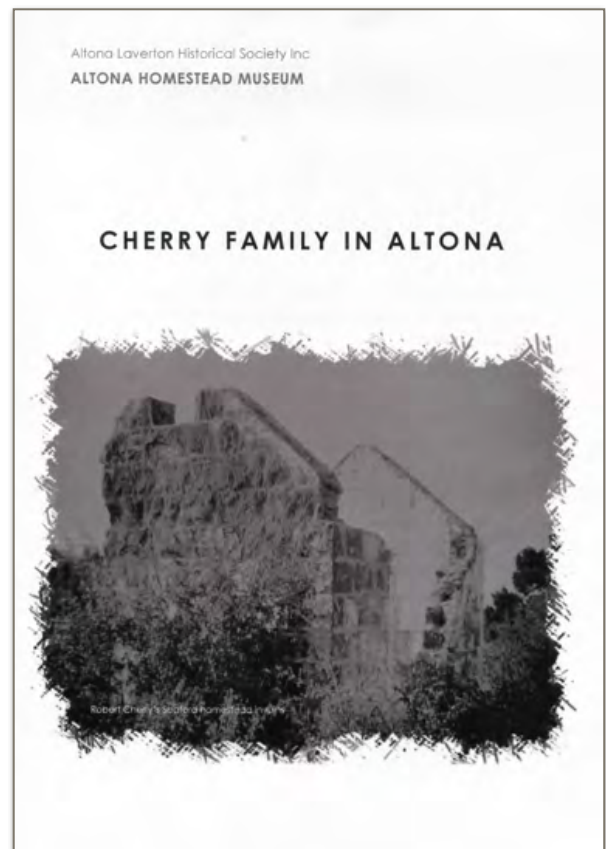
June 2018

CHERRY FAMILY IN ALTONA

Altona Laverton Historical Society Archivist, Ann Cassar has been researching the Cherry Family, a pioneering family of Altona for several years, and documentary information about the family is currently on file at The Homestead Museum.

The name Cherry is familiar to most people in Hobsons Bay through its long association with a local lake and the surrounding popular recreation area known simply as Cherry Lake.

We've known the name Cherry refers to the surname of a pioneering family who came to the area in the 1840s, who built substantial homesteads on several farming properties covering the Parishes of Truganina and Cut Paw Paw, and that there were Cherry councillors. We are researching the Cherry family and how they contributed to the development of our vibrant community.



This is an ongoing project so if you would like to contribute in any way please contact us.

The following pages contain general information about War Memorials in Altona, and an Obituary for esteemed Citizen, Catherine McIntyre, which appeared in the Altona Star newspaper in 1965, both articles also compiled by Ann Cassar.

WAR MEMORIALS IN ALTONA

by Ann Cassar

GIFT TO ALTONA

A memorial commemorating those who lost their lives while serving in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during World War I 1914-1918 (Great War), unveiled in 1928 on the tenth anniversary after the war ended



Fig 1 - Image from Altona Laverton Historical Society collection, circa 1929

Located at the northern end of Altona pier on the Esplanade, the memorial was a gift to the community from the recently formed Ex-Service Men and Women's Club, now better known as the Altona RSL (Returned Services League) and local residents who generously donated to the cause.

The memorial was unveiled on Monday, 4 June 1928 on the day when the King's birthday was celebrated, and 10 years after the end of WWI.

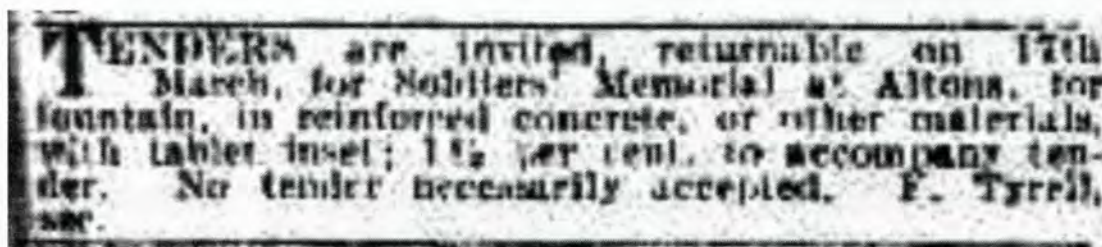


Fig 2 - Request for tenders published in The Age, Thursday, 1 Mar 1928

Jack Hopkins, treasurer of the Ex-Service Men and Women's Club, designed the memorial and carried out much of its construction starting on 1 May 1928, just one month before the unveiling. Constructed of concrete, it had four alcoves, one on each side and when completed there would be a tap in each to supply unlimited quantities the world's oldest brew, "Adam's Ale." It was surmounted by a dome on top and would be further embellished as funds became available. The completed memorial stood eight feet high (2.4mt) with two drinking taps. A plaque had been mounted above the front opening bearing the words *Erected by Altona Ex-Service Men & Womens Club 1914-1918 "Lest We Forget."*

WAR MEMORIALS IN ALTONA

Opening Ceremony

In a ceremony beginning at 3pm on Monday, 4 June 1928, the day when the King's birthday was celebrated. A large crowd of well over 400 people assembled to hear the speakers. Cr Bernard Joseph Maher presided and after his initial address outlining the benefits of the memorial to the community, Reverend William Edwards led the hymn "Oh, God our help in ages past," ending with a prayer. John Henry Lister MHR followed by congratulating all who contributed to building the memorial. Brigadier General Frederic Godfrey Hughes read a chapter from the bible, after which Cr Maher called upon Mrs Fairman, wife of the president of the Ex-Service Men and Women's Club, to unveil the fountain. Cr White and John Murphy, president of the Altona Progress Association, also spoke, both emphasising the ornamental and practical value of the gift. After another hymn the gathering listened to the Last Post sounded by Mr A Laird.

The choral portion of the proceedings was in the hands of Mr A Smith who officiated at the organ and led the singing.

Mr Freeman on behalf of the club thanked all those present for attending.

In the evening the Ex-Service Men and Women's Club held a most successful dance at Parham's Cafe (ABC Cafe) on the corner of Pier Street and the Esplanade. Successful prize winners for the evening were: gent's prize, F Vassie junior and lady's prize, Mrs Flood.

The Ex-Service Men and Women's Club may have considered they had a dual role in initiating the placement of the monument on the Esplanade. In February 1927 they wrote to Werribee Shire Council requesting they be given control of the Altona foreshore and at the council meeting on 24 February it was decided to reconsider the matter at a later date. Over a year later the inaugural Altona Foreshore Trust was set up by council at a public meeting, held in the Altona Progress Hall on Monday 23 April 1928 when the following committee was elected: Messrs Pearce, Twentyman, Blomberg, A Smith, Fairman and Grover.

In July 1928 the ladies of the Ex-Service Men and Women's Club held a successful euchre party to raise funds to embellish the memorial fountain. Prize winners were - Euchre tournament: Mrs Parkington and Mrs Borrack. Spot dance, Miss E Cox and Mr Doherty; Monte Carlo dance, Mr and Mrs Lunmark. The pillow slips went to Mr J Parkington, Footscray; bath towels to Mrs A Stuber; supper cloth to Mrs Roberts, Richmond; while a bottle of Dewar's best found a welcome home with SM Cully of Point Cook. Thomas Keeshan as master of ceremonies officiated in his usual efficient manner. Another similar function was proposed for the following month.

In December 1928 the Ex-Service Men and Women's Club again wrote to Werribee Shire Council requesting permission to erect a protecting wall in front of the memorial fountain on Altona beach, which was granted subject to approval by the engineer. As the description of the memorial fountain at the time of unveiling did not include any mention of two posts with chain and low wall in between as can be seen in Fig 1, we may assume this is the design they came up with for a "protecting wall" and is also the reason we have dated that photograph as circa 1929.

FALL FROM GRACE

In September 1971, Mick Johnston responded to an earlier story in the Altona Star when the Altona Historical Society queried the future for the old memorial now standing in Cresser Reserve in an abandoned, disgusting condition. In his letter to the editor, Mick Johnston, a member of the Altona RSL and their appointed local war memorial custodian at the time, pointed out that it was just after WWII when George Irwin, president, Jack Paproth, secretary, and himself, vice-president, all of Altona RSL, met with

WAR MEMORIALS IN ALTONA

Werribee Shire Council when they agreed a memorial was needed in Altona commemorating the heroism of those involved in WWII. A new memorial in the shape of an obelisk was established in 1946 in Altona Park (now known as Logan Reserve) on the corner of Pier and Queen Streets. For several years the community had two memorials to lay wreaths on during annual commemorations.

The memorial fountain had experienced problems with drifting sands threatening its stability, and repeated complaints to police, council and Altona RSL from parents of teenage girls who had been physically assaulted when bending over to drink from the fountain.

The decaying memorial was dumped in a council yard until William Draper, secretary of Altona RSL, pressured for its reinstatement and so it was moved to Cresser Reserve, Altona. This was most likely after 1957 when Altona had separated from Werribee as it was reported that the first shire secretary, James Waters said at the time that it was no longer regarded as the official war memorial, that it may eventually be returned to a drinking fountain and until then it would be regarded as a historical landmark.

In his 1971 letter Mick Johnston added that he had inspected the memorial at the reserve and suggested to council it could be used as a warning beacon to aid fishermen in foggy weather.



Fig 3 - Memorial Fountain in Cresser Reserve, Altona

Altona Apex wrote to Altona Historical Society offering to assist with restoration of the old drinking fountain when the historical society suggested the addition of an appropriate plaque should be considered.



Fig 4 - Original plaque outside Altona RSL, Sargood Street

In 1972 some locals including Angus S Wright, Mr K Edgar and Ken Wise, were asking for improvements to be made to Cresser Reserve with the derelict memorial fountain to be included in any plans. It was another three years before council commenced the planning stage, noting that the old memorial had proven useful in keeping vehicles off the septic tank installation of the nearby public convenience. It was estimated the fountain could be restored for the cost of \$250.

However, it would seem works at Cresser Reserve did not include the old memorial after all and it was returned once again to the council yard where it would seem it came to a sad end in the 1970s.

Records of the Altona Historical Society, as it was known in July 1987, recorded the donation of the marble plaque from the old memorial by member Larry Fleming who found it languishing in the council yard and rescued it. The historical society in turn donated the plaque to the Altona RSL where it now stands with pride of place in the collection of war memorials fronting the building in Sargood Street.

At some time in this saga a replica plaque was produced, except in black marble with white inscription, that the Altona RSL has had in their keeping for some time and has now donated to the historical society's collection.



Fig 5 - Replica Plaque

WAR MEMORIALS IN ALTONA

OBELISK MEMORIAL

Cr Grant approached the Werribee Shire Council in August 1946 to take the necessary steps for the construction of a suitable war memorial in Altona Park. The new memorial in the form of an obelisk would bear the names of all fallen comrades in WWII, and be built on the corner of Queen and Pier Streets in what is now known as Logan Reserve and opposite the picture theatre. Cr Grant had a proposed costing of £240, of which council had agreed to contribute £50, the balance to be raised from the public. Unveiling was planned for the next Armistice Day (Sunday, 10 November 1946).



Fig 6 - Obelisk Memorial

A fundraising committee was appointed made up of Mrs M Mowlan JP and chair of the committee; First Constable Griffiths secretary; and Mrs JH Bennett treasurer. A well attended ball was held in the Soldiers' Hall on Friday 20 September and a promenade concert was to be held on 10 October 1946. A picture night and house to house canvassing were arranged. Two demonstrations by the pupils of Miss Dorothy Harvey packed the Soldiers' Hall resulting in some people being refused entry and adding £55 to the charitable cause.

Construction took a little longer than planned as the unveiling finally took place in perfect weather on Sunday, 15 December 1946. The ceremony commenced at 2.30pm after the 2pm march from the Soldiers' Hall in Sargood Street. Major-General H Ramsay, CBE, DSO, ED, chief officer of the 5th Division in New Guinea and New Britain, took the salute from the parading ex-service men and women and unveiled the new memorial. The major-general said the monument was a living memorial to those who gave their lives and an inspiration to all ex-service men and women to care for their fellow citizens, and those who had felt the burden of the war. If it

failed to do this, it would not fulfil its purpose.

Wreaths were placed on the monument by George Irwin, president of the local sub-branch of the Returned Servicemen's League; Cr J Carter, president of Werribee Shire Council; Mrs Mowlan on behalf the memorial committee; and by friends and relatives of the fallen. Two solos were rendered by Cecil Atkinson accompanied by Mrs Hyett, while Roly Barlee of 3UZ acted as compere. Yarraville and Kingsville Citizens' Brass Band also attended.

After the ceremony Major-General Ramsay presented 260 inscribed wallets to the ex-service men and women, financed by Crs J and W Carter and Morrow along with Werribee Shire Council. This was the second presentation ceremony by council of wallets and certificates officially welcoming the return of those who had fought in WWII.

On 22 May 1947 a meeting was held in the Soldiers' Hall to wind up the appeal committee for the memorial. Chaired by Cr Emery, he thanked committee members for their co-operation in raising £164/10/3 that had been forwarded to Werribee Shire Council. A letter of congratulations from council was forwarded to the committee in recognition of their contribution.

We have photographs of the drinking fountain memorial built in 1928 that seem to indicate the monument played a central role in annual remembrance days commemorating WWI, but

The Fairman's

L Fairman, stated to be the president of the Ex-Service Men & Women's Club, and wife Mrs Fairman, may be the couple, Leonard and Lily Fairman, who lived in Davies Street, Altona from at least 1927. Leonard was born in England, enlisted in the AIF in 1915, fought in France, requested to be discharged in 1917, the same year he married Victorian born Lily Green, later enlisting again for WWII. Leonard was a mechanic while Lily took care of domestic duties and they're now both interred in Altona Memorial Park.

WAR MEMORIALS IN ALTONA

arrangements after the obelisk was installed changed somewhat. In April 1949 the annual Anzac Day service was held in the Altona Picture Theatre on Sunday, 24 April at 3pm. Altona had two memorials for several years, and the community laid wreaths at both in annual commemorations.

CENOTAPH WITH ETERNAL FLAME

In February 1965 it was announced that Altona was to have its own eternal flame commemorating the courage of all who fought in the more notable wars. It was to be located in front of the Civic Offices and was expected to be completed early April, advised the shire engineer, Mr RC Simmons.



Fig 7 - Eternal Flame Cenotaph, Civic Offices, Civic Parade, Altona in 2018

Arrangements were made to use part of the existing war memorial, the obelisk in the park corner of Pier and Queen Streets, to form the base of the new cenotaph. The Gas and Fuel Corporation made the gas burner in a similar style to the one at the Shrine of Remembrance.

A service commemorating the 50th anniversary of Anzac Day and the lighting of the eternal flame was organised for 2.45pm Sunday, 2 May 1965. Ex-service men and women, serving members, Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies were asked to assemble at the RSL Memorial

Hall, 31 Sargood Street in preparation for the march to precede the service. They proceeded from Sargood Street into Blyth Street, then Pier Street to Civic Parade where the salute was taken by Brigadier William Henry Hall, CBE, DSO, ED and state president of the Returned Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia.



Fig 8 - 50th Anniversary Anzac Day

Dedication of New Memorial

After inspecting the guard of honour, 32nd Footscray Infantry Battalion, Brigadier Hall officially lit the eternal flame at 2.45pm followed by a dedication of the memorial by Pastor RJ Reynolds representing the ministers fraternal. Scout Wilson Heriot, on behalf of the school children of the shire, read the message of loyalty submitted to Her Majesty the Queen by His Excellency the Governor-General. Guider Ann Fairway read the reply Her Majesty sent to the Governor-General. President of the Altona RSL, Mick Johnston, spoke on the 50th anniversary of Anzac and was followed by an address by Cr AW Bond. During the service Ron Wilson sang a number of stirring songs.

Wreaths were laid by Mrs E Beyer, president of the Women's Auxiliary, and representatives of council, Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies. Shire president, Cr JJ Ginifer gave a non-denominational service in which Brigadier Hall was a guest speaker. Also present representing the three services were Lieutenant VLW Ryan, RAN Williamstown; Lieutenant-Colonel Cook, 32nd Battalion; Major GC Tuohy, Southern Command; Wing-Commander B Cogerly, DFC, Point Cook; and Squadron-Leader R Heathcote, Laverton. Afternoon tea was served in the Civic Hall following the dedication.

Arrangements for refreshments after the dedication apparently neglected the needs of the children involved in the ceremony, moving two mothers to write letters to the editor of the Altona Star pointing out this shortcoming.

The 1950 Archibald prize winner, Ian Bow, was commissioned to model and cast the bronze sculpture surrounding the flame, his second project for the fledgling council.

WAR MEMORIALS IN ALTONA

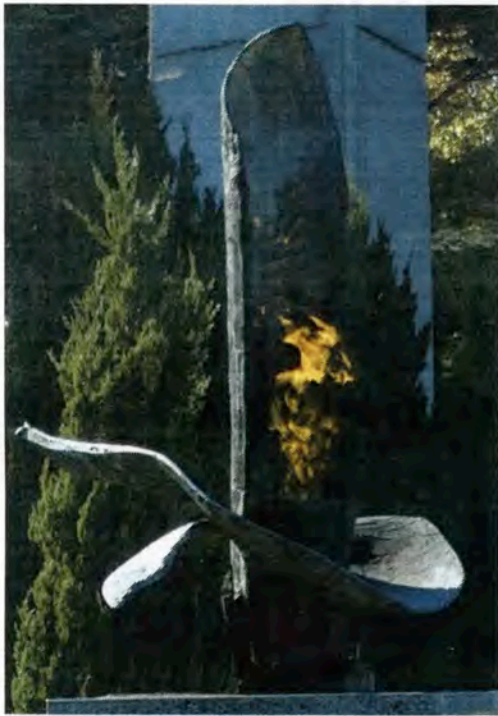


Fig 9 - Sculpture by Ian Bow

In September 1966 it was proving difficult to keep the flame burning, causing some embarrassment when the Chief Justice of Victoria was visiting Altona. Discussions later between council and Altona RSL helped resolve the problem.



Fig 10 - Eternal Flame Cenotaph, Civic Parade, Altona



Fig 11 - Henry Adam Waites

Honours List

The World War II honour roll from the obelisk monument was reproduced on the new memorial, and the name of W Houston was added as part of the Korean War. The memorial honours those who made the supreme sacrifice in World War 1 1914-1918, World War II 1939-1945, Korean War 1950-1953 and Vietnam War 1962-1973. Its is one of only four in Australia with an eternal flame.

There's possibly a family connection between George Irwin president of the Altona RSL and the two Irwin gentlemen included on the memorial.

Leslie Binns	W Houston	Ron Meddings
George Carthy	GA Irwin	David Murdoch
MH Duggan	JR Irwin	Leonard Charles Paproth
Cyril Gadsden	Doug Knapp	Henry Adam Waites (Fig 11)
William Harris	W Mangan	



Fig 12 - Fountain by Ian Bow at the entrance to Civic Offices, installed in 1964



Fig 13 - Military equipment

WAR MEMORIALS IN ALTONA

Located Near Eternal Flame

Two other memorials to remind us of the horrors that war brings are located not far from the eternal flame in front of the Civic Offices - a plaque dedicated to the war in Vietnam, and a gun from the one of the world wars believed to have some sort of connection to Altona RSL.



Fig 14 - Plaque commemorating 40th anniversary for Battle of Long Tan



Fig 15 - Location of Battle of Long Tan plaque at base of clock

Altona RSL

It has been interesting to note Brigadier William Henry Hall, CBE, DSO, ED, who lit the eternal flame on 2 May, returned to Altona for a second time in the same month to present the highest Returned Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia award available, the Gold Life Membership Badge, to Altona RSL member, Mr HJ Paproth, who had been a member of the league from 1919.

1965 was also the same year the Returned Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (RSSAILA) decided to do something about their very long name and shortened it to Returned Services League (RSL).

Brigadier Hall was state president of the Victorian RSL in 1965 and later went on to become national president. He was also honoured with a knighthood entitling him to be called Sir William Henry Hall.



Fig 16 - Sir William Henry Hall

Sources

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wyndhamhistory.net.au

monumentaaustralia.org.au

National Library Australia

Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc
Altona Homestead Museum
Created 31 May 2018

Obituary - Catherine McIntyre

Catherine Margaret Mary Grieve
Born 1913 Williamstown
Died 11 April 1965

*Excerpt from Altona Star newspaper
published Wednesday 14 April 1965
in Altona, Victoria, Australia*

ESTEEMED CITIZEN PASSES AWAY

The Altona community was saddened at the news of the death of Mrs Catherine McIntyre. She had been ill for some time and passed away early last Sunday morning at the Mercy Hospital.

Born in nearby Williamstown, she spent all her life in the Altona district, except for periods away on nursing duties and travel.

She was a member of the Catholic church, for some years a councillor, was widely interested in the welfare of local people and by her active support she assisted many worthwhile bodies in Altona. At the same time she endeared herself to many by personal kindnesses and understanding.

From its inception in 1942, she was a great benefactor to the Catholic parish in Altona. Apart from liberal donations from the McIntyre family, the further development of the church owes much to her guidance. For example, the acquisition of land for St Paul's Boys College and St Joseph's Girls College was largely due to her business acumen, as also was other church land just acquired at Laverton.



Catherine McIntyre

Mrs McIntyre was of course the first and only lady councillor in Altona. She was an elected member of the first council of the Shire of Altona and attended the first meeting in June 1957. She was re-elected in August 1957 until her term of appointment expired in August 1960.

The council gave her a testimonial at the time which recorded her diligence to council activities and her keen interest in matters municipal had assisted the council and the administration of the municipality to a great degree. Her drive and interest assisted in the creation of the Home Help Service in March 1960, and the building of the Elderly Citizens Club rooms at Logan Reserve during 1960.

In 1958 Mrs McIntyre was granted leave of absence by the council to make a world trip, which included a visit to Altona in Germany. A woman with a lively and inquiring mind, she set about finding links between her home town and its namesake and to establish some more permanent contact. In Germany she saw that women played an important part in civic life, and it was her aim to see more women in Australia interested in public life.

She was the first president of the Elderly Citizens Welfare Committee and was at times a member of the Altona Hospital Committee, Ladies Auxiliary and the Altona Red Cross. She was a member of the ladies section of the Altona Bowling Club, a member of Koorngal Golf Club and the Past Nurses Association of St Vincent's Hospital.

Mrs McIntyre was one of a pioneer family, the Grieve family, which farmed a property north of Kororoit Creek Road for a number of years. In accordance with council policy that streets and roads be named after pioneer and leading citizen families, the name of Lily Street was changed to Grieve Highway* a few years ago.

A widow for a number of years, Mrs McIntyre is survived by her daughter, Mary.

To many in Altona who regarded her as a friend Mrs McIntyre's passing will be a personal loss which cannot be filled.

Yesterday a solemn requiem mass was celebrated in St Mary's Church, celebrant was Rev J Nooney; deacon Rev G Dowling; sub-deacon Rev J English; and master of ceremonies Rev VG Rubeo. Music of the mass was sung by the parish choir led by James Stryker.

At the funeral service were Cr WG Cresser JP, and shire secretary Mr JW Waters who were associated with the first council, and Crs VL Hearn, SG McIntosh and AW Bond. Also present were ex-councillors and members of the first council, Messrs R Logan, RJ Cooper and HC Kim.

* Grieve Parade was originally named Grieve Highway when it was anticipated the north and south sections would eventually be linked.