



**Altona Laverton
Historical Society Inc.**
PO Box 236 Altona 3018

NEWSLETTER

Lest We Forget

103 YEARS SINCE THE ARMISTICE AND END OF WORLD WAR ONE



This Newsletter is being prepared on Remembrance Day (Formerly Armistice Day), November 11,2021 so it is an appropriate time to remember the ending of World War One and those who served in the battles of that time.



Australian soldiers from the state of Victoria march down Bourke Street in Melbourne, prior to departing for the battlefields of World War I, circa 1914. Picture: Paul Thompson/FPG/Getty Images



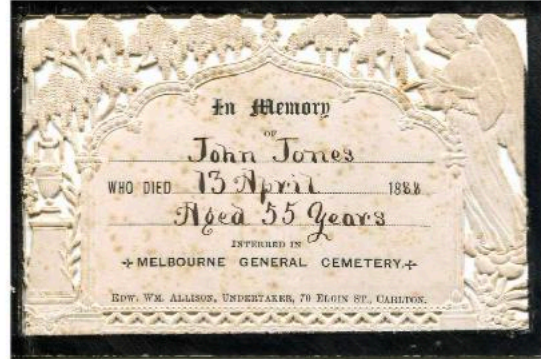
The collecting of Images ,Posters and Postcards from that, and any era is of continuing interest to all Historians and it is especially important not to destroy or dispose of images of persons who served in the conflicts of the day as they become important for historic research and assists in maintaining the memories of those who served, or assisted on the home-front.

Family Genealogy

SNIPPETS OF INFORMATION

by Ann Cassar

While stuck at home in Victoria's COVID-19 Lockdown No. 6, I revisited researching my own family history and I've had an old family photograph album for some time that once belonged to my great grandparents. I opened it for another look at the few photographs that have names to see if I could make any more sense of them now that I know a lot more about my ancestors. However, I took more notice of a little card in the back that had been issued by Melbourne General Cemetery bearing the brief information that John Jones died on 13 April 1888 aged 55 years and was interred in the cemetery.



I didn't know the name at all, we didn't have any Jones people in our family as far as I was aware and thought perhaps he was a close friend. I looked at the Victorian Births Deaths and Marriages (VIC BDM) website to see if I could find any more information about the gentleman. It didn't take long to locate the entry which showed he was the husband of Catherine Quinn, an exciting find as we do have Quinn family in our tree. Catherine was my 3 x great aunt. After more research in VIC BDM, together with records on ancestry.com.au and other people's family trees, I was able to build up a bare bones picture of Catherine and her descendants for three generations.



I have found a branch of my family tree that I was unaware existed and 26 people who were entitled to be added as we share common ancestors, the parents of Catherine Quinn and my 3 x great grandparents, Mary and John Quinn.



Mary and John lived in Ireland in the mid 1800s raising their four children. Then after John died, Mary packed up her family including Catherine, all nearing adulthood, and migrated to Australia escaping the ravages of the Irish potato famine. They arrived in Geelong in August 1854 before settling in Melbourne. I'm descended from Catherine's sister, Honorah Mary Quinn.

This has been a very enjoyable learning curve discovering how a simple card with only a few facts that seemed to have no connection to my family, turned out to be so different to what I first thought.

Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc

Committee of Management 2020-1

President * Owen Hyde
 Vice President * Kim Reilly
 Secretary * Graeme Reilly
 Treasurer * Jim Hevey
 Ordinary Members * Ann Cassar,
 Russell Grant & Bob Hawkins

Presidents Report

"It was the worst of times, and the best of times"!



Despite the Global shut down and the disruption of the last few months our ALHS committee has continued on with all the important research projects, on-line from their homes, virtually without pause. It has been a privilege and a great pleasure to be part of this very productive, dedicated and creative team.

All Homestead public activities, including our first Sunday of the month Devonshire Teas, (a significant source of income for the society), were also shut down by Covid requirements. The Devonshire Teas are, hopefully, to reopen early 2022.

The success of the Devonshire Teas is very largely due to our Vice President Kim Reilly who works tirelessly to provide, along with Graeme and their team, a highly professional product appreciated by locals who by their return bookings indicate ongoing support to the Altona Homestead and its historical activities.

The Research/Archiving room upgrade has finally become a reality with the space now more accessible as a work area for members to carry out cataloguing, filing and research activities in a less cluttered environment.

For some months now on a Tuesday, when not subject to restrictions, Ann, Jim and Graeme visit Truganina Reserve to carry out archiving, scanning and the recording of the historical files kept on site. Their work aims to integrate Truganina Reserve files and data with the existing ALHS cataloguing system. This large undertaking by our three members is in addition to their other ongoing workload on behalf of the ALHS.

Tuesday's Market Day opening along with school groups were conducted at the Homestead between the last and the second last shut down. A very big thank you to Elaine Tamlyn for her continued (nine years), support to the Society on

Tuesday open days. Russell Grant 's attendance at the Homestead for meetings and open days continues to bring a level of local knowledge and historical awareness that is indispensable to the society.

Our secretary Graeme Reilly completed a three by 1.5 hour sessions to U3A on the History of Altona. The feedback from those who attended was extremely positive and Graeme's excellent presentation brought significant credit to the Altona Laverton Historical Society within the Hobson Bay community.

Ann Cassar, the Altona Laverton Historical Society's archivist, also found extra time to focus on unravelling the mystery of the unidentified Langhorne family remains interred in the Langhorne grave.

Jim Hevey as well as carrying out his duties as ALHS Treasurer produced our regular newsletter to update members on important news and the valuable research work being carried out by committee members. Please note past newsletters can be read at; <https://alhs.com.au/our-society/past-newsletters/>

We have been delighted to have two new volunteers , Maree Thorssell and Courtney Colclough, attend the Homestead on Saturday mornings (again subject to restrictions),to work on projects and to assist with cataloguing. Their support both professional and personal has been inspirational.

During the lockdown the ALHS Website Homepage continues to be a great tool to connect the Society to the Altona Laverton community. The website attracts increasing numbers of hits to the various research posts.

Google analytics data reveal that the most viewed posts are those sites devoted to the stories and biographies of past and current residents of Altona. (<https://alhs.com.au/local-history/streets/>)

Another frequently accessed site is the Yalukit-willam (First People of Hobsons Bay), this site gives an excellent overview of Altona Laverton history before European settlement.(<https://alhs.com.au/local-history/indigenous-peoples/>),

Thanks again to all members for their commitment to the Society.

All the best for the coming holiday session to all members, friends and their families.

Owen Hyde-President,Altona Laverton Historical Society-owenl.hyde@gmail.com

THE YEAR THAT WAS 2021



Who would have thought that by November 2021 we would still be in the grip of the pandemic that is COVID 19. During this year we have tried to open the Homestead to visitors only to be closed back down again as fast as we had opened.

Our resourceful volunteers have stayed committed and found ways to undertake research, touch base with people who have had stories of years gone by to tell and carried out much need jobs around the Homestead and at the Truganina Explosive Reserve. Always in small groups as restrictions allowed but additions and changes to the Homestead layout are taking shape and it good to see progress under the constant restrictions we have been through.

It is amazing how a group of enthusiastic historians can find ways to keep busy and occupied whether they are working alone in the Homestead or at home. Where there is a will there is always a way.

Now that we are emerging from the last lockdown, we are now commencing to plan for 2022 and beyond, prioritising work and projects for the next twelve months and looking at how we can get better with our technology that will enable us to make more research and items available to the residents of our area but also to those undertaking research. In fact, we are already discussing several opportunities available to showcase heritage sites around Altona and Laverton during Heritage month in April/May 2022.

We would also like to thank Hobsons Bay City Council who have provided great support and direction to us over these uncertain times. We always enjoy working with the Heritage & Culture team from council and the Hobsons Bay Library network. This year we commemorate 60 years as a historical society and look forward to celebrating with members at our AGM in December.

Family Research may have solved a Mystery?

Our Secretary and Member Graeme Reilly while carrying out some Ancestry research on a local family, raised the question regarding any information the Society may have about **Charles McDonald** a member of the **Altona Football Club** who had later joined and played for South Melbourne in the Victorian Football League in the 1920s.



This information has been confirmed, Charles McDonald born in 1901 played with Altona Football Club, and joined South Melbourne Football Club for five seasons between 1924 and 1928, he later returned to the Altona Football Club becoming a coach of the Under 18 team which were Runners Up in the Werribee League in 1952.

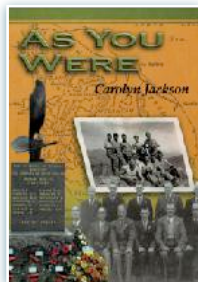


He is recorded as a Life Member of the Altona Football Club .

The enquiries in regard to Charles McDonald and his football history seems to have led us to cross paths with a matter that we raised in our Newsletter Number 37 in 2013.

The ALHS has in its records a photo with a hand written note on it stating “Altona RSL Football Team 1921”:our enquiries at that stage had indicated that no persons were aware of the Altona RSL ever having a football team and we requested that anyone with knowledge of such a team to contact the Society.

Subsequent enquiries have indicated that the *Altona RSL was not formally in existence in 1921.*



Author Carolyn Jackson in her Book, “As You Were” a history of the Altona RSL Sub Branch published in 2006, states on Page 2-“One day in 1921 a dozen local residents gathered in the ABC, across from the windswept beach, and held the clubs first meeting. Early members of this ‘club’ which was not yet officially part of the (Returned Services) League included (a number of persons therein named) who were the engine that drove the fledgling club to survive.

On page 5 it is stated, that, in 1930 the young club reached its first milestone when, on the 21st June, it received its Charter from Anzac House. It was now officially “established and constituted “ as part of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial

League of Australia.

This would indicate that perhaps we have misinterpreted the hand written message on the image passed on to the Society in that the meaning is that it was a photo, possibly donated by a member of the Altona RSL, which was actually one of the 1921 Altona Football Club team.

On the following two pages we show a series of images that appear to indicate that **Charles McDonald** may in fact be **in the original team photo of 1919** (6) denoted as unidentified player (1) and also the **1921 team photo** (7), denoted as unidentified player (2), prior to his moving on to South Melbourne.

His image is shown on a cigarette card from the 1920s era (3) for comparison purposes.

His description by those who knew him was that he was tall, with red hair.

Charles McDonald

**Charles McDonald
Altona Football Clubs First VFL
Representative with South Melbourne F.C.**



(1) Unidentified Player in
1919 Team Photo
Possibly C McDonald



(2) Unidentified Player in
1921 Team Photo
Possibly C McDonald



(3) Charles McDonald
Football Card circa 1926



(4) Charles McDonald
Coach-1952 U18 Runners Up



(5) Charles McDonald (Coach) Under 18 Runners Up Team
Werribee Football League 1952
Pictured Back Row standing on right.

Charles McDonald

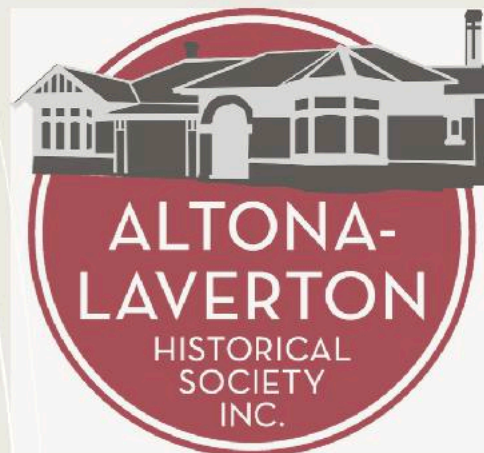
**Charles McDonald
Altona Football Clubs First VFL
Representative with South Melbourne F.C.**



(6) The First 1919 Team, with identified persons. James Duke, T. Keeshan (Captain) and Richard Blomberg seated in centre of second row. It is possibly Charles McDonald aged 18 on ground left front.



**(7) A 1921 Team Photo with Hand-written note on ALHS copy saying ("RSL Team) it seems to be Charles McDonald third from left seated in middle row, making this an "Altona Football Team" in 1921
The Boundary Umpire with ball also seems to be in both photos**



**Altona Laverton
Historical Society Inc.
2021 Annual General Meeting**

On behalf of your Committee, I invite you to the Annual General Meeting for 2021 at the Altona Homestead, within the courtyard, commencing at 11.30am Saturday 4 December 2021.

We will keep the meeting to as short a time as possible but will ensure that we cover all the elements of the AGM and any questions that might arise.

Following the meeting we will provide light refreshments so that members can stay and catch up with fellow members.

RSVP: g.reilly@alhs.com.au by 27 November 2021



128 Queen Street Altona 3018

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND GENERAL COMMITTEE:

NOMINATION FORM

Each nomination form must be signed by the Proposer, Secunder and Nominee, and returned to the Secretary at the address below OR email attachment to:

To be received by the Secretary on or before: 30 November 2020

THE SECRETARY
ALTONA LAVERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 236 ALTONA 3018

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Iwish to
nominate.
To the Altona Laverton Historical Society Committee for the position of (**circle
one position**)

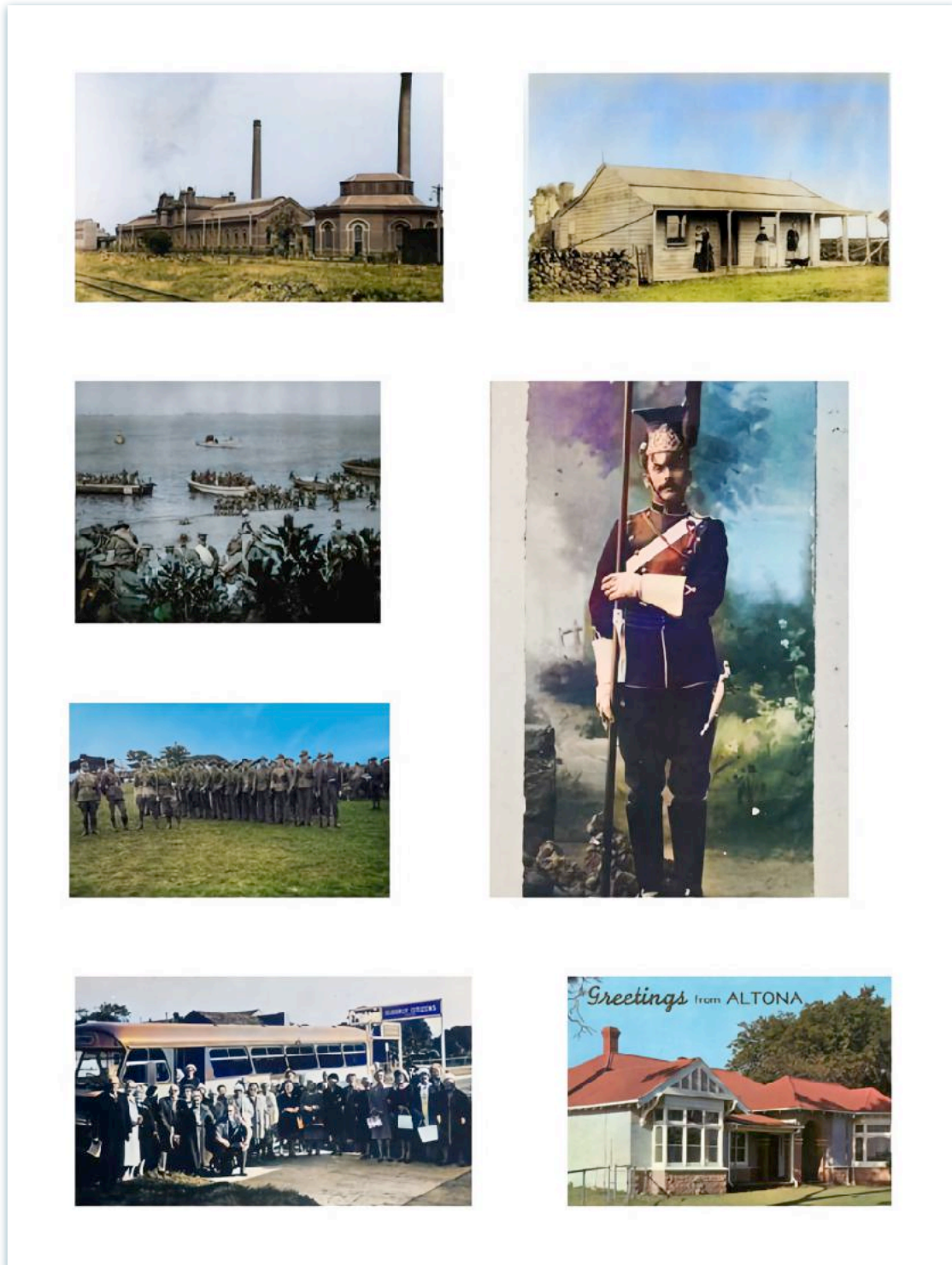
President Vice President Secretary Treasurer General Committee

SignedPROPOSER.....
(NAME)

SignedSECONDER.....
(NAME)

SignedNOMINEE
(DATE)

Remember photographs, postcards and posters help tell the story of our past local and family history



Pumping Station Spotswood-Half Moon Hotel Brooklyn-Anzac Cove-Soldiers at camp in Altona-G.Luly in Uniform-Elderly Citizens 1969-Altona Postcard