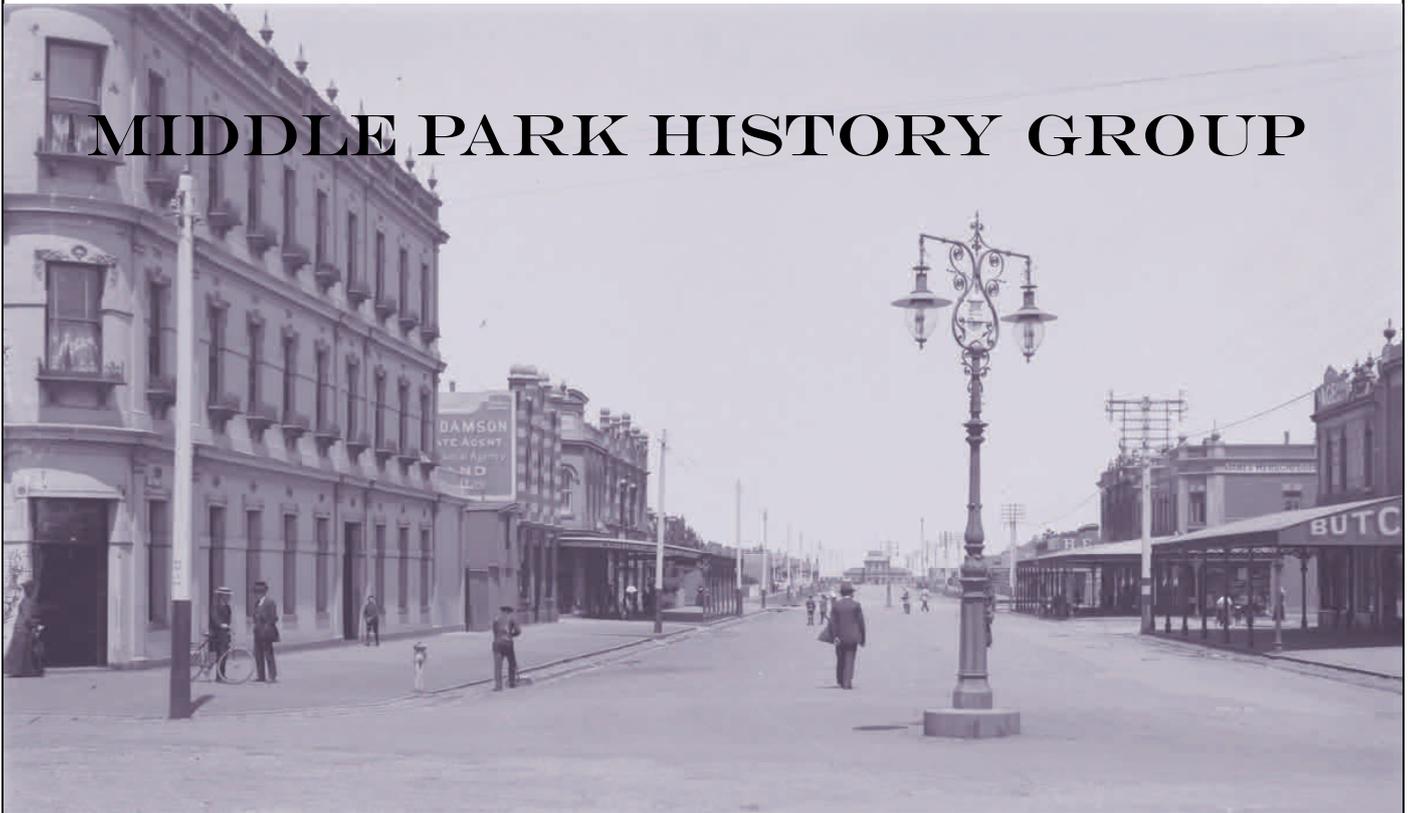


MIDDLE PARK HISTORY GROUP



Editorial

I am pleased to announce the publication of the MPHG's fourth book in its historical series, this time *Albert Park – Gardens to the Sea*. The book is available from the Avenue Bookshop and will be available at the AGM in November. This publication – long called for – leads to a major change in focus for the MPHG which, with members approval at the forthcoming AGM, will expand into Albert Park.

In this newsletter, Sonya Cameron reminds us how Middle Park residents would have been spending the evenings 100 years ago. Vin Kane

continues his reminiscences of time at school in the 1940s. We farewell Kath Kehoe, a local figure in our community whose name is celebrated by the Mary Kehoe Centre named after her mother, and one of the founders of the MPHG, Ron McDermott. The President and the Treasurer present their annual reports in time for the AGM on 7 November.

Gary Poore

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The Middle Park History Group
Supported by The City of Port Phillip



100 years ago

One hundred years ago, before the advent of streaming services kept us at home, the residents of Middle Park provided their own entertainment, from card games at a neighbour's home to local amateur theatre performances, as this review from the *Record (Emerald Hill)* of 28 October 1922 attests.

Sonya Cameron

A NOBLE OUTCAST.

Dramatic Performance at Middle Park.

Visitors to the Carmelite Hall, Middle Park, on Monday evening enjoyed a most interesting programme provided by the South Melbourne C.Y.M.S. Dramatic Company. The piece de resistance was a play entitled "A Noble Outcast." This depicted a man wrongly sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, and, having escaped, was discovered by one James Blackburn, who afterwards turns out to be a villain. The hero is recaptured, but shortly afterwards his freedom is granted and the play ends in things righting themselves. There is scope in the drama for good work, and many of the fine points were brought out by the artists. Mr. C. Cockerham, in the title role, proved himself a capable amateur character actor, whilst Mr. M. Donoghue as the heavy character assisted greatly in the success of the production. Mr. A. Shaw as Col. Lee, an elderly gentleman, was seen to advantage, and Miss Eileen O'Keefe, as the heroine, was a winsome leading lady. Miss O'Keefe was well assisted by Miss Lilian Page as Mrs. Lee, an elderly lady. Mr. J. Peters did well as Jack Worthington, and Miss Vera Carew as Sadie, the maid, provided most of the comedy of the piece, and was exceptionally well received. Mr. J. Convery, as the detective, also filled the bill with credit. During the intervals Mr. G. O'Shannessy rendered suitable songs.

The play was staged in a manner which reflects credit upon the company, and especially Mr. Cockerham, the director.

Vincent Kane

Part 6 : School Days Discipline

We two boys never missed the 8.30 am Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Mt Carmel church. Upon arrival, we were required to join our class mates in the first two front pews where our behaviour was supervised by two Christian Brothers. Any boy not at Mass was required to bring a written explanation for his absence the next morning. Once a month, the whole school marched in line, class by class, under supervision, from the college through the streets to the church to go to Confession.

By the time I was about eleven or twelve I had developed a habit of going to Mass on a Saturday morning at the Carmelite Church a few blocks away. On one occasion, even though it was winter time, I had to wear my sandals because my shoes were being repaired at the boot-makers, a few doors down, and wouldn't be finished until later that day. I was embarrassed by this and sat out of sight at the back of the church.

I needn't have worried, because when the celebrating priest appeared he also was wearing sandals! I discovered later that he was a visiting priest from the Franciscan Order who always wear sandals.

My next encounter with the Franciscans was in the following year when our class was booked in for two days at La Verna, the Order's retreat house in Kew. Some of the older boys in the class used the one hour 'free' period to gather out of sight in the large surrounding cypress hedge to play cards and smoke. They eventually set the hedge alight, so the next year our retreat was under the more watchful eye of the Jesuits at Watsonia.

One of the card playing lads, Geoff Byrne, the son of a shopkeeper from Port Melbourne, in later years was accepted to join the Franciscan Order. Geoff had distinguished himself at Mt Carmel College by taking Br Murphy's strap one

lunch hour and flushing it (unsuccessfully) down the toilet.

Br Murphy was a little too keen with his use of the strap. Among his teaching duties was training the boys for the 17 March St Patrick's Day procession. The march began at Queen St, in the city, processed down Bourke St up to Spring St, and finally came to a halt in formation outside St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne.

Keeping in step to the beat of a kettle drum was an essential element, so practice began at the beginning of each school year, round and round the asphalt quadrangle at lunchtime, and as the 17 March drew near, sometimes after school had finished.

Br Murphy's technique to draw attention to a boy out of step was to quietly unleash an almighty whack with his strap on the back of the calf muscles of the unsuspecting youth – many of us, myself included, had not yet graduated to long pants so the blow made quite a striking impression, but as far as I was concerned, did nothing for one's sense of rhythm.

The Christian Brothers in Middle Park had very little money. In that area, the school provided education for mainly poor families, many of whom would have had great difficulty in paying school fees. Unemployment was still an issue for some, until well after the war had started.

The father of one of our best school friends (Eddie Stevens) had not had regular employment for years – the family of five barely survived, but finally a job came up looking after the draught horses that pulled the lorries for the steel plate fabricator Johns and Waygood in South Melbourne. Eddie made a few pence pocket money each Sunday pedalling the organ pumps at the nearby Methodist church, but we were never too happy about this, as Catholics were not supposed to go into churches of other



Mt Carmel Scholars 1942 : Front row, from left: Bert Lawes, Doug Weddell, Des Webb, Eddie Stevens, Marcus Arnold and Joe O'Reilly.

Back Row: John Vallance, Bob Cummins, John Leonard, Harry Ronald, John Hillis, Gray Sibun and Vin Kane.

denominations, much less be present during a service.

One elderly Christian Brother (Br Attridge) would regularly call into the shop in the late afternoon and ask if he could have a few pence for a tram fare – he liked to go for a walk but was unsure if he could manage the walk back to the Brothers' residence in time for the evening meal.

Mt Carmel College educated boys up to the Intermediate Certificate. After that, those with the ability and the necessary resources enrolled at St Kevin's College, Heyington (Toorak) to sit the Leaving Certificate. As it turned out, I was the only boy from the 1943 Intermediate class that went on to St Kevin's.

However, our 1943 group should not be judged solely on their scholastic abilities. One boy, Gray Sibun (known as Mick) whose father was a serving officer in the Navy played 111 games and kicked 88 goals in seven years for

South Melbourne in the Victorian Football League.

Another boy from that 1943 class, Bob Cummins, won the mile handicap race at the Stawell Gift, traditionally the last event on the day's programme. I am not sure now of the year, but possibly 1950. His coach was the father of my best friend at the college, Rupert Arnold.

In 1943, during the last two months of the school year, a 'select' group of us – about five or six boys – would come back after tea two or three nights a week to be coached in order to sit for a scholarship examination. There were a few scholarships on offer from corporate bodies and the State Government, but some of the sponsors would not make them available for pupils enrolled in Catholic schools.

The coaching occupied about two hours each evening and then Br Gear (a young Australian man probably in his early twenties) would pull out the mat used in our gymnastics exercises

and we would have wrestling bouts. At that time wrestling was a big sport in Melbourne, made popular by colourful identities, like, for example, Chief Little Wolf, allegedly a Navajo Indian from the USA. He used to enter the ring at the old stadium in West Melbourne in full headdress and do an Indian war dance.

None of the select group managed to get a scholarship. Br Gear told me afterwards that the examiner had contacted him about my answer to the scholarship question 'Write a sentence using the word 'upper' as an adjective'. My sentence was 'The boxer gave his opponent an upper cut'. I'm not sure to this day what was so remarkable about this that prompted the examiner to contact Br Gear, or indeed if the answer was acceptable.

The school seemed to have an inordinate number of handicapped boys. I don't think there were 'special' schools in those days. Murray Lalor was severely handicapped (called spastic then) and could only 'walk' to school with the support of his brother Peter. Whenever I met up with the pair on the way to school, I would take the other side of Murray and the three of us would limp along together. I was always late on these occasions but I didn't get the strap if I said I had brought Murray to school.

Murray was virtually incapable of responding or contributing during lessons, except for geography, when Br Gear always made sure to ask the class to name Australia's largest river. We had the good sense to shut up and let Murray try to respond to this question.

The O'Callaghan brothers, Phillip and John, came from an exceedingly poor family. Their father was a policeman. John was handicapped – he was big and flabby, and his mental development seemed to have stopped at about age six. He was teased in the schoolyard. I remember Phillip for two notable events. His mother dressed him for the school's 1943 sports day in faded 'white' pyjamas (we were told to wear white clothes for the sports). And some years down the track, Phillip qualified as a medical doctor.

Another school friend of those years was Des Webb. His father worked in one of the wartime industries at Port Melbourne. Des was an altar boy at the Carmelite Church, a job I would have liked, but apparently you had to provide your own vestments and my parents thought this was an expense that could be spared. Des kept goldfish as a hobby and fed them with the Communion wafers (before they were consecrated) that he would take from the sacristy every now and again.

As to my own schooldays at Mt Carmel College, I had not thought them to be of any great note. In my final years there, I had helped the Principal, Br Williams, to set up the school's first library in a small storeroom, and I acted as 'librarian' at lunch time one or two days a week. But generally, I thought I did no more or no less than what I was asked to do. Whatever it was, Br Williams was appreciative as he wrote the following letter to me in 1944.

Dear Vin

After a lot of difficulty I managed to secure a very good 'Swan' fountain pen, the only type procurable.

I want you to accept this small token of my sincere appreciation of your untiring efforts in connection with the Library. I was indeed fortunate to have had the assistance of such a willing, self sacrificing and cheerful helper. Thanks a million for what you did.

Congratulations on your grand success in the Inter. Exams - Kanes for Quality.

My transfer to Clifton Hill and your absence from home have prevented me from personally saying farewell – I'll miss the cheerful presence of the 'terrible two'.

I hope you continue your studies with most of your class mates at St Kevin's and I wish you every success and sincerely hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you sometimes.

May God bless you my cheerful little helper, and may the Blessed Virgin ever watch over you.

Sincerely Yours

H C Williams

Vale Kathleen Mary Kehoe 1935–2022

Kathleen Mary Kehoe was born on 13 August 1935, the daughter of Jack and Mary Kehoe, and the sister of David, John, Eileen, Marie and Joan. Kath passed away on 24 August 2022.

Kath Kehoe was born just a stone's throw from here in South Melbourne, and apart from a year or so in the late 1950s/early 60s, lived all of her 87 years in just two houses - Howe Crescent, South Melbourne until around 1960, and after that for over 60 years in Armstrong Street, Middle Park. She also worked for decades in the local area, and so she really is a perfect example of the fact that you don't need to travel far from your door to live a fulfilling life, make a difference and have a positive and meaningful influence on people's lives.

Kath went to primary school at St Peter and St Pauls, along with her five siblings.

Kath then attended secondary school at the Academy of Mary Immaculate in Fitzroy where her sisters also went. She made some lifelong friends at school. Many of Kath's friendships at school and afterwards were nurtured by a shared love of music, and Marie tells us that Kath was a very diligent student of music and very conscientious in the way she practised piano growing up. She was a big fan of live concerts



Kathleen Mary Kehoe at work in the Middle Park Maternity and Child Health Centre 1999



Kathleen Mary Kehoe

and loved going to concerts with her friends, and particularly with her sister Eileen.

After finishing school Kath studied nursing, beginning her training as a general nurse at St Vincent's Hospital in 1954. It was the start of a long and distinguished career in nursing of well over 50 years. Marie has commented that seeing their mother doing so much work in the community made the Kehoe children very community-minded too, and Kath was certainly no exception – nursing was a fitting vocation for someone so selfless and devoted to others, and it was completely consistent with the love and generosity she always showed to her family and friends outside of her working life.

Kath undertook midwifery training at St Vincent's Maternity in 1957, and practised as a midwife for 10 years, including a year on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait in 1959–60. Many have seen the wonderful photos of Kath's time on Thursday Island, framed on the walls at Armstrong St, and have heard Kath talk about it many times. It's clear it was a really formative experience for Kath and one that she would always remember.

If you ever asked Kath about it later, she never thought she was adventurous in any way. Which doesn't mean she wasn't – she was just a very humble person who didn't think about herself in that way, and this was of course part of

why she is held in such high regard by everyone who knew her.

In 1962 Kath enrolled in the very first Intensive Care Unit course for nurses in Melbourne, again at St Vincents. Apparently her Unit was written up in the June 1962 edition of *New Idea* magazine, including a photo of Kath.

In 1968 Kath trained in Infant Welfare and then attended the College of Nursing Australia in 1971 to do a Diploma in Public Health Nursing. She was admitted as a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing in 1975 and remained a member for the rest of her life.

Kath also spent over eight years working in the South Kensington public housing estate, with no doctor on site, and only herself to care for over 3500 people! Which was quite remarkable but Kath would never had said so herself. Her mum would have been proud of her. Kath was also passionate about the professional care of mothers and babies, and was an active member

of the Australian Nursing Federation Special Interest Group. And Kath was in fact still a paid-up member of the Nurses' Federation right up until her death.

In December 1976 Kath started work at the Maternal and Child Health Centre at 18 Dundas Place in Albert Park for the then City of South Melbourne. Kath stayed there for a remarkable 34 years until her retirement in 2010. This included a stint in the 1990s when she ran both the Albert Park and Middle Park centres. It wasn't Kath's first visit to the centre at Dundas Place, as her mother had taken her there as a baby in the mid-1930s!

It was almost impossible to walk around the Albert Park shops with Kath, as you would be stopped every five metres by mothers thanking Kath for helping them at the centres years before. Sometimes their now-grown-up babies were with them so they would take great pleasure in showing them off to Kath, and it was always a

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With a wobble, and a will, meals on wheels hit the road

Fifty years ago today, Melbourne's poor heard a knock at the door. Misha Ketchell reports.

It's called a butcher's bike, which sounds just about right for a machine so crudely practical. Half-bike, half-box, it has three gears, chrome handlebars, and room for about 20 hot meals. It was in this unlikely vehicle that Meals on Wheels was launched in Australia 50 years ago today.

There were slums in the inner city in those days and the bicycle wobbled unsteadily up and down Emerald Hill in South Melbourne.

Kathleen Kehoe remembers that when she was nine, or maybe 10 years old, her mother would send her with a plate of the family roast to a sick or elderly neighbour. Mother Mary would dish up the food, put a plate over the top and wrap it in a tea-towel and newspaper.

Some of the houses the young Kathleen visited had dirt floors where floorboards had been ripped up for firewood.

In 1953 Mary Kehoe helped to set up the mobile meal delivery service. She got the idea after hearing of hot food deliveries to bombed-out families in the Blitz. She worked as a volunteer until the late 1970s.

The hot food service started in 1947 in a canteen, and war veterans were charged a shilling for a meal. Not long afterwards it was decided that women, too, should be eligible for the meals.

"At first the men really objected to the meals service extending to women," says Kathleen Kehoe. "But the volunteer cooks, who were all women, stood their ground and said they wouldn't cook unless the women could get fed, too."

When the butcher's bike arrived in 1953 the mostly female volunteers placed an advertisement in the newspaper for men willing to pedal it. It was a paid job, but the bike was cumbersome, and men were too smart to apply, Kathleen says.

After a couple of tumbles, the only woman volunteer



Kathleen Kehoe remembers mother Mary leading the bicycles that started it all with hot meals. Dorothy Crotty enjoys today's speedier service. BELOW: Meals go in the bicycle in 1953.

PICTURE: GARY COLETTA

ditched the bike just as the Red Cross provided a car for deliveries.

Frances Donovan, 80, became involved in Meals on Wheels in 1954 while head of social services for the South Melbourne area. "There would be a soup, a main course and a sweet," she says. "A lot of people used to keep the soup and dessert. They'd have the main meal in the day, and heat up the soup for dinner."

Joan Crawford worked for the South Melbourne Council from 1979 to 1998. For much of that time she was co-ordinator of the Meals on Wheels service. "South Melbourne had a lot of

properties that had little bungalows at the back," she says.

"We'd often come across people who were living in little places that you'd almost think were toolsheds."

Mrs Crawford says that in the late 1980s volunteers took soup in a hilly and laded this out instead of three-course meals. "When people are not very well they sometimes struggle to eat a full meal. But the billys, stainless steel, were four litres; they were quite heavy. In the early 1980s we converted to vacuum flasks."

The service evolved further in 1998, when the council introduced an à la carte service. City

of Port Phillip Mayor Liz Johnston says the council now delivers about 240 meals a day at a cost of \$4.20 each. Now Meals on Wheels is again under review.

"Anecdotal evidence suggests that people may want more choice than the Meals on Wheels service now provides," Cr Johnstone says.

"Our delivery service may need to be more flexible, some people have told us that they shouldn't have to be home to receive the meals. Others have said they want food that is less predictable than what we provide under the current four-weekly rotation."



great source of joy for Kath to see them as well.

Working at Albert Park also enabled Kath to continue to live with and care for her parents as they got older in the 1970s and 80s. As Marie has said, Kath was very central to the family. I'm sure Kath would never have thought of this as a "sacrifice" – she knew her parents needed support and she committed herself to do it. So she was there to care for them which enabled them to stay in their home until the end of their lives. This wasn't only a comfort for Mary and Jack but also for the whole family, to know that their parents and grandparents were being cared for so well. She would not like anyone making a fuss about it but we are all so indebted to Kath for that.

Kath valued her independence and continued to drive right up until a couple of months ago, and many of you will have seen her Holden Astra at the Middle Park shops, or getting a prize park on top of the Coles in Port Melbourne. That ramp up to the carpark is not for the fainthearted but it never bothered Kath.

Another thing that gave Kath great pleasure was the art of needlepoint, which she took up a decade or two ago. When Kath decided to do something she would work at it methodically and

do it well, like the piano in her childhood. So she naturally became quite an expert at needlepoint and did some magnificent pieces.

Kath's retirement celebration was attended by the Mayor and several councillors from the City of Port Phillip, local health professionals, and many of Kath's work colleagues. People talked about Kath's enthusiasm, support, humour, wonderful knowledge and experience and outstanding devotion to the community, which is a testament to how valued Kath was by her peers after 50-plus years of service. And everyone who knew Kath outside her working life saw the same qualities always on display in her personal relationships. I would add resilience, determination and a great intellect and wit.

Kath's Catholic faith was strong and she would be glad to be remembered by those who loved her in a Mass here at her home parish where she had so many friends. Thank you to Father Sireh, Father Brown and the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for all their support and for their friendship with Kath over many years.

Provided by Mary Kehoe (niece)



Mary Kehoe Community Centre

Vale Ronald Kilsby McDermott 1924–2022

Ronald Kilsby McDermott was born in the family home in Wright Street Middle Park on 29 November 1924 to Wilfred and Sophie Ellen McDermott. Nine months later the family moved to 115 Harold Street Middle Park where Dad (Ronald) resided for the next 94 years. Dad was known as Ron and Skipper by his grandchildren, this term of endearment was copied from what Ron used to call his father “Skipper”.

Ron had a wonderful eventful and colourful life living by the sea. He wasn't short of playmates as there were other children in the street with whom he had many adventures and getting up to mischief. This included playing cricket in the street, which unfortunately resulted in a few broken windows, playing monopoly and playing in the stormwater drains. Ron's mother would always have scones jam and cream waiting at home for sustenance. On warm summer nights Ron and his mates would sit on the beach wall and eye up the girls walking by, some would turn around and say “we don't want to be caught for baby snatching”. Ron would take his gramophone and sit on the sand and play the 78 rpm records in the hope to attract girls. Unfortunately this didn't work. The Shelter on the beach at the end of Harold St was also a favourite base for the youth at that time and later has become an iconic landmark as other shelters along the bay no longer exist.

Dad attended the local Middle Park Primary School, Albert Park Grammar School and the Business College in Cecil Street, South Melbourne. For pocket money Dad sold papers at the tram stops, before school. Living so close to the beach Ron joined the Wright Street Life Savings Club. When the polio epidemic hit in 1935 many schools closed and children were kept home for a month from school. At this time Ron's father decided to buy his son a companion, an Irish Red Setter pup who became a constant companion for the family.



Ron McDermott 25 April 2000

At age 15 years Dad had a job at the Hoyts Theatre in Albert Park as a junior usher. He was later made a senior usher which meant more pay. Ron had to wear a white shirt with a collar that had to be starched. This was done at the local Chinese Laundry. Weekends also were spent ice skating at St Moritz in St Kilda. Ron's football team was Carlton but as he lived in Middle Park, he attended most of the local South Melbourne games with his eldest daughter Anne.

After leaving school Dad gained employment with the *Herald Sun* delivering papers to the guardsman on the Sydney to Melbourne train at Spencer Street. Next he worked as a junior officer in the Commonwealth of Australia Department of Commerce and Agriculture. At the age of 18 years Ron enlisted in the RAAF and operated as a wireless operator. After



Mary and Ron McDermott on his 90th birthday

training at Port Cook his duties took him to Bradfield Park, Townsville, Horn Island in far North Queensland, Higgins Fields and Ransford. Dad survived the war and has told his two children and grandchildren so many stories. After leaving the RAAF he returned to the Department of Commerce and Agriculture then went onto work for Dalgety Shipping as a clerk, also meeting container ships in Hobsons bay when they docked. Ron retired at the age of 58 years in 1982. On retirement Dad attended to his vegie patch, baked bread and involved himself in the local Neighbourhood Watch. He also worked Saturday mornings at Syke's Hardware Store in Middle Park.

Ron met his future wife Mary Rosalie Chennell on a blind date in Melbourne. In January 1947 Ron proposed to Mary at the iconic Beach Shelter at the end of Harold Street. Ron and Mary married in Adelaide on 10 September 1949. They made their home together at 115

Harold street for nearly 70 years until Mary (Mum - Marnie) had to be moved into residential care at Emerald Hill, South Melbourne, where she resided until her passing in January 2019. Ron and Mary were married just short of 70 years. Ron and Mary's two daughters, Anne and Christine were born in 1955 and 1959 respectively. They lived at 115 Harold street until their marriages in 1976 and 1982. Anne's and Christine's children spent wonderful years visiting their Skipper and Marnie at number 115 and spending time on the Middle Park Beach, even though they lived interstate. Raylene Anderson, the McDermott's next-door neighbour, at number 113, was a surrogate daughter who grew up with Anne and Christine. Raylene had also lived all of her life in numbers 111 and 113 until she passed away in 2021 at the age of 71 years.

Sadly Dad entered Emerald Hill in March 2019, Dad could no longer look after himself at home although the neighbours in the area always kept an eye on him, for which the family were grateful. Dad made new connections with those in Emerald Hill while the staff provided excellent care and comfort to our Skipper over the next three years. Dad couldn't shake off another bout of pneumonia and passed away in the Alfred Hospital.

Dad (Ron) and Mum (Mary) were one of the original members of the Middle Park History Group. They loved living in Middle Park and when they were together they always walked over to the beach wall to sit on and hold hands, right by the shed.

Anne Sindrey (daughter)

President's Annual Report 2022

The Committee 2022

The Committee has five members: Sonya Cameron, Abramo Ierardo, Meyer Eidelson, Gary Poore and Melanie Eagle. We actively encourage other members to apply. The easing of the pandemic restrictions has made it easier for us to meet in person in 2022. Your committee supports the expansion of our Society to include residents of Albert Park. We view the publishing of a history of Albert Park as a perfect opportunity to engage Albert Park residents. We have proposed a resolution to members at this AGM to consider putting this into effect.

Treasurer's Report 2022

The Middle Park History Group finished the 2021/2022 financial year with a healthy surplus – the balance of both accounts totalled \$30,224.74. We thank Treasurer Sonya Cameron for yet another year of excellent management of our finances. See Treasurers Report.

Membership 2022

We have 76 current members and are planning a membership drive if we expand into Albert Park.

Website

Middle Park History Group's website informs and resources our members, community groups and the general public. It provides information about our activities, publications, newsletters, images, events, membership, oral histories and the heritage of homes. Until 2022 it has been administered by webmaster Paul Connor who continuously worked to upgrade and improve the site. This year Paul retired from that position. Our webmaster is now Abramo Ierardo. We thank Paul for his many years of skilled service to us and the community. We are currently working towards placing three of our published books online so they are digitally accessible for sale and research. Project 3206 is working to improve our database listing information and images of approximately 3000 homes in Middle Park.

Project 3206

Project 3206 is our ongoing and interactive database listing information and images of approximately 3000 homes in Middle Park. This year the Committee approved the sum of \$10,000 to employ consultant Marcus Lee-Steere to significantly improve the content, capacity, design and user interface of our database. This will include the 1974 CUA images plus the 2013 Robyn Clinch images and other information sets on homes such as from the Sands and McDougall directories.

The Albert Park History Project

With the active oversight of our editor Gary Poore, our publishing committee successfully completed the content, layout and publication of our newest book *Albert Park : Gardens to the Sea*. Many thanks to Lara Cameron for the layout and cover design and the contributors including Sonya Cameron, Lynsey Poore, Rob Grogan, John Thwaites, Meyer Eidelson John Watts and Gary Poore. 500 copies were printed on 11 October 2022. They will be sold by us and the Avenue Bookstore in Bridport Street. We are currently planning an official launch in November 2022 at the Albert Park Primary School Hall. We plan to submit our new publication to the annual Community History Awards in 2023.

We plan to hold an historic walking tour of St Vincent Gardens Sunday 5 March 2023, 10.00–12.00 pm.

Loans of Carlo Catani book

We received a request from local historian and author Isaac Herman for a financial contribution towards publishing his images and history of engineer Carlo Catani. The committee agreed to a donation of \$1760.00 towards the cost of printing conditional on free copies being provided to local libraries. Isaac has kindly also given us several copies for our members to borrow.

MPHG Newsletters

Four issues of the MPHG newsletter were published in 2022 under the editorial leadership of Gary Poore. Gary actively encourages all members to consider contributing. Stories in these newsletters remain permanently on the historical record as they are uploaded for public access on our website.

Primary School Partnership Project 2022

Our partnership with Middle Park Primary School continues including use of the school hall for Middle Park History Group general meetings which is an excellent venue. The school history essay award has struggled again in 2022 due to Covid disruptions but we look forward to revival in 2023. We have also had discussions with the Albert Park Primary School principal who is interested to expanding the History Essay Awards project to her school for their 150th anniversary in 2023. Committee member Melanie Eagle is liaising with the school.

COPP Service Agreements 2022–2023

We are fortunate to have an ongoing service agreement with the City of Port Phillip which supports us in providing funds to deliver history services for the Middle Park community e.g. projects, newsletters, speakers, research enquiries, webpage, publications, partnerships etc. In 2022 we were successful in obtaining a

renewed grant of \$4,510.00 for the 2022-2023 year.

General Meetings 2023

We continue to hold four general meeting per year with a speaker. The May general meeting with Brownlow medallist Peter Bedford was extremely popular. Our meeting dates planned for 2023 are tentatively 7.30pm on Monday 6 February, Monday 1st May, Monday 7 August and Monday 13 November.

Community Participation

MPHG participates in Port Phillip Council's Heritage Reference Committee. These have continued to be held in 2022. We have attended AGMs by Zoom when we can of local historical societies. We also provided information by email informing our members of items and events of historic event and responded to any search enquiries from the public.

We collaborate where we have material to contribute to Facebook site *Growing up in Albert and Middle Park*, a popular format for contribution memories, stories and enquiries.

MPHG is also an affiliated member of The Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Meyer Eidelson

November 2022

Treasurer's Report 2022

The Middle Park History Group finished the 2021/2022 financial year with a healthy surplus – the balance of both accounts totalled \$30,224.74.

Income totalled \$8015.65 and was made up of \$1063.48 in membership fees; \$775.00 in donations, \$500 of which was from Geoff Cayzer and the remainder from members who wished to contribute more – thank you to them; \$1667.17 in book sales by The Avenue Bookstore, Victor's Dry Cleaning and Geoff Cayzer (who gives a copy of one of the books to his new Middle Park clients); and \$4510.00 from our annual City of Port Phillip Funding Deed grant.

Expenses totalled \$8710.24 and was made up of \$642.00 in printing costs for the newsletter and the MPPS history project booklets; \$2207.00 for book costs, including \$1463 for a reprint of Heart of Middle Park with the remaining costs for the new Albert Park book; \$66.53 for meeting costs, mainly Zoom subscriptions; \$3240.45 for Project 3206, including the first payment for the new database; and \$2,554.26 in other costs such as insurance and other fees, but also includes \$1760.00 to Isaac Hermann for half the printing costs for his book on Carlo Catani.

We have 76 current members but hope this number will increase if we expand into Albert Park.

MPHG Annual General Meeting

At Middle Park Primary School (enter from Richardson Street)

Monday 7 November 2022 at 7:30 pm

Abramo Ierardo — Project 3206

Project 3206 is our ongoing and interactive database listing information and images of approximately 3000 homes in Middle Park from the 1974 Committee for Urban Action photographic survey plus the 2013 Robyn Clinch images and other information on homes such as from the Sands and McDougall directories. Abramo will outline how the content, capacity, design and user interface of our database and how it can be improved by residents.

Note the special resolution to be put to the AGM.

- That that the name of the Middle Park History Group be changed to The Middle and Albert Park History Group.
- That the term Middle Park in the Rules of the Association for the Middle Park History Group and the Statement of Purposes of the Association shall be changed to Middle and Albert Park.

Your MPHG committee

President:	Meyer Eidelson
Vice-President:	Vacant
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Sonya Cameron
Liaison Officer	Diana Phoenix
Committee members:	Melanie Eagle, Abramo Ierardo, Gary Poore