

NEWSLETTER

Call a Midwife in Ringwood

The very popular BBC series, "Call the Midwife" is based on the memoirs of Jennifer Worth and set in east London in the 1950s. It tells the tales of the midwives carrying out their duties in a poor part of the city, where between 80 and 100 babies were born every month. The episodes are very graphical - I was shocked how detailed they showed the birth of a baby - yet deals with compassion, feelings and the social issues in that environment and in that era. Whilst we enjoy this series so much, the same scenario played out in Ringwood, that is worthy of similar stories.

In previous newsletters, we talked about Nurse Gowland who lived in Ringwood Street and later moved to East Ringwood. Doctors were few and far between in the Ringwood district in the 1880s/90s over to the 1920s. She wasn't the only woman who assisted child birth or attended to simple medical issues.

Marianne Hardidge was born on 17th May 1860, a daughter of John Hardidge and his wife Mary Ann Hase. Marianne and her family lived in Doncaster where her father worked an orchard.

On 4th October 1880 she married James Maggs, a son of James Maggs and his wife Harriet Banfield of Springfield, Nunawading. The couple had eleven children - Mary Ann born 1881, Jane 1883, James 1885, Samuel 1887, David 1888, John 1890, Eliza 1892 and died 1892, Robert 1893, Albert 1895, Evaleen 1897 and Harriet Banfield (Chrissie) 1899.



NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 8PM, 23 APRIL 2013

Mark Grealy, Mark runs a small family research organisation, Archival Access Victoria, that specialises in accessing records held by the Victorian Archives. He is passionate about history and is very knowledgeable about what is available and how to get it. Mark has been invaluable to Ringwood Historical Society, digitising many of our early rate books, school records, maps, school and bank photos. He will go through some examples of chasing elusive records such as house information and wills.

Call a Midwife

In 1887, James applied for thirty six acres of land in Kalinda Road, Ringwood East, where he built a four room paling house with an iron roof and planted twelve acres of fruit trees. In 1895 he actually bought the property for one pound per acre.

About 1899 James became ill and was confined to bed; many people came to visit him including Theresa, wife of neighbour John Shanks, another Ringwood pioneer. Marianne discovered that James and Theresa were having an affair, the result of this was that James left the family home and rented the orchard to Mr Cameron.

He rented a house for Marianne and the children and gave Marianne one pound ten shillings a week for their children's upkeep. To supplement the money James gave her, Marianne became a midwife in the Ringwood area bringing over 500 babies into the world.

A story told by one of her grand children was one of the local men had a very sick horse which was about to be destroyed. He said to Marianne "if you can cure it it's yours". Marianne nursed the horse back to health and the horse became her means of transport to visit her many patients.



The people of Ringwood presented her with a "wireless" as a token of their appreciation of her service. In 1926 she sold her home in Mount Dandenong Road, East Ringwood to her son Albert Maggs and with her daughter Harriet (always known as Chrissie) and moved to a home in Clive Street, Mitcham.

Every Sunday her family would gather at Clive Street and her grand children all speak with love and affection of these special Sunday's and of this lovely lady who was kind, warm and caring.

Marianne died on 29th September 1941 aged 81 and was buried in the Box Hill Cemetery with her baby daughter Eliza.

News

Cr Ann Fraser and Terry Ahern are both on their feet now. Pam Baragwanath had a successful knee replacement and is back at home.

The Association of Eastern Historical Societies (AOEHS), of which your President is the current Secretary, is having the next regular meeting at Whitehorse Historical Society (Schwerkolt Cottage, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham) this Saturday (20th) at 1:30pm. There will be some interesting speakers as well as the opportunity of meeting some of the other local historical societies.

While we're on the AOEHS, Ringwood will host the **2013 AOEHS conference on 29th June at Karralyka Centre** in Mines Road, Ringwood, an all-day event with one of best list of speakers assembled locally. We need at least 2-3 people to help out with registration, tables and society's displays (please contact Russ). As well, because we are the host society, we are expected to fill, at least, one table of 10. Normally the full day, including lunch and teas, is \$55 but Ringwood will subsidize the entry fee down to \$40, to encourage our own attendance.

2013 Speaker Program

We have invited some interesting speakers for our meetings on the **4th Tuesday, at 8pm at room 4, Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave, Ringwood**. Visitors welcome, supper afterwards.

23 April	The Importance of Archives (Mark Grealy)
28 May	Trip to Europe (Peter Fry)
25 June	Gold in Those Hills (Graeme Tamme)
23 July	Climate History and El Nino (Don Garden)
27 August	The History of the Ringwood Mechanics Institute (Russ Haines)

Archives & Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours for the month of March 94 hours

Catalogued in Database

Photos - 2,656 Newspapers - 255 Artefacts - 399 Documents - 560

Thanks to all the volunteers for the time that they give freely. New volunteers are welcome.

Contact Us

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COMMITTEE Ian Austin, Lois Aders, Pam O'Connor, Steve McGoldrick, Terry Ahern

Supper Roster

April	Irene & Arthur Lunt
May	Graeme Tamme
June	Pam & Daniel McDowell
July	Russ Haines
August	Pam Baragwanath & Beryl
September	Bev & Lyndon McKeon
October	Peter Fry
November	Pat Guest & Sandra Smart

Those on roster need to bring some milk and a couple of plates. Thanks to the various members who bring additional cakes or biscuits, or add to the raffle prizes.