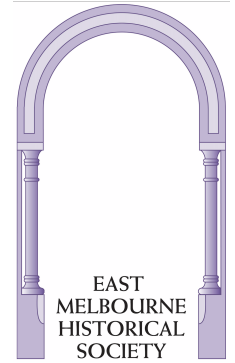


EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



September 2024

NEWSLETTER VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE • No. 3 • ABN 61 280 547 708

Aims

A full Statement of Purposes appears in our Documents of Incorporation but briefly the aims of the Society are as follows:

To foster an interest in the history of East Melbourne.

To build an archive of material relevant to the history of East Melbourne.

To promote interchange of information through lectures and tours.

To promote heritage preservation.

Committee

President	Tim Holland
Vice-president	Barbara Paterson
Hon. Secretary	Sylvia Black
Hon. Treasurer	Malcolm Howell
Committee Members	Diane Clifford Sue Hodson Liz Rushen Marita McCabe Gay Sussex

Contributions and Suggestions

We invite contributions relating to the history of East Melbourne from our members. Articles of up to 1000 words will be considered for publication. Small articles and items of interest are also welcome.

We would be pleased to receive your suggestions and ideas for activities, guest speakers, excursions, or anything else you might like us to organise on your behalf.

Please contact any member of our committee.

Membership

Membership of the East Melbourne Historical Society is open to all who are interested in the history of East Melbourne.

Enquiries: [Diane Clifford](#)
Email: dianeclifford1@gmail.com

Annual subscription **\$ 30.00**

Guests are welcome at individual meetings **\$ 5.00**

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**CITY OF
MELBOURNE**

Affiliated with
The Royal Historical Society of Victoria

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The Members and Committee of the East Melbourne Historical Society respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung people of the Kulin nation, and pay respect to their elders past, present and to come.

President's Letter

2024 is the year in which we mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the East Melbourne Historical Society, and we plan to celebrate this at our Annual General Meeting on 16 October. Dr Richard Broome, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Council will be our speaker, and there will be a special offering in keeping with our outstanding catering record. It should be a great celebration.

The EMHS was founded with the aim of researching, documenting and preserving the history of our local area. It has been very successful in that aim. We have succeeded in building a strong and growing membership over the years, and are fortunate that there are many early members still actively involved with us.

It is fitting that in July we had the launch of the two books covering different aspects of the history of Yarra Park school, a project driven by Ian Hind and assisted by Sylvia Black and myself, with both books being important and high quality examples of the recording of the history of the area.

The Society was founded in 1999 by Dr Liz Rushen and Dr Ann Colman, with Ann being the inaugural president, and Liz secretary. Liz returned to the committee last year.

There have been many members over the years who have contributed greatly to the successful operation of the EMHS. That has meant we have not been a “one person band” but rather a strong community group. However, we have had some who have provided outstanding service over a long period. In acknowledgement of that, the committee is proposing that Life Membership be conferred on Sylvia Black, Jill Fenwick and Graham Shepherd. This will be proposed at the AGM, and it is fitting that Sylvia, Jill and Graham will be acknowledged for their sustained achievement on the night of the celebration of a significant milestone in the Society.

Tim Holland
August 2024



IN CONVERSATION WITH CELIA SWEETMAN

by Marita McCabe

Celia reaches the amazing milestone of 100 years old in August 2024 and is an inspirational model of how to enjoy the company of other people and experience a positive life as you age. She is optimistic, has a quick wit and a wonderful sense of humour.

Why did you come to East Melbourne ?

Celia and her mother arrived in Melbourne in November 1929, when Celia was four years old. Celia's mother needed to work, and so she took Celia to Saint Agnes Anglican Home in Glenroy to be fostered. After a couple of years, Celia was fostered by Mr and Mrs Richard Mason who lived in North Carlton. She attended Fitzroy Girls School and stayed with the Mason family until she was 16 years of age. She kept up contact with her mother by seeing her each Sunday.

Celia came to East Melbourne in 1940. Her mother brought her to the Presbyterian Hostel [Chalmers Hall, dem. 1975], which was on the corner of St Andrew's Place and Lansdowne Street, when she was 16. This was a hostel for mainly country girls who were given accommodation and also worked in a range of different areas. There were a number of such hostels run by various religious groups scattered around the inner suburbs of Melbourne at that time. Celia stayed at the hostel for seven years, and after she left she lived in a rooming house in a laneway beside the old Eye and Ear Hospital which was nearby. Celia indicated that most of the housing in East Melbourne at that time was rooming houses for people who worked in the city.

In 1949, Celia went to England. She travelled and worked over there and came back to Melbourne in 1957. Celia settled back into East Melbourne and lived in a flat with a friend at 376 Victoria Parade. Each room was a bedsitter with a kitchen and bathroom



Former East Melbourne Resident, Celia at her workplace in London, 1960s

that was shared with seven others. Celia stayed there for about 18 years. Mrs Smith owned both this house as well as number 378, that was also run as a rooming house. Both dwellings are near Clarendon Street. Mrs Smith was a business woman and property owner, but she was quite kind. Celia moved out of this house when it was sold and she moved into a nearby small red brick house [now Square and Compass in Clarendon Street] which she only shared with three others for a short period of time. After that she moved to a flat in Albert Street where she lived for about three years. For the first time she actually lived on her own rather than in a “share house”. Celia then moved to 98 Vale Street in 1982 and she lived in a flat for about 18 years that she said was the best place to live in East Melbourne. Unfortunately, the flat was sold and so she then moved to 37 George Street where she lived for 20 years. Finally, she moved to a flat in Hotham Street just down from the East Melbourne General Store. So Celia has lived in rooms, flats and houses the length and breadth of East Melbourne.

Of course, throughout all of this time, Celia was renting her room or flat, and so if it was sold or the owners wanted family to move in, Celia needed to find other accommodation. This was often difficult for her, as it would not have been her choice to move.

Over the course of her adult life, Celia primarily worked as an office worker at the Southern Cross Hotel and also as an usher at the Comedy Theatre. East Melbourne was such a convenient location, as she could walk into the city each day for work.



Chalmers Hall, 1975.

*Photo: Dennis Mayor. State Library of Victoria,
Accession No : H96.201/563*

Celia loved living in East Melbourne: she loved the architecture of the suburb and the proximity to the city. She has loved all of the places in East Melbourne in which she has lived. However, her favourite was Vale Street, where she had a view of the MCG and the city from her flat windows.

What was East Melbourne like when you first moved in?

Celia said that in about 1957 East Melbourne started to change from rooming houses to more substantial dwellings. However, the change was slow and the rooming houses remained for a long period of time. A interesting aspect of the rooming houses was that you could be locked out if you got home too late. Celia also said that when she was living on the corner of Victoria Parade and Clarendon Street, she was told by a “lady of the night” to get off her patch when she was coming home one night. Celia indicated to the prostitute that this was where she lived, and so she was allowed to proceed to get into her accommodation.

How did you settle in? Were people welcoming?

Celia didn't really mix with people in East Melbourne. She was working during the day and also often working at the Comedy Theatre at night. She had no real connections except through the church. Her initial connection was through Saint Paul's Cathedral, then Saint Peter's, then Holy Trinity. So she really didn't have a need to establish other communities. Further, she didn't have time to do so because of her work. She found the people in the church to be very welcoming.

What types of changes have occurred in East Melbourne?

Since 1957, more professional people with children have moved into East Melbourne. This change was slow to begin with, but it escalated, particularly in the 1970s. Even when Celia first came to East Melbourne in 1940, people were quite respectable, even though they lived in rooming houses. They were working in the city during the day and they just wanted a comfortable, safe place to come back to in the evening.

What do you love about East Melbourne and what is that not so good about East Melbourne?

Celia thought that East Melbourne was a great suburb and she never wanted to live anywhere else. When Celia moved in, although there were no large shops in the suburb, there was a sweet shop, general store, Chinese restaurant, pharmacy, and a green grocer on Wellington Parade. These were convenient to all people in East Melbourne and provided everything that you could possibly need. There really wasn't anything that Celia didn't like about East Melbourne. It suited her needs perfectly.

How long ago did you leave East Melbourne? Why?

Celia couldn't continue to live on her own and she left East Melbourne about 18 months ago. She moved to hospital, then respite and then into a nursing home. She was 98 years old at the time, but because of a number of falls she needed someone to help her to shower. She just wasn't physically able to continue to look after herself.

She is very happy, mobile, cognitively amazing and is a great help to the staff at the nursing home in which she lives in assisting with the other residents.

What advice would you give to someone moving into East Melbourne?

Get involved in some type of activity so that you can have a community and a support network. After Celia retired at the age of 66, she commenced her volunteer work with Saint Mark's Church at Fitzroy. She began working there as a volunteer when she came back from her trip to England in 1990, and she continued this work until she broke her leg for the first time in 2007.

THE MYSTERIOUS MISS MORPHY

by Sylvia Black

Most Australians have probably heard of cricket's famous trophy, The Ashes, even if they know nothing of its history. The generally accepted version of the story is that when the English team toured Australia in 1882-83 Sir William Clarke invited the team to Rupertswood, his property in Sunbury, for a private match against the household. The English team won and in light-hearted spirit Lady Clarke presented the captain, the Hon. Ivo Bligh, with a small urn containing some ashes. This was in response to a mock obituary published in *The Sporting Times* in England after the English team had lost to the Australians a few months earlier, stating that English cricket had died and had been cremated and the ashes taken to Australia. Amongst the ladies present on the day was Florence Morphy, governess to the Clarke children. She is thought to be one of the key instigators in the creation of this now legendary artefact. So, who was Florence Morphy?

Florence was the youngest child of John Stephen Morphy and Elizabeth Styles. She was born in 1860 in Beechworth where her father had been posted as a police magistrate. Only a year later John Morphy died. The government, after much discussion, awarded Mrs Morphy a gratuity in compensation of half a year's salary, £650.

Mrs Morphy packed up the family and moved to Melbourne. Soon she had settled into a three-storey terrace on the corner of Cardigan and Victoria Streets, Carlton. This she ran as a boarding house. It was tantalising close to the Model School, where the Royal College of Surgeons currently stands. It would be nice to think that Florence was educated in East Melbourne. The East Melbourne connection was established more clearly when the family moved to Jolimont Square in about 1875. In 1880 they were at 1 Hope Terrace (No. 169) Gipps Street, and in 1881 at 2 Bremen Cottages (No 46), George Street.

In the period leading up to this move Mrs Morphy had become a member of the ladies' committee which was seeking to raise funds to establish The Melbourne Home,

which was to be a hostel cum training school for the genteel poor. It was aimed in particular at governesses, but also needlewomen, shopgirls and others. At first it was housed in a hotel in Flinders Lane, but a few years later the money had been raised for purpose-built accommodation in a lane off Lonsdale Street behind the Mint. It was later called 'The Governesses' Institute and 'The Melbourne Home.

Among the committee members was a Mrs Hare, no doubt the wife of Francis Hare, superintendent of police, stationed at the police barracks in Wellington Parade. Mrs Hare ran an employment agency from her quarters at the barracks, as witnessed by a number of ads in the daily papers in her name. Mrs Hare's maiden name was Snodgrass and she was an aunt of the future Janet Lady Clarke. Also on the committee was a Mrs Snodgrass, whose exact identity has not been discovered but needless to say was one of the same family. It seems that this connection may well have been how Florence Morphy came to be governess to the Clarke children. Possibly she trained at the school.

In 1881 Florence Morphy left with the extended Clarke family aboard the *Bokhara* bound for London. She is not named in the passenger list but is presumed to be one of the two nurses accompanying the group. A year later the group returned aboard the *Peshawur*, arriving back in Australia in mid-November. This time the *Argus* refers to a governess accompanying the group. On the same ship was the English cricket team. It was no doubt aboard the ship that the Hon W J Clarke (soon to be Sir William), president of the Melbourne Cricket Club, invited the Englishmen to play at Rupertswood.

Just out of Columbo the *Peshawur* collided with another ship. It suffered a large hole well above the water line, so it did not sink but had to return to Columbo for repairs. It was nearly two weeks late arriving in Adelaide for the first Test, leaving the English



Lady Florence Darnley, c.1890

team no time to practice. The match started the same day that they arrived. The captain, Ivo Bligh, could not play as he had suffered severe cuts and lacerations to his hand as a result of the collision. In later renditions of the Ashes story it is often stated that Ivo Bligh met Florence Morphy when he injured his hand during a cricket match and she had come to his assistance by bandaging his hand. It seems, in fact, much more likely that the incident took place on board the *Peshawur*, which would have allowed time for romance to blossom well in advance of the Rupertswood match, thus providing incentive to produce a little memento of the occasion. The two announced their engagement in March 1883.

Ivo Bligh returned to England but arrived back in Australia in early February 1884, just in time for his marriage to Florence which took place on 9 February 1884 at St Mary's Church in Sunbury. Rev HN Wollaston of Holy Trinity, East Melbourne assisted the local vicar. A splendid reception was held afterwards at Rupertswood. The couple went back to England but returned again in January 1886 when they briefly settled down to life at Hazelwell, 121 Powlett Street, East Melbourne, where their first child was born on 19 October 1886. They returned to England the following year, but it was certainly not their last visit to Australia.

Ivo Bligh became the 8th Earl of Darnley on the death of his brother in December 1900. Florence, as his wife, became Countess. Their home was the very grand Cobham Hall in Kent. *Table Talk* opened its report of the event with, 'Who could have dreamt years ago when that graceful brunette, Florence Morphy, was helping her sister in a tiny East Melbourne cottage, that the careful housekeeper would blossom out as the wife of a belted Earl.'

In 1902 Florence wrote a novel, *Elma Trevor*, published by Constable. The critics did not treat it well. Later in life she took up painting and held several exhibitions. This creative streak is consistent with her playing a big part in the creation of The Ashes.

During the years of the First World War Florence opened up Cobham Hall as a convalescent home for injured Australian servicemen. At one point the matron in charge was Annie Kidd Hart, a nurse with her own connections to East Melbourne: https://emhs.org.au/biography/hart/annie_kidd Florence personally helped nurse the patients, providing food, tobacco and other comforts at her own expense and through a charitable fund she had established, one of many charitable and philanthropic institutions she was involved with. In 1919 she was created Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE).

Florence remained very fond of Australia and kept up with her old acquaintances. In 1908 her old music teacher visited and reported that, 'She is as kind and sweet as when she was Miss Morphy in East Melbourne.' She died in 1944, Ivo having predeceased her in 1927.

BISHOPSCOURT “BUY A TILE” APPEAL

By Tim Holland

The East Melbourne Historical Society is fully supporting the appeal to raise funds for necessary maintenance work that is required at Bishopscourt. We have had great support from Philip and Joy Freier and Bishopscourt over the years in our activities, and the building and grounds are an iconic feature of our suburb and our city.

The following has been provided by the archdiocese re the fundraising project.

Features of the property badly in need of attention are the flagstones surrounding the home's wide veranda, the bluestone pavers at the main gate and the rising damp in internal walls in the main foyer, kitchen and the drawing room.

By “purchasing” a bluestone paver or flagstone for \$300, you will be contributing to a most important project for Bishopscourt. If we, as residents, can “sell” 540, we will have made a most significant impact towards the preservation of this unique property.

A “purchase” would make a wonderful and long-lasting gift to the heritage of this iconic site.

Each donor will be acknowledged on a virtual plaque on the Bishopscourt website.

This fund raiser is under the auspices of the National Trust and each donation is a tax deductible gift.

And most important of all ... as a bluestone or flagstone donor you will have left a legacy to ensure future generations continue to enjoy this iconic Melbourne residence.

For more information: Contact Bishopscourt on email
bcdonations@melbourneanglican.org.au

To sponsor a bluestone paver or flagstone visit www.bishopscourt.org.au, click on Donations and select National Trust for tax deductible contributions.

A ZOO OR TWO

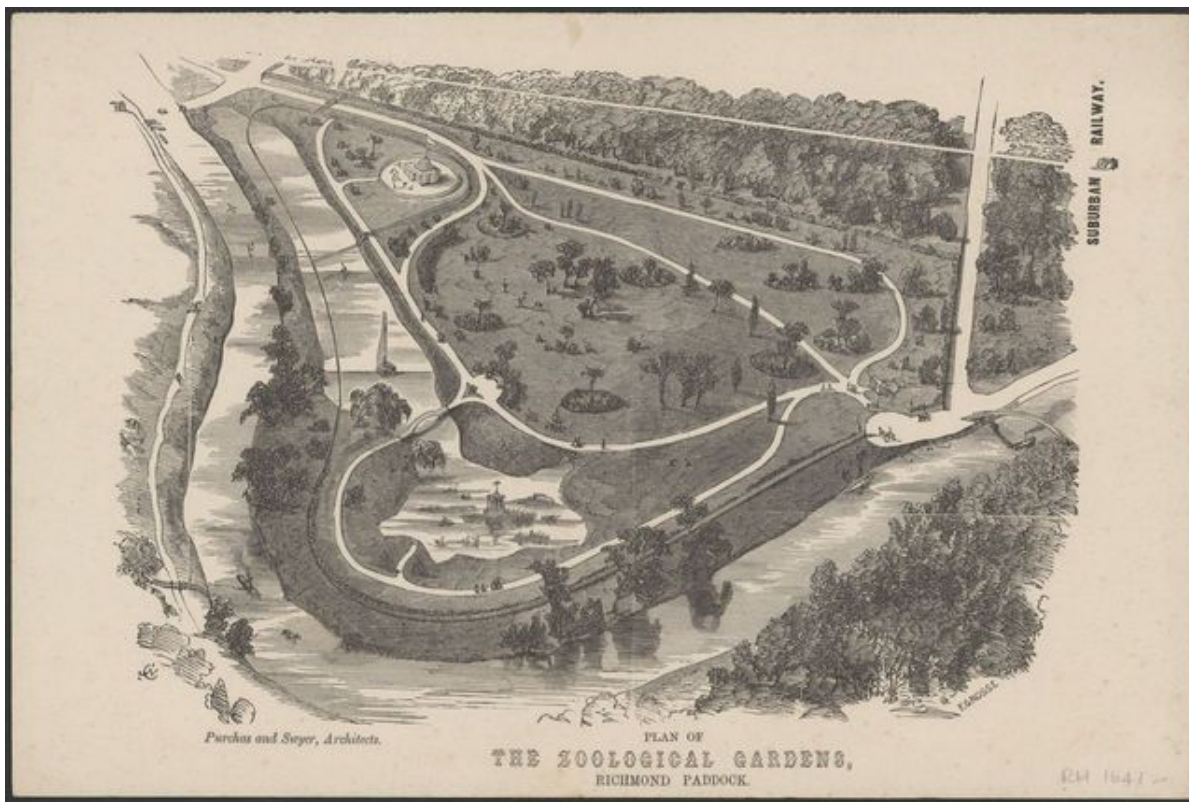
By Sylvia Black

On 6 Oct 1857 a meeting was held in Melbourne for those people interested in forming a zoological society. By the end of the meeting it was agreed that such a society be formed, and that it would be known as the Zoological Society of Victoria. Mr Selwyn was elected chairman along with a committee of twelve. Alfred Richard Cecil Selwyn (1824-1902) at the time was director of the Geological Survey. Among the committee members was Edward Wilson (1813-1878), once owner and editor of *The Argus*. He had retired in 1856 and from thenceforward devoted much time and effort to the importation of foreign birds and animals.

Dr Thomas Embling (1814-1893), famous for his work with the mentally ill, in 1856 was elected to the newly created Victorian Legislative Assembly. With his support the Zoological Society was given a grant of 32 acres of land at the southern end of the Richmond Paddock (Yarra Park). Its river frontage extended roughly from the Anderson Street Bridge to the Swan Street Bridge. AAMI Stadium and the old Olympic Pool now stand on the site. In those days, before the river was straightened, the river's curve extended much further south than the present day. A wooden footbridge spanned the river close to where the Anderson Street Bridge is now. The Swan Street Bridge was not built until the 1940s and river crossings were provided by Brander's Ferry. From the East Melbourne side the ferry was accessed via Jolimont Road, which then led right to the river's edge. In addition, the Society was also promised £3000 in start-up funding.

Purchas and Swyer, architects, were asked to draw up a landscaping plan. They made use of the existing lagoon, ideal for fish and waterfowl and the 'fine old forest trees' would provide shelter for the animals and shade for the visitors. The whole, was of course, fenced. Best of all the newly built footbridge would provide direct access to the Botanical Gardens, with the two gardens together allowing for a most congenial day's outing.

The plan allowed for two important pieces of infrastructure already underway. First, the land which was to become Swan Street/Olympic Boulevard was reserved and this created the northern boundary for the gardens. (Swan Street itself was not built until 1875). Second was the railway line to Punt Road. While having the unfortunate result of cutting Yarra Park in half it did provide excellent access to the gardens. A small station, known as the Botanical Gardens Station, was built on the northern side of the single-track railway, somewhere in the vicinity of today's hump-backed railway bridge. From there a pathway led directly south to the footbridge. The short avenue of palm



*Plan of the Zoological Gardens, Richmond Paddock by Purchas & Swyer, 1858.
Engraver F Grosse. State Library of Victoria*

trees which leads from the south side of the hump-back bridge to Swan Street is possibly a relic of this.

The zoo itself got off to a shaky start. The money was slow to come through, and there were complaints from workman that they had not been paid. Then in August 1858 the members of the committee were dismissed and the government took direct control, appointing Dr Mueller director, alongside his existing position as director of the botanical gardens. This was seen as a great advantage because the higher ground to the south of the river was deemed far more suitable to animals than the low-lying basaltic flats to the north. Mueller had designs on the latter for the creation of an arboretum. In his annual report of 1858 Mueller reported that the aviary and the menagerie had both been established in the botanical gardens, with the latter already full of a variety of singing birds. A year later the menagerie was well stocked. Animals were either native - koalas, kangaroos, emus; or useful – alpacas, deer, angora goats. Various types of monkeys were also included, no doubt for their entertainment value.

By late 1860 there was already talk of the need to move the zoological collection from the present low and unhealthy site near the Botanic Gardens to Royal Park. A few months later Edward Wilson established an acclimatisation society. This was less about housing a zoological collection for scientific study and more about introducing and spreading all ‘innocuous’ animals, plants, etc for our use and pleasure. The new society was given Royal Park as its home and gradually the Zoological Society’s animals were handed over. Of course, this new collection eventually became the foundation of the current zoo.

THE MYSTERY OF A HANSOM CAB, EAST MELBOURNE AND THE MELBOURNE CLUB

By Tim Holland

The *Mystery of a Hansom Cab* was an international publishing sensation when it was released in 1886. Written by Fergus Hume, it was a detective novel set in Melbourne, and was one of the earliest published examples in the world of the detective novel genre.

It is a book that still reads well in the 21st century although written late in the 19th century. One of the many appealing aspects of the story is that it gives a real flavour of the society and the social mores of the time. It achieves this as a contemporaneously written document rather than as a period piece written in recent times where a modern author researches and imagines what they think were the way things were back then. Instead, what we get are the observations about life at the time from someone who was living in the Melbourne milieu.



*Fergus Hume, c.1885. Photo by Elliott & Fry.
State Library of Victoria, Accession No : H82.266*

An extra layer of interest for the East Melbourne community is that the plot of the novel involves the suburb of East Melbourne. We can follow some of the characters to particular addresses in Powlett Street and Clarendon Street, et al, and it is very engaging as an East Melbourne resident to be able to identify locations in what is fortunately a suburb with a well preserved streetscape.

Another key location in *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab* is the Melbourne Club. It is a short hop, skip and a jump from the streets of East Melbourne, where a number of members would have been resident, and in the book we do see a number of short cab rides between the two locations.

At the time of Hume's writing of *Mystery*, the Melbourne Club was going through an interesting time. In digging around contemporary sources I came across some reports which shed light on the zeitgeist of Melbourne life then and provide a "slice of life" sample of the top end of Melbourne society.

The CEO of the Melbourne Club in 1886 was Patrick Agnew, who had married into a leading family in the Presbyterian Church hierarchy. He was friends with Lord Deerhurst, the 21 year old son of the Earl of Coventry; the young lord was out here as aide-de-camp to the Governor of Victoria, having recently arrived in the colony after attending Cambridge University.

Lord Deerhurst had been in a pigeon-shooting match outside Melbourne, and had lost wagers to the amount of 281 pounds to a Mr Sutton, a bookmaker who was "respectably connected in England", according to his barrister. Deerhurst had "welched" on the bets and had made himself hard to find at the Melbourne Club and its environs. The court case was about mutual assault charges filed by both Sutton and Deerhurst against each other when Sutton eventually caught up with him.

In the District Court an incredible 20 magistrates sat themselves on the case. According to *The Argus* report "The Earl of Dudley, who is at present a visitor in Melbourne, also occupied a seat on the bench" - a colonial behaviour and way of thinking that is surprising to the 21st century Australian mind. While we are talking of a time before Federation and the establishment of a national government, the colony of Victoria was a self-governing entity; the apparent deference to a British noble passing through Melbourne and exercising judicial functions in the local jurisdiction seems strange from the viewpoint of 2024.

The lengthy newspaper accounts speak to the public interest in a matter involving those from the top end of town, and that interest apparently spilled over into those who saw themselves eligible to sit on the bench. The language used in the proceedings tells of a different era, but the sensationalism of the accounts does have a resonance with current day social media and celebrity frenzy. Times change, but some things stay much the same.

An evident theme in the matter was the "toffs" versus the "battlers". Sutton's lawyer was Frank Gavan Duffy (later Chief Justice of the High Court of

Australia, and from a family with a distinguished record in politics and the law in Ireland and Victoria). Duffy's cross-examination of Patrick Agnew was intriguing:

Duffy: I suppose you would not like me to cross-examine you about your past life?

Agnew: I would prefer that you did not; but I have done nothing disgraceful.

Duffy: Oh, none of us can throw the first stone.

Agnew: Throw a stone at what?

Duffy: I was quoting from a book you are evidently not familiar with.

One wonders what skeletons may have been in Mr Agnew's closet.

In press reports both Sutton and Deerhurst were pilloried for their ignorance of classical and cultural allusions directed at each of them in cross-examination. Apparently these reports were meant to induce eye-rolling among readers, but nowadays would merely cause puzzlement - what were generally-known cultural references at that time are now merely obscure.

While this was transpiring and Patrick Agnew was hobnobbing with the great and good in Melbourne society and the visiting members of the British aristocracy, he seems to have been a little behind with his work in his day job of running the Melbourne Club. According to Ronald McNicoll's 1988 history of the Melbourne Club, a report was done about the operations of the club, highlighting deficiencies in standards. Mr Agnew (the Secretary) had the unpleasant task of having to read out the report to a meeting of members, including the following: "The Secretary should be directed to perform a greater number of the duties of his office than he seems necessary at present" and that he should "carry out the Rules and instructions laid down for his guidance not merely in the letter but in the spirit as well". Ouch! The report detailed a laundry list of inadequacies at the club under Agnew's watch, and he immediately tendered his resignation.

Agnew was an interesting presence around the club, as he had been a member before being appointed Secretary. According to the official history Agnew had been allegedly assaulted by another member; he was also involved in an "unseemly affray" with yet another member, but both members escaped dismissal from the club for this. Agnew had also been on the committee but had resigned his position there "out of embarrassment, it seems, at not being able to pay his house account." (McNicoll)

At around this time there is a delicious story involving the Chief Commissioner of Police, Captain Francis Standish, who lived at the Melbourne Club. A "genial

giant”, Colonel Craigie Halkett, whose membership at the club had previously been proposed by Standish, made it known that the next person who referred to him as Jumbo would be thrown out the window by him. Standish immediately piped up with “What ho, Jumbo”, upon which the amply built Colonel sought to make good on his threat by grappling with the Commissioner of Police, attempting to throw him out the window and into a 12 foot drop to the pavement.

All these exciting moments were nicely kept “in house”, and out of the papers which were able to concentrate their investigative skills on the activities of the *hoi polloi*.

Getting back to Fergus Hume, although his book was an international bestseller he didn't reap the rewards that might have been expected of such an achievement, as he sold the worldwide rights for a mere 50 pounds. He left Australia in 1888 and lived the rest of his of his life in England, dying aged 73 in 1926, unmarried and in modest circumstances. He continued to write but never again achieved the sales of his great triumph - *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*.

NOTICE OF AGM

Notice of Annual General Meeting, nomination form and proxy form have been forwarded with the electronic copy of this newsletter. Also attached are our annual report, treasurer's report and minutes of the previous meeting in preparation for this year's AGM.

All financial members of the EMHS are eligible to nominate for the committee. One member is retiring and we are anxious to find new recruits.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 16 October at 7.30 p.m. - AGM

East Melbourne Library, 122 George Street, East Melbourne.

This will be our 25th AGM and following the formalities Prof Richard Broome, AM will speak on the importance of history.

Afterwards we will celebrate with birthday cake and bubbles.

Wednesday, 4 December at 6.30 – Christmas Drinks

Put it in your diary now. More details later.

Cover Image :

Celia Sweetman at her 100th Birthday Celebration at Holy Trinity, East Melbourne.