

Our Stories: Unearthed

Take part in this one-day event at historic Mount Martha House, part of the *2025 National Trust Australian Heritage Festival*.

Uncover hidden treasures – Have your cherished objects professionally valued.

Explore the Past – Browse fascinating displays, exhibits, and heritage films.

Get Creative – Take part in a workshop or meet artists on the lawn.

Taste Tradition – Enjoy Devonshire Tea and live music in the reimagined Mt Martha Coffee Palace.

Discover hidden stories, connect with the Mornington Peninsula's heritage and inspire future preservation.

Sunday 18 May

10am - 3pm

Mount Martha Community House
466 Esplanade, Mount Martha.


Unearthed 


 AUSTRALIAN
HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Positive ageing
on the Mornington Peninsula



Scan to visit our website for more details.

 1300 850 600

 localhistory@mornpen.vic.gov.au



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MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
Shire

Our Stories: Unearthed

Proudly presented by Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Sunday 18 May 2025



Displays and Demonstrations

10am - 3pm

Local History Network

Photographs, artifacts and exhibits.

A unique opportunity to discover the events, people, and milestones that shaped our region – come and experience the history firsthand!

Mount Martha House Collection

New exhibition and interpretations.

Experience this historic landmark in a fresh and immersive way. Explore the stories behind the house's fascinating past through interactive displays, stunning visuals, and detailed narratives that bring history to life.

Heritage in Focus: History on Film

Series of history films showcasing the stories and moments that shaped our community.

From vintage footage to compelling documentaries, these films offer a window into the past.

Watch plein air artists at work

Bring the stunning views and historic charm of the property to life through outdoor painting.



Valuations

10am - 1pm

Valuations with David Freeman

Book a time to have a treasured heirloom valued by an expert.

Whether you have treasured heirlooms or unique curiosities, David's wealth of knowledge and experience will provide you with a deeper understanding of their history and value.



12pm - 3pm

The World of Model Railroading


Model Railway Club's special display. Explore our impressive HO Scale layout, featuring Digital Command Control, and immerse yourself in the intricacies of railway modelling.



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Talks: Insights and Perspectives

10am

The Hidden Treasures of History: The value of House Museums.

*Judy Walsh, Mornington Peninsula
Branch National Trust.*

As part of The Australian Heritage Festival, Judy will introduce the festival's goals and the significance of house museums in preserving cultural heritage for our future generations. Discover how these unique spaces protect historical artifacts and stories while fostering a deeper understanding of our social and architectural evolution.

10.30am

Héronswood Unearthed: The evolution of a garden.

*Julian Blackhirst, Head of Gardens
Diggers Club.*

Explore the history of Heronswood House and Garden, from Edward Latrobe Bateman's early designs to Clive Blazey and Diggers' transformation into a world-class garden. Learn about how Diggers is preserving our historic homestead and garden as well as our mission to save heirloom plant and seed varieties.

11.45am

Family History: Unearth your past.

*Alison Knight President, Mornington
Peninsula Family History Society.*

Are you curious about your family's past? Come join us for an engaging session on Family History where you'll learn how to trace your roots, build a family tree, and explore both local and international research methods. Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, this talk will guide you through the basic steps and processes involved in uncovering your family's story.

1pm

Unearthing Stories: Behind the pages of Origins: Mornington Peninsula.

*Authors discussion and book signing
Julian Varricchio and Jack Ruben.*

The book is a unique collaboration that juxtaposes historical photographs with modern-day imagery, offering a visual and narrative journey through time. Together, they aim to foster a deeper appreciation for the Peninsula's heritage and encourage reflection on how local stories shape community identity.



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Program activities

10am - 1pm

Madame Etzensberger Comes to Life!

Annie Laurenson of the Mornington Peninsula Theatre Company brings Mt Martha Coffee Palace's pioneering woman to life. With flair and charm, she welcomes guests into history, sharing vibrant stories of the past.



11pm - 2pm

Devonshire Tea served by the Country Women's Association (CWA).

Step back in time with a charming 1900s inspired Devonshire Tea. Enjoy freshly baked scones, jam, cream, and finger sandwiches with your choice of tea or coffee. Accompanied by string duo Imogen Manins on cello and Clementine Harvey on violin. **Bookings essential. Cost: \$15.00**



1pm - 3pm

Unlock Your Family

History: Drop-In Session.

Discover your ancestors' stories! Whether you're a beginner or seeking deeper insights, our experts will help you trace your heritage with essential tips and tools.

1pm - 3pm

Royal Australian Navy acoustic Jazz.



For bookings, scan to visit our website:

☎ 1300 850 600

✉ localhistory@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Workshops

11am - 12.30pm

The Art of Decoupage with Brooke Clarke.

Discover the art of upcycling through decoupage. Guests are encouraged to bring a small item or choose from a selection of preloved glassware—bottles and vases—provide. Everyone will receive a mini decoupage kit to take home, complete with a brush, glue, and sealant! Learn tips, get creative, and give new life to forgotten pieces! **Bookings Essential Cost: \$30 adult \$15 seniors**

1pm - 3pm

Constance Spry-Inspired Floral Design with Domenica Vavala.

Inspired by pioneering floral designer Constance Spry (1886–1960), this hands-on workshop explores her bold use of seasonal botanicals, fruits, and foraged materials. Create a large, natural-style arrangement in a ceramic compote vase, embracing Spry's signature texture, movement, and unexpected combinations. **Bookings essential. Cost: \$30 adult \$15 seniors**



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